

From: [Marci Ollila](#)
To: [MPSC EFILE CASES](#)
Subject: . U-17895
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 1:28:41 PM

Please do something about UPPCO's price gauging here in the UP of MI. The rates are so high we can't afford to hardly pay our bills. Wages in the UP are very low compared to other places, yet we have the second highest rate in the whole country!
PLEASE HELP, PLEASE!

 ***Marci Ollila***

ATLANTIC MINE< MI 49905

From: [Amanda Johnson](#)
To: [MPSC EFILE CASES](#)
Subject: . U-17895
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 1:26:00 PM

Please help us here in the Upper Peninsula of MI. Our rates for electricity from UPPCO are through the roof! Our wages here are not enough to keep up with the rising costs from UPPCO. Even Alaska's rates are lower than ours! I am begging you to please help!

Thank you,

Amanda Johnson

Rick Johnson

Atlantic mine, Mi

From: [chieffishfinder](#)
To: [MPSCEDOCKETS](#)
Subject: U-17896 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:50:07 PM

From: "Yoops (Bernie)" <yoops_2@yahoo.com>
Date: September 4, 2016 at 3:27:11 PM EDT
To: "chieffishfinder1@att.net" <chieffishfinder1@att.net>
Subject: UPPCO Rates and rate increases
Reply-To: "Yoops (Bernie)" <yoops_2@yahoo.com>

My name is Bernard Conlon. I reside at 7863 State Highway M77 in Germfask, MI 49836. I stand in opposition to any further rate increases by Upper Peninsula Power Company. I am a senior citizen and it is a constant struggle attempting to keep my bills current and food on the table. The excessive electricity charges are making it harder every month to accomplish this. Furthermore, the wild swings in billed as due amounts by UPPCO, due to their estimating the billing every other month causes great hardship.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: chieffishfinder
To: MPSCEDOCKETS
Subject: U-17895 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:45:02 PM

From: Christine <cndbrock@gmail.com>
Date: September 4, 2016 at 8:48:46 PM EDT
To: chieffishfinder1@att.net
Subject: Uppco life changes

How UPPCO has changed our daily, weekly & monthly lives over the past few years.

We have had to cut down on many things over the years, from groceries and household items to household repairs. We have had to cancel yearly trip and vacations due to any extra cash we use to be able to save has to go to the light bill (UPPCO). We have had to try and cut costs else where were we feel is not fair as a younger WORKING 40+ hour a week family.

We even changed out our hot water tank and all light bulbs to LED. To only discover that it really didn't make a huge difference. Something need to be done to help all UPPCO Customers.

Thank-You

Christine Brock
8112 State Hwy M77
Germfask Mi 49836
Sent from my iPhone

From: [chieffishfinder](#)
To: [MPSCEDOCKETS](#)
Subject: U-17895 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:46:38 PM

From: Vicky Driscoll <vicky_driscoll@yahoo.com>
Date: September 4, 2016 at 6:15:48 PM EDT
To: [chieffishfinder1@att.net](#)
Subject: UPPCO Rates

Dear Gary,

We have been asked to email you to let you know how the UPPCO rate increases effect our family.

Plenty of ways: we have 3 kids, all involved in athletics and extra curricular activities. Since we've lived in the area (roughly 12 years), both my husband and I have gotten pay increases. Our daughters have been able to participate in lots of things. Now, we are cutting back and tightening our purse strings. The UPPCO rate increases have far surpassed our pay increases. This even after purchasing energy efficient appliances and a new high efficiency furnace. We use LED bulbs, I'm not sure what else to do. Our Summer bills have far surpassed our Previous 3 years' Winter bills and we are afraid once the cold weather hits, our bills are going to be as much or close to our mortgage expense. We can't afford that. Therefore, our kids suffer. The monopoly in place the the constant rate increases are killing the middle class like the rest of politicians. All of it, makes me sick. I can't wait to move out of this area!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Deanna Knight](#)
To: [MPSCEDOCKETS](#); [John Kivela](#)
Subject: U-17895
Date: Sunday, September 04, 2016 2:03:26 PM
Attachments: [document-0.pdf](#)

here is a copy of my electric bill.

From: fordgrl73180@charter.net
To: [MPSCEDOCKETS](#)
Subject: U-17895
Date: Saturday, September 03, 2016 10:16:21 PM

Here are our 2 most recent bills, both higher than my mortgage!



From: [chieffishfinder](#)
To: [MPSCEDOCKETS](#)
Subject: U-17895 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:41:02 PM

Gary Talarico
Down To Earth Media Inc
Sales Supervisor
National Event Coordinator
DIRECTV, Exede Satellite Internet and ATT Internet products
906-450-7675 mobile
877-434-7411 toll free
<*)(((((((((><
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ceric Lasentri <ceric.lasentri@gmail.com>
Date: September 5, 2016 at 6:45:57 AM EDT
To: chieffishfinder1@att.net
Subject: My UPPCO Bill and my solution to the problem at hand.

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is being written to vindicate my reaction to UPPCO's exasperating decision to drastically change the fees of the customers.

“My electric, water, and heat bills are being driven up, and I am being driven out of home and security. “

UPPCO is one of many “Public Utilities” companies that are hiking the fees for services (required by law to have in a home in order to reside in it) with out any concerns to the customers. With out understanding the financial burdens and the emotional burdens on individuals and families trying to make ends meet, put food on the table, and put their kids through school for a better future.

The increase is fantastically outrageous. 13% or more?

I have no problems with a 4% gradual increase till it reaches their ideal margins, but only over an 8 year period. Understanding increases are needed to meet their profitable magins, but allowing time to adjust income flow to match obligatory billings.

If UPPCO succeeds in making the increase permanent, they will be short one customer. I vow that I will take the costs of a years worth of billing, Which will

be roughly 2,000 – 2,500 and apply it to solar panels and a wind turbine, making my house 100% off the grid.

I would rather live on limited energy, than be overtaxed on financial obligations which would cost me my home etc.

This is not a threat, this is not a voice shouting with out substance. If UPPCO chooses to cause mass burdens of this magnitude upon the people of UPPCO, I am turning off my power, and going off the grid. I would rather invest into energy that I have control over, than pay some corrupt greedy entity that doesn't have a face, or people to answer for their outrageous abuse of responsibilities to the public.

Thank You
C.Lasentri.

--

Ceric Lasentri

Calumet MI
906.934.6171

From: chieffishfinder
To: MPSCEDOCKETS
Subject: U-17895 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:42:28 PM

From: rose koeller <rosekoeller@yahoo.com>
Date: September 4, 2016 at 11:31:02 PM EDT
To: chieffishfinder1@att.net
Subject: UPPCO'S EXCESSIVE RATES

What I am detailing here has already been sent to UPPCO---several times!
I also sent a letter to MPSC. All in vain.
They are greedy and do not care one iota for the terrible struggle and suffering that so many of their customers are forced to endure.
Here is how UPPCO'S ridiculous rates have impacted me and my husband:
We moved here from Wisconsin in March of 2014.
We moved to the outskirts of Gladstone, Michigan. (up on the North Bluff.)
My husband and I were both born and raised here in this area. (My husband was born and raised in Escanaba. I was born and raised in Cornell/Watson area.)
We lived in Wisconsin over 32 years.
We are both in our 70's and, due to health reasons, we moved back by Family.
The biggest mistake we ever made was to inadvertently move to a location that is only served by UPPCO. We had no clue what we were in for!!!
When my husband and I received our first electric bill in the mail, we were shocked!!!
It was only April! The bill was more than double what we had been used to getting in Wisconsin! (and our gas was included in Wisconsin, and this bill was only for electric!!!)
We kept staring at the bill, thinking that there had to be a mistake.
That's when I began with the phone calls, but to no satisfaction whatsoever.
Then came Winter. Oh---My---God!
Our bills were so outrageous that we found ourselves taking money from our grocery allotment to be able to pay it.
The bill kept going higher and higher as winter got colder and colder.
We began to do a little more "cutting corners."
No more buying meat.
I started cutting my blood pressure pills in half so they would last twice as long.
We stopped doing our laundry once a week.
We do it now every month, or month and a half.
However, here is the most hurtful part of it all:
My husband has Atrial Fibrillation and Mitral Valve stenosis.
He has to take COUMADIN and other heart medications for the rest of his life.
Because of the Coumadin, he is always cold.
This past winter, we both had to wear our winter coats---INSIDE OUR HOME---on cold days. We could not afford to turn our thermostat up.

I have Obstructive Sleep Apnea and I stopped using my C-pap because, of course, it runs on electricity. That means I would have to run it all night, and that would also raise our electric bill higher than what it already is.

And here's the Clincher:

We were eligible to get a brand new Energy Efficient furnace and hot water tank from USDA this past year.

AND our daughter bought us a brand new Energy Efficient Washer, Dryer, and Refrigerator.

And our bill is between \$5-\$8 cheaper.

That's it!!!!

So there you have it, Gary.

And UPPCO knows our situation.

I've talked to Macy at least twice, and Jodi Formolo several times.

They just say they are "within their legal rights."

Thank You for everything you are doing to help.

Take Care,

Sincerely,

Rose Koeller

From: chieffishfinder
To: MPSCEDOCKETS
Subject: U-17895 Testimonial
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:43:35 PM

From: Jennifer <jdepuydtsaari@yahoo.com>
Date: September 4, 2016 at 9:15:15 PM EDT
To: chieffishfinder1@att.net
Subject: UPPCO rates

Hello. I am writing to you in regards to the outrageous rates that UPPCO continues to charge for electricity.

I am a single parent living in low income housing. I barely make it from paycheck to paycheck each month. I am always so scared to open my UPPCO bill each month as it has increased drastically over the past year or so. I have had to go to some agencies and actually ask for help to pay my bill. That is/was very embarrassing for me to do. I work hard for the little money that I do make, and I should not be afraid each month that my electricity may be shut off. This is especially very scary in the winter months and causes much anxiety.

My family would be even more drastically affected if UPPCO's rates were increased from where they are now. I certainly hope that a resolution can be found so that people like me are not afraid to open their bill and cause unneeded anxiety in an already anxiety induced situation when living in poverty.

Thank you.

Jennifer DePuydt-Saari