

-----  
**From:** Dick Skaarer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2014 3:40:45 PM  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** RE: OTTER TAIL, EL14-082  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Hi Gary and thank you very much for taking the time to respond to my question and I do understand the PUC position on this but I do have a few of my own observations and opinions!

Last week I happened to hear our Presidents comment about how the American citizens income continues to fall behind the cost of goods/services. The next day in our local paper is the rate increase announcement from Ottertail. So our federal government puts in place environmental legislation(which by the way I do agree with) which requires Otter Tail to upgrade its plants to comply and Otter tail passes the entire cost of the upgrades to its customers. Do you suppose when our federal government put that legislation in place that they knew that the entire cost to the utility companies to comply would be passed to their customers? I don't know the answer to that but this is a very good example of why the peoples income is not keeping up. How many customers of Otter Tail will have their after tax income increased next year to even keep pace with their increase electrical bills? Probably not many. You said that the PUC must allow Otter tail an opportunity to earn a fair rate and I understand that but shouldn't it also be the responsibility of the PUC to allow all of Otter tail customers to maintain a reasonable standard of living? Some of the larger business that Otter Tail services will of course have their cost of doing business increase with these increased electrical rates/bills and I would guess there is a good chance they will pass some of their increases cost from these increases to their customer. So we pay for own increase electrical cost plus the passed on increase electrical cost to other business through high costs for their goods or services.

Otter tail has been a good partner to our area for many years and in fact my Dad worked for them for 40 plus years and was treated very well. I just think that at some point companies have to stop or minimize passing all/ everything on to their customers! I strongly feel that for the good of all Otter Tail customers that even though they are allowed to pass it all unto their customers that they try and absorb at least some of the upgrade cost.

Sorry for taking up your time and thanks for allow me to voice my opinion!

Dick