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**January 17 , 2015**

**Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary  
State of New York Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350**

**Re: Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc. Electric and Gas  
rate Filing- Case 14-E-0493 and 14-G-0494.**

**Dear Secretary Burgess;**

**Orange and Rockland Utilities has submitted for filing  
revisions to its Schedule for Electric Service, PSC No.3-  
Electricity and its Schedule for Gas Service PSC No.4-Gas.**

**Orange and Rockland Utilities seeks an increase in  
revenues for electric delivery of \$33.4 million resulting in  
an overall customer bill increase of 5.2 percent including  
projected supply costs. Delivery charge amounts to an  
actual increase of 11.5% in electricity rates.**

**Orange and Rockland utilities seeks an increase in  
revenues for gas delivery of \$40.7 million resulting in an  
overall customer bill increase of approximately 16.8  
percent including projected supply costs. However, the  
actual increase would amount to 35.1%.**

**Orange & Rockland Utilities already have rates among the  
highest in the United States. These increases would have a  
severe impact on local residents and local governments as  
well as large and small businesses in the area. Residents  
would be effected by high energy prices as well as higher**

**property taxes caused by the rate increases. It would place a tremendous burden on the homeowners as well as the large and small businesses. Local governments would be effected by the higher cost of the electricity thereby possibly causing an increase in property taxes which would exceed the 2% tax cap imposed by the state. High utility costs hurts businesses already in the area and dissuades others from moving to the region.**

**The PSC should open an investigation to see if the present rates could be reduced by possibly improving O & R employee efficiency and other business practices. A rate reduction would have a great impact on the economy of this area and would be conducive to attracting new business to the area.**

**The FERC has already instituted unnecessary rate increases by the change in the capacity zones amounting to between 5 and 10 percent effective this past May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**I am requesting that the requested increases be denied.**

**Thank you in advance for any consideration you may afford this letter.**

**Very truly yours,**

**GEORGE A.BELCHER**