

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 24-E-0060 - Proceeding on Motion of the
5 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
6 Regulations of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.
7 for Electric Service.

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9 CASE 24-G-0061 - Proceeding on Motion of the
10 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
11 Regulations of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.
12 for Gas Service.

13 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

14 DATE: June 17, 2024 at 6:16 p.m.

15 LOCATION: Middletown City Hall

16 16 James Street

17 Middletown, New York 10940

18 BEFORE: ALJ DAKIN LECAKES

19 ALJ ERIKA BERGEN

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21

22

23 Reported by Danielle Christian

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1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 (The hearing commenced at 6:16 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. BERGEN: I call Case 24-E-0060.

4 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the
5 Rates, Charges, Rules, and Regulations of Orange and
6 Rockland Utilities for Electric Service. And 24-G-
7 0061, proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to
8 the Rates, Charges, Rules, and Regulations of Orange
9 and Rockland Utilities for Gas Service.

10 Good evening, welcome. We're here
11 today for a public statement hearing that was noticed
12 on May 23rd, 2024. This public statement hearing
13 concerns the proposed changes in the electric and gas
14 delivery rates and practices of Orange and Rockland
15 utilities.

16 Orange and Rockland filed amendments
17 to its electric and gas tariff schedules on January
18 26th, 2024, proposing to increase its annual electric
19 and gas delivery revenues effective January 1st,
20 2025. More specifically, the Company seeks to
21 increase its electric delivery revenues by
22 approximately \$18.1 million, or a 3.7% increase in
23 total revenue, and its gas delivery revenues by
24 approximately \$14.4 million, or a 6.3% increase in
25 total revenues. These increases would result in

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 total monthly bill increases for the average
3 residential customer of approximately \$8.81, or 6%
4 for electric, and \$12.73 for gas, or 8%.

5 The Company states that the proposed
6 increases will enable it to, among other things, make
7 necessary investments to critical energy
8 infrastructure, and develop and implement initiatives
9 that advance the goals of the New York State Climate
10 Leadership and Community Protection Act. Currently,
11 the rate parties have entered into settlement
12 discussions regarding the company's filings.

13 My name is Erika Bergen. I'm an
14 Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Public
15 Service. With me tonight is Chief Administrative Law
16 Judge Dakin Lecakes. We're presiding over these --
17 the hearings in this case and the development of the
18 record on behalf of the New York State Public Service
19 Commission. At the conclusion of our process, we'll
20 make recommendations to the Commission, which is the
21 ultimate decision maker in these cases. The
22 Commission, in making its decision, must consider a
23 utility's proposal and may adopt or reject it in
24 whole or in part, or it may modify it.

25 The Public Service Commission will

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 decide what the company's terms and conditions of
3 service will be. The Commission currently has seven
4 members. The Chairperson, Rory Christian, as well as
5 Commissioners James Alesi, David Valesky, John
6 Maggiore, Uchenna Bright, Denise Sheehan, and Radina
7 Valova.

8 The purpose of today's hearing is to
9 provide you with an opportunity to tell the
10 Commission your thoughts on the Company's rate
11 filing. The statements you make today will become
12 part of the record. The court reporter will prepare
13 a transcript of this hearing, which will be included
14 in the record of the case. When it is ready, the
15 transcript will be available for public review on the
16 Department of Public Service website.

17 Today's hearing is not a question and
18 answer session, but a forum to hear comments from the
19 public. If you do have questions, however, about
20 your particular account, representatives from Orange
21 and Rockland are here to assist you and provide some
22 responses to your questions regarding your utility
23 service.

24 Please note that if you do not wish to
25 make a comment and you would like your views included

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 in the record, there are other ways to comment. It's
3 in the press release that we have available out on
4 the table. You can submit them by website, by
5 regular mail, by phone. No matter how your comments
6 are submitted, they're given equal weight by -- by
7 the Commission. So if you -- even if you make a
8 comment today and you want to amend it or add
9 something or you forget to say something, you can
10 always go on any of those other methods and provide
11 another comment or an updated comment as many times
12 as you'd like. We just ask that comments be
13 submitted no later than November 29th, 2024, so that
14 the Commission can have time to consider them.

15 If you'd like to make a comment, I
16 have your comment cards. So that's good. I think we
17 can start. The first speaker is Laurie Wheelock.
18 And again, just come to -- well, where Laurie is to
19 make your comments. Speak into the microphone slowly
20 so we can record your comment. Thank you.

21 You may begin.

22 MS. WHEELOCK: Thank you. Good
23 evening, Administrative Law Judges Lecakes and
24 Bergen. My name is Laurie Wheelock. I go by she,
25 hers, pronouns. I'm the Executive Director and

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 Counsel of the Public Utility Law Project. We go by
3 PULP for short.

4 Our organization is a 40-year-old
5 nonprofit, with the mission of educating, advocating,
6 and litigating on behalf of New York's low-income
7 utility customers. We are a party to the rate case
8 and we submitted testimony on May 24th. Our purpose
9 was to flag our concerns with energy affordability in
10 particular, and the challenges facing households in
11 the Orange and Rockland service area.

12 We have eight main recommendations
13 that we believe will help improve energy
14 affordability and consumer protections. One of which
15 seems particularly important this evening, which is
16 adjusting the Company's extreme heat protections as
17 we stand here in early June with an active heat
18 advisory. But tonight, our message is one of
19 reflection.

20 It's important for the Department and
21 the Commission to be aware of how Orange and Rockland
22 customers are doing right now financially and the
23 struggles they're facing to afford their current
24 bills. We have concerns that any rate increases will
25 just increase the financial stress upon them. And

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 according to the Company's own collections activity
3 reports as of April 2024, there are already over
4 20,000 accounts behind on their bills by 60 days or
5 more for a total of \$24 million.

6 We also pulled financial statistics
7 from the New York State Community Action
8 Association's 2023 poverty report, the United Way's
9 ALICE Project, and the New York State Department of
10 Education's county statistics. Starting with Orange
11 County, 13% of households live in poverty, with 54%
12 of those households being over the age of 65 and 78%
13 being a female identified head of households, living
14 in poverty. 49% of students are considered
15 economically disadvantaged in Orange County.

16 In Rockland County, 12% of households
17 live in poverty, with 51% of those households being
18 with someone over the age of 65 and 74% of those
19 households being female identified head of
20 households, living in poverty. The students of that
21 population are 48% identified as economically
22 disadvantaged. PULP's statements tonight are clear,
23 that everyday ratepayers are already struggling with
24 their bills and find them unaffordable.

25 We ask that the Commission scrutinize

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 Orange and Rockland's rate requests to make sure that
3 any rates being charged to customers are just,
4 reasonable, affordable, and fair. Thank you to the
5 public who's come out today and tonight to share
6 their stories, and thank you for giving PULP the
7 opportunity to speak tonight.

8 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. The next
9 speaker is Pramilla Malick.

10 MS. MALICK: Hello. Thank you for
11 holding this hearing, Administrative Judges of the
12 Public Service Commission. My name is Pramila
13 Malick. I'm the Chair of Protect Orange County. We
14 represent the many hundreds of thousands of people
15 who live in Orange County, as well as all sentient
16 beings that consider Orange County their home,
17 including pets and wildlife. I just found out about
18 this hearing, like, about two days ago, so none of
19 our members are aware of this, and I'm extremely
20 disappointed in the lack of notification.

21 I see that the press release is dated
22 June 10th, and here we are at the hearing seven days
23 later. That is hardly adequate notice for the many,
24 many, many ratepayers that are going to be impacted
25 by this proceeding and this decision. As the

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 spokesperson for the public utility, what is it,
3 PULP, had stated, there's a considerable number of
4 low-income households in Orange County.

5 And in fact, there are, just in this
6 area around the City of Middletown, there are 29
7 environmental justice communities, and that number is
8 growing and expanding. And so we not only find
9 ourselves -- we find ourselves in Orange County with
10 compounding assaults, both environmentally, which
11 have financial implications on everyone living in
12 Orange County, as a result of policy choices by the
13 State of New York, by the Public Service Commission,
14 and by the utility providers, including Con Edison,
15 the parent owner of Orange and Rockland.

16 Many years ago, the State, along with
17 these -- the utility providers and the natural gas
18 industry, made a decision to make New York State
19 dependent on fracked gas. And no community has paid
20 a heavier price for that than our community, both in
21 terms of health impacts as well as in terms of cost.
22 Because of these policy decisions to shut down what
23 was probably the safest nuclear power plant in the
24 entire country, Indian Point, that had been providing
25 us with carbon-free power, far in excess of anything

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 imagined by the Community and Climate Protection Act,
3 that provided us with that carbon-free power for 50-
4 plus years, a piece of critical energy infrastructure
5 that was paid for by New York State taxpayers.

6 It was arbitrarily shut down for two
7 reasons. One, to create a market for the natural gas
8 industry. And two, to appease the irrational fears
9 of wealthy homeowners in Westchester who live along
10 the Hudson River. And Orange County has been
11 sacrificed for that policy decision.

12 Now, not only are we being poisoned,
13 but you're asking us to pay for our own poisoning by
14 increasing our rates to pay for this critical energy
15 infrastructure that was built, again, an extremely
16 short-sighted, I would say, absolutely nonsensical
17 decision by the State of New York. And also
18 officially known to be a result of bribery and
19 corruption, as evidenced by the criminal conviction
20 of both Joseph Percoco, former aide to Governor
21 Cuomo, as well as the Company Executive for C.P.V.,
22 Peter Braith-Kelley. C.P.V. now being the critical
23 energy infrastructure that has replaced Indian Point,
24 is sited just -- just less than a mile from here, as
25 the crow flies.

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 And, you know, when I think about the
3 cost, who is assessing the cost of health care that
4 members of my community are living with? And you may
5 grin or be in disbelief, but we have hundreds of
6 document cases of rising asthma rates, lung diseases,
7 as a result of these policy decisions that -- that
8 forced this facility upon our community. In
9 violation, I might add, of virtually a dozen state
10 and federal laws, including the Endangered Species
11 Act, Environmental Justice Policy 29. I mean, I
12 could go on and on and on. Wetlands Protections Act.
13 And so now we're being asked to pay for this. We're
14 being asked to pay for this.

15 The Community and Climate Protection
16 Act was passed at a time when New York State had
17 actually been doing well in terms of cutting
18 greenhouse gas emissions with the infrastructure we
19 had, with Indian Point and the slow, but steady,
20 growth of onshore wind. But in came these special
21 interests, including the fracking enterprise, which
22 draws gas from the Marcellus Shale, and needed to
23 have a huge market. And there is no bigger market
24 than New York State, and specifically Downstate, New
25 York City.

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 New York State is the fourth largest
3 consumer of frack gas in the country. It's right on
4 target to be the second, soon. And the Marcellus
5 Shale frack gas industry needed that market and
6 that's why all this infrastructure was built. And
7 that's why now, all of a sudden, our emissions are
8 rising. After the closure of Indian Point, greenhouse
9 gas emissions in the state increased. First, with
10 the closure -- first, when C.P.V. became operational,
11 increased by 10%. Now with Danskammer, total of 25%
12 increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

13 We went from being predominantly
14 carbon free to now having 90% of our electricity
15 generated by fossil fuel sources, thanks to the
16 bribery and corruption facilitated by C.P.V. in their
17 interest and in the interest of the natural gas
18 industry. And once again, you are asking us to pay
19 for this.

20 So not only are we being poisoned, not
21 only have we been sacrificed, illegally, in violation
22 of, again, state and federal law. Now you want us to
23 pay for this. When we are dealing already with
24 enormous adverse health impacts. Every trip to the
25 doctor, every trip to the emergency room costs money.

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 Asthma attacks with children, you have to go to the
3 hospital, you have no choice.

4 Pets, what about pets? There's no
5 health insurance for pets. We've got a lot of pets
6 getting sick with all kinds of illnesses. Talk to
7 local pulmonologists. The asthma rates and
8 respiratory illnesses are rising exponentially in
9 this part of Orange County.

10 I think Orange and Rockland should pay
11 for that. I think Millennium Pipeline should pay for
12 that. I think that's what your good work should do,
13 is order them to pay for all of those external costs.

14 As I said, we have had health
15 scientists, other structural engineers, and other
16 scientists who have done a complete overall cost
17 calculation for the impacts of these policy
18 decisions. Specifically, the development of C.P.V.
19 And the Community and Climate Protection Act really
20 tails off of that policy decision, because once New
21 York State had committed to these two monumental
22 frack gas plants, they had to quickly come up with
23 some method, albeit completely unfeasible and
24 unattainable, to now dramatically decrease emissions
25 after making decisions to exponentially increase

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 emissions. So that's really why the C.L.C.P.A. was
3 created, to give kind of green cover to those really
4 fossil fuel-entrenched decisions.

5 But we're in -- we're about to head
6 into a major heat wave. I -- is there a time limit,
7 by the way? I'm sorry, I'm just talking off the top
8 of my head.

9 A.L.J. BERGEN: You can continue,
10 that's --

11 MS. MALICK: As I said, I just found
12 out about this the other day. But, you know, we're
13 about to enter a heat wave here. So we're going to
14 have exponential cooling costs. That is an impact of
15 climate change. Climate change is a result of fossil
16 fuel emissions.

17 When the State makes policy decisions
18 to increase our fossil -- or makes policy decisions
19 that will increase our emissions by 25%, we are going
20 to have climate change impacts that are ensuing far
21 more quickly than any scientist had ever imagined.
22 And you know why they never imagined it? You know
23 why the -- the projections of, you know, a 30-year
24 outlook or a 50-year outlook? I think it was set,
25 you know, 2070 was supposed to be the year that ice

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 sheets were supposed to, you know, melt
3 significantly. That's happening now. That's
4 happening now, 50 years in advance.

5 So why were scientists -- the
6 scientists weren't wrong in their calculations. What
7 happened is the scientists never expected
8 policymakers to make decisions that would actually
9 increase our greenhouse gas emissions. And when you
10 increase greenhouse gas emissions for the local
11 community, for our community, it means pollution.
12 And we know the relationship, it's very well
13 established, the relationship between pollution and
14 health, adverse health outcomes, including mortality.
15 Eight million people die every year as a result of
16 fossil fuel emissions. So you're going to say, okay,
17 well, our goal now is to cut those emissions down
18 with the C.L.C.P.A.

19 But what does CLCPA envision?
20 Millions of acreages of solar farms and offshore wind
21 farms. How is that power going to get to the -- to
22 the -- to the consumer? It's going -- you're going
23 to have to build transmission lines. Once again,
24 enormous costs, enormous disturbance to the
25 community. Once again, the -- when the wind isn't

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 blowing and the sun isn't shining, then that still
3 has to be powered by gas. That still has to be
4 backed up by gas. So those massive power plants are
5 going to have a massive market, and we're going to be
6 paying for it, whether we're using their gas or not.
7 That's why we -- that's why they love wind and solar.
8 Because they win no matter what. Whether we use
9 solar power or we use wind power, they still get paid
10 to just be on. And that means burning fossil fuel
11 emissions because they have to maintain the
12 temperature so that they can switch the -- the -- the
13 power on for that power plant whenever it's needed.
14 So there's no real net benefit. It's just going to
15 be enormous, enormous cost.

16 Once again, I mean, we will be
17 submitting more comments. We will probably intervene,
18 and we will -- we will notify our members. Again, I
19 have to object on the record that there was such
20 short notice for such a monumental policy decision.
21 These rates, we, you know -- so we not only have all
22 of the inflation as a result of COVID and foreign
23 policy issues, we, you know, we have electricity,
24 heating. These are critical needs.

25 We -- we -- you know, when you shut

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 down our carbon-free source of power, we have no
3 choice. We don't have a choice in the matter. We,
4 you know, people need power and when you have
5 temperatures going into 90, 100 degrees, you've got
6 elderly people, you've got sick people, you know,
7 their homes need to be kept cool.

8 So you're really -- you're asking us
9 to pay such a heavy price when we've already paid
10 such an enormous price. And we, honestly, I mean, I
11 don't know what people here will do, but there's got
12 to be somebody sensible in the Public Service
13 Commission, somebody who has the guts to stand up and
14 say enough is enough. This has got to stop. This
15 has got to change.

16 I don't know what has happened to
17 Indian Point at this point. I know at one time,
18 before they started destroying it, it was the safest
19 power plant -- nuclear power plant in the country.
20 And it does provide baseload carbon-free power. And
21 when you're talking about climate change, that's all
22 that matters, is baseload carbon-free power. That's
23 all that matters. I'm really thrilled that we're
24 getting some from Hydro-Quebec.

25 Protect Orange County was one of the

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 few environmental groups in the -- in the State of
3 New York to support that decision. And that was --
4 that was an absolutely right decision for the State
5 to make. But that needs to translate now into real
6 benefits for us in Orange County. We need to get
7 that baseload carbon-free power. And we shouldn't be
8 asked to pay for it. We shouldn't be asked to pay
9 for it.

10 When it -- when -- when everyone
11 knows, when this is -- was part of a court record, a
12 seven-week-long trial, that these decisions were a
13 result of bribery and corruption, we should not have
14 to pay for this more. The solar farms that are being
15 built around Orange County, you know, are -- are --
16 they're causing shortages in the transmission lines.
17 And we know that it's just green cover because it
18 doesn't generate a significant amount of power. The
19 capacity factor for solar is, I believe, like, in New
20 York State, like less than 14%. I mean, it makes no
21 sense. Plus, you're taking farmland.

22 And speaking of climate change, the
23 C.L.C.P.A., I see that there is a property not far
24 from the power plant in which about, I'd say, over a
25 dozen of very, very mature, probably 100-year-old-

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 plus trees have been cut down. We all know that
3 trees are our greatest source of carbon storage. We
4 also know -- or carbon sequestration. We also know
5 that these trees are in a critical environmental
6 area, despite what C.P.V. was able to get away with.
7 The fact is, and the history records show, that that
8 area is a critical environmental area. But those
9 trees were cut down for, apparently, a new gas
10 distribution center by Orange and Rockland. Where's
11 Orange and Rockland?

12 So, you're cutting down trees so we
13 can bring in more gas to comply with the C.L.C.P.A.?
14 How does that make any sense? We don't need more
15 gas. We don't need more gas infrastructure. We need
16 less of it. We need base load, carbon-free power.
17 There are only two sources, nuclear and hydro.

18 So, if the State is really serious
19 about the goals that it asserts in this proceeding,
20 then I think it's time for the State to figure out,
21 what can we do with an existing site that already has
22 a lot of critical infrastructure already there,
23 Indian Point, and possibly use some new S.M.R.
24 technology or something like that, along with, I
25 don't know if we've maxed out on hydropower, there's,

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 you know, pump storage.

3 I know many, many years ago, way
4 before my time, when I was just a little kid, there
5 was a proposal, I believe it was a Con Edison
6 proposal, actually, for a pump storage facility on
7 Storm King Mountain. And once again, the self-
8 interested environmental groups along the Hudson
9 River only cared about their viewshed, and not what
10 scientists were saying even 50 years ago, warning us
11 about climate change. But pump storage, water pump
12 storage, is a great -- great thing that should have
13 been built and we would support.

14 I think what I -- I'm going to close,
15 because I really didn't look at this proceeding
16 carefully enough to give any technical comment, but
17 what I would say is if these are your goals as
18 asserted in this press release, then the State needs
19 to invest in hydropower and other carbon-free sources
20 of baseload energy, nuclear and hydropower. If
21 there's others that you are aware of, you know, we
22 would be happy to support it as long as there was not
23 a climate impact or a terribly devastating
24 environmental impact. But if these are your goals,
25 this is not more solar, and as far as I understand,

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 the offshore wind farms that are being canceled, but
3 once again, they're very far from where the consumers
4 are, so that means more transmission lines.

5 Again, this is a huge cost in terms of
6 material upon the communities, upon ratepayers, low-
7 income, middle-income, even upper-middle-income
8 ratepayers cannot afford these costs. I mean, I
9 think you said something like 3%, 3.5%. I mean, I
10 have a very modest, small house and my electric rates
11 are like 150, 200 a month, so we're talking about a
12 substantial increase in rates.

13 And once again, between the policy
14 decisions that were made as a result of the
15 corruption, the gas infrastructure, and, may I remind
16 you, when you're talking about power generation
17 dependent on gas, and you're talking about more
18 natural gas distribution, we have to factor in
19 fugitive methane. Are we paying for all that
20 fugitive methane? Because what are the leakage
21 rates?

22 It's not, as industry asserts, under
23 1% or 2%. It is absolutely within the 12% to 15%
24 range, and the reason we know that is because we map
25 it, we monitor it, we measure it with very

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 sophisticated counters that -- that come and look at
3 leakage rates, but it's very significant. I'd like to
4 know if the D.E.C. is measuring existing leakage
5 rates. And I would like to know if -- to what extent
6 those rates are being calculated into the rates that
7 the wholesale provider is allowed to charge and then
8 the retail provider is allowed to charge, and to what
9 extent that's being passed off to customers. I'm
10 sure industry is not eating that cost, so it's got to
11 be passed off to ratepayers.

12 The cost for all the pipeline
13 infrastructure that was built as a result of these
14 policy decisions, who's paying for that? Ratepayers
15 are paying for that as well. Why are we paying for
16 infrastructure which is poisoning us, which is
17 sentencing our children to an unlivable future, and
18 which is causing -- costing such an enormous amount
19 of money to New York residents? It's already an
20 expensive state to live in, people are leaving as a
21 result of it. But I and many members of Protect
22 Orange County, we love this State and we love Orange
23 County.

24 It is a protected agricultural
25 district, and when you talk about all these solar

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 farms that are being built to give cover to these
3 corrupt policy decisions, we're talking about taking
4 over farmland. Farmland that we are going to need as
5 the food belt moves further and further north, which
6 is what is happening.

7 So these are a lot of things to think
8 about. I, once again, hope and pray that there's
9 somebody in the P.S.C. who has the guts to stand up
10 to the politicians and the special interests and say
11 this is enough, this is not leading us to the goals
12 that we set forth in both the C.L.C.P.A. as well as
13 just the goals of the survival of humanity. Thank
14 you so much.

15 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you for your
16 comment. I just want to clarify for the record and
17 perhaps inform other people who may review the
18 transcript, that the press release did go out about a
19 week ago as is standard practice for our proceedings,
20 but this -- the official secretary's notice for this
21 was issued in May, on May 23rd.

22 And any party who was a party to the
23 prior rate case, and this is true for every rate
24 case, for every utility, when we issue notices and
25 documents in a newly filed rate case, whoever was on

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 the party and service list for the prior rate case,
3 is automatically given notice of the newly filed rate
4 case. So if you were a participant in the prior rate
5 case, you would have received the notice immediately
6 on May 23rd.

7 So for the future, if you're
8 interested in following Orange and Rockland's rate
9 cases in the future as well as this one, I really
10 encourage people to sign up either for the party list
11 or the service list so that you can automatically be
12 kept on for future filings.

13 MS. MALICK: Can I just make one quick
14 comment about that?

15 A.L.J. BERGEN: Sure, go ahead.

16 MS. MALICK: So I know that you're not
17 really taking questions, so I'll just frame this as a
18 comment. There is no reason whatsoever, if these
19 proceedings, I assume, took weeks to plan. If you're
20 talking about such a substantial increase in people's
21 rates, Orange and Rockland has the mailing address of
22 every single rate payer in their service area. They
23 can easily mail people a notice of this proceeding,
24 and they should be required to do so. It's just
25 common sense.

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you.

3 Our final speaker is Daralyn, is that
4 correct? Daralyn?

5 MS. HOFFMAN: Um-hmm (Affirmative).

6 A.L.J. BERGEN: Hoffman.

7 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

8 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you.

9 MS. HOFFMAN: Hi. My name is Daralyn
10 Hoffman, I live in Middletown. I'm a customer of
11 Orange and Rockland. And I just feel the increase is
12 ridiculous. I can't make ends meet now, you know? I
13 have a good job. I work at a hospital, medical
14 field, and I own my own house by myself, and it's
15 just hard. Like my bill went from 70 to \$90, now
16 it's like 150 to 170, and I unplug everything in my
17 house, you know? I don't -- I don't know. It's
18 ridiculous. I wish more people came out. You know,
19 I'm going to try and get more people to partake in
20 this, you know, comments online. I don't know, just
21 what I wanted to say. That's it.

22 A.L.J. BERGEN: Thank you. And again,
23 we welcome comments. In addition to today, we will
24 be in New City tomorrow, in Rockland County at one
25 o'clock. I know that's a little bit of a hike, but

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061
2 people are free to -- to join us there.

3 And again, any method for comments is
4 given equal consideration. So I appreciate you
5 coming out tonight to share your comments with us in
6 person, but anybody who submits a comment online or
7 by mail or by even the hotline, they're all given
8 equal consideration and equal weight. Nothing -- it
9 doesn't -- like if you didn't do it tonight, it isn't
10 going to matter as much to the Commission. They're
11 all given equal weight. So definitely encourage
12 people you know.

13 Again, we just ask that the comments
14 are submitted by November 29th of this year so that
15 the Commission is sure to receive them in time to
16 make a decision in the case.

17 I don't have any other speaker cards,
18 but we'll go off the record.

19 (Off the record)

20 (On the record)

21 COURT REPORTER: On the record.

22 A.L.J. BERGEN: Okay, thanks everyone.

23 We took about a 15 minute recess after our speakers
24 and -- to see if other people would attend our public
25 statement hearing. No other people have appeared.

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 I'd like to thank you, those who did show up and
3 provide a comment on the record today.

4 Again, I'll remind you here, but also
5 for the benefit of the transcript, that we are
6 accepting comments in this case through November
7 29th, 2024. You could submit comments online, via
8 regular mail, or the hotline. The information for
9 that is in the notice for this event, as well as the
10 press release that was issued last week.

11 All comments, no matter how they're
12 submitted, are given equal weight. So please feel
13 free to use any method that's convenient for you.
14 And again, if you provided a comment today and you'd
15 like to either update your comment or provide
16 additional comments, you're free to do so. There's
17 no limit on the number of times you can provide a
18 comment. So feel free to provide additional comments.

19 Again, thank you for coming out on
20 behalf of the Department of Public Service and the
21 Public Service Commission. Thank you. I hope you
22 have a great evening. We're off the record.

23 (The hearing concluded at 7:06 p.m.)
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25

1 6/17/2024 - Orange & Rockland - 24-E-0060, 24-G-0061

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time
5 and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1
6 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription
7 consisting of pages 1 through 27, is a true record of all
8 proceedings had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
10 subscribed my name, this the 21st day of June, 2024.

11

12 DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, Reporter

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