- TO: MR. GARF, / BROWN, CHAIRMAN THE NEW ORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 UN 21 PH 3: 54
- RE: RG&E's a d NYSEG'S APPLICATIONS for DELIVERY RATE INCREASES AND MAN (Cases # 09-E-0717 & # 09-G-0718, and #09-E-0715 & #09-G-0716) ALBANY, NY

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dear Public Service Commission Members:

I am sending this latter to urge you to deny Rochester Gas & Electric's (RG&E) and New York State Electric & Gas' (NYSEG) requests to increase gas and electric delivery charges.

Even though RG&E and NYSEG announced recently that they are reducing the amount of their rate applications filed in September 2009, they are still seeking increases totaling <u>\$50 million</u> and <u>\$23 million</u>, respectively. **Yet, their parent company, Iberdrola SA, announced on April 29th that they made <u>\$1.22 billion</u> in the first-quarter of 2010, a 16% increase! How can the PSC approve a rate hike for a company making billions of dollars in profits while ratepayers struggle desperately to afford utility costs?**

Any increase in utility rates will cause tremendous hardship for working families, those on fixed incomes and local businesses. Even before the economic crisis that started last fall — which resulted in thousands in our area losing their jobs — over 50,000 Monroe County households were two months behind in their utility bill. This included a record number of so-called "middle income" wage earners. **RG&E alone shut off utility service to more than 25,000 customers in 2009!** If rates go up, more NYS residents won't be able to survive the summer heat or will go without heat next winter because their electricity has been shutoff because they cannot afford the cost.

If the PSC approves this increase, you put the profits of an energy conglomerate ahead of community need. The federal government states that households should spend no more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities. Monroe County's low-income service workers already spend **70**% or more of their budget on these two expenses *alone*. We cannot afford any increase in our utility bills! Local businesses will also suffer harm from this rate increase as our consumer base is depleted further by an increase that removes millions of dollars in purchasing power-from our community.

Further, when you approved Iberdrola SA's buyout of RG&E and NYSEG in 2009, you stipulated that the company was liable for \$275 million in Public Benefit Adjustments (PBAs). Yet, ratepayers have not seen a dime of these so-called benefits, only one rate hike request after another. Don't allow Iberdrola to recoup the PBAs through a rate hike!

According to your charter, the Public Service Commission was established in 1907 to protect consumers from the potential abuse of monopoly power. I urge you to not abandon this responsibility. **Utility rates should go <u>down</u>**, not up!

Sincerely,

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TO: MR. GARRY BROWN, CHAIRMAN THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

RE: RG&E's and NYSEG'S APPLICATION FOR DELIVERY RATE INCREASES (Cases # 09-E-0717 & # 09-G-0718, and #09-E-0715 & #09-G-0716)

Dear Public Service Commission Members:

I am sending this letter to urge you to deny Rochester Gas & Electric's (RG&E) and New York State Electric & Gas' (NYSEG) requests to increase gas and electric delivery charges.

Even though RG&E and NYSEG announced recently that they are reducing the amount of the requests they filed in September 2009, they are still requesting increases totaling <u>\$50 million</u> and <u>\$123 million</u>, respectively. **Yet, their parent company, Iberdrola SA,** announced on April 29th that they made <u>\$1.22 billion</u> in the first-quarter of 2010, a 16% increase! How can the PSC approve a rate hike for a company making billions of dollars in - profits while ratepayers struggle desperately to afford utility costs?

Any increase in utility rates will cause tremendous hardship for working families, those on fixed incomes and local businesses. Even before the economic crisis that started last fall — which resulted in thousands in our area losing their jobs — over 50,000 Monroe County households were two months behind in their utility bill. This included a record number of so-called "middle income" wage earners. **RG&E alone shut off utility service to more than** <u>**25,000**</u> **customers in 2009!** If rates go up, more NYS residents won't be able to survive the summer heat or will go without heat next winter because their electricity has been shutoff because they cannot afford the cost.

If the PSC approves this increase, you put the profits of an energy conglomerate ahead of community need. The federal government states that households should spend no more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities. Monroe County's low-income service workers already spend **70%** or more of their budget on these two expenses *alone*. We cannot afford any increase in our utility bills! Local businesses will also suffer harm from this rate increase as our consumer base is depleted further by an increase that removes millions of dollars in purchasing power from our community.

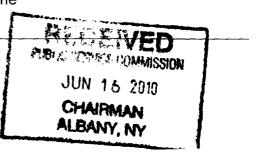
Further, when you approved Iberdrola SA's buyout of RG&E and NYSEG in 2009, you stipulated that the company was liable for \$275 million in Public Benefit Adjustments (PBAs). Yet, – ratepayers have not seen a dime of these so-called benefits, only one rate hike request after another. Don't allow Iberdrola to recoup the PBAs through a rate hike!

According to your charter, the Public Service Commission was established in 1907 to protect consumers from the potential abuse of monopoly power. I urge you to not abandon this responsibility. **Utility rates should go <u>down</u>, not up**!

Sincerely. nence erano

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TO: **MR. GARRY BROWN, CHAIRMAN** THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

RG&E's and NYSEG's APPLICATION FOR DELIVERY RATE RE: INCREASES (Cases # 09-E-0717 & # 09-G-0718, and #09-E-0715 & #09-G-0716)

Dear Public Service Commission Members:

I am sending this letter to urge you to deny Rochester Gas & Electric's (RG&E) and New York State Gas & Electric's (NYSEG) current request to increase delivery charges for gas and electric services.

I understand that RG&E and NYSEG recently announced they are reducing the amount of their requests. Nonetheless, they are still requesting increases totaling \$50 million and \$123 million, respectively. Yet, their parent company, Iberdrola SA, announced on April 29th that their first-quarter profits increased 16% to \$1.22 billion! How can the PSC approve a rate hike for a company making billions in profits while ratepayers already struggle to afford utility costs?

If you approve the rate hike, it will cause tremendous hardship for working families, those on fixed incomes and local businesses. Even before the economic crisis that started in fall 2008 - which resulted in thousands in our area losing their jobs — over 50,000 Monroe County households were two months in arrears in their utility bills! This included a record number of so-called "middle income" wage earners. RG&E alone shut off utility service to more than 25,000 customers in 2009. More families will go without heat during the winter or the ability to survive the summer heat because their electricity has been shutoff if the increase is approved.

The federal government states that households should spend no more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities. Monroe County's low-income workers already spend 70% or more of their budget on these two expenses alone. We cannot afford any increase in our utility bills, and local businesses will suffer as our consumer base is further depleted with million of dollars removed from our community if the PSC puts the profits of energy conglomerates ahead of community need.

Further, when you approved Iberdrola SA's buyout of RG&E and NYSEG in 2009, you stipulated that the company was liable for \$275 million in Public Benefit Adjustments (PBAs) to the ratepayers of the state. Yet, we have not seen a dime of these so-called benefits, only one rate hike request after another. Don't allow Iberdrola to recoup the PBAs through a rate hike!

The Public Service Commission was established in 1907 to protect consumers from the potential abuse of monopoly power. I urge you to not abandon this responsibility. Utility rates should go down, not up!

Sincerely.

Signature Signature <u>39</u> POtomore St Address <u>6-12-10</u> Date

Obin Townley

