



BIG V SUPERMARKETS, INC. File no 93-m-0229

January 12, 1996

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Hon. John C. Crary  
Secretary  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire Plaza  
Albany, NY 12210

ORIG. Files  
94-E-095  
copy to  
Mr. Rowlett  
ALL LEE  
MS H. C. W. K.  
MS H. C. W. K.  
MS H. C. W. K.

Hon. Judith Lee  
Administrative Law Judge  
Ronald Liberty  
Deputy Director  
Energy Division  
New York State Department of Public Service  
Three Empire Plaza  
Albany, NY 12210

Re: Case 94-E-0952, Electric Industry Restructuring

Dear Secretary Crary and Facilitators:

I am concerned about the high electric rates in New York State. As a business owner and residential customer, I support the move to retail competition in the electric industry. I believe that all users -- large and small -- should benefit from competition through lower electric prices.

I support the Recommended Decision's proposal to move to retail competition as soon as possible. I am concerned, however, there is no timetable for the implementation of retail competition for all customers and that retail competition may be delayed. It is important to me as a business owner that the Commission set a schedule for such competition so that I might plan accordingly and that delays might be minimized.

I am also concerned by the Recommended Decision's reliance on utility decisions to determine the timing of retail access. It is essential that the Commission determine that full retail access for all customers is the rule, not the exception.

The Recommended Decision was also reluctant to implement retail competition for customers because of a lack of competitive retail suppliers. The lack of suppliers today is not surprising; retail access is prohibited. Those suppliers would develop

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if the Commission approves retail competition. Indeed, several retail energy suppliers are participating in the case.

Moreover, the Consumer Protection Board's (CPB) safeguards for retail competition address this question and rely upon market mechanisms to ensure full supply competition. For example, the Commission could encourage the aggregation of customers by creating a larger role for municipalities and business organizations---such as chains, wholesalers and cooperatives---as aggregators or brokers. The CPB also has suggested that retail suppliers should be required to serve small and commercial customers as well as large customers. That proposal would permit all customers to benefit from retail competition and should be endorsed by the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

TONY DORADO

Tony Dorado  
Director of Construction & Engineering

TD/je

cc: James T. Rogers, President  
New York State Food Merchants Association