

Comments by Commissioner Stan Wise

November 18, 2010

Administrative Session

VICE CHAIRMAN WISE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This Commission has its critics. Who are they, you say?

Groups that supposedly and purport to represent seniors and discounts.

Promoters of a federal carbon tax, yet those that oppose emission free nuclear power.

Supposed supporters of nuclear power, but oppose the early payment of expenses, even though the savings to the state energy users are \$180 million.

Local consumer groups who oppose the upgrades to our gas and electric infrastructure, but support inefficient renewables even at one and a half times the current cost of energy.

Advocacy groups that encourage the Commission to vote against legally incurred fuel costs and at the same time expect some classes of ratepayers to pay for others' energy costs.

Perhaps even the socialization of the payment of the costs.

All of this, while this Commission has delivered and supported an effective, efficient, reliable system, all of that at the same time with reasonable rates. Might be a

little like the Boy Scouts, leaving it better than we found it.

So what happens? The critics are clearly not effective, and who do they call? Well, they can't call the Ghost Busters, they call the Cox family and their henchmen -- WSB, AJC, the folks that I generally call the Sandinistas. Call them to do their bidding to attack a forward-planning Commission, a Commission that balances the public interest and effective National Energy Policy through advocacy and testimony before Congress on telecommunications, nuclear waste, pipeline safety and energy policy -- all of these which I have testified before Congress on.

Commissioners who speak to civic groups, ratepayers and industry groups.

Commissioners who travel to Wall Street to weigh the impact of their decisions.

This Commissioners has had the benefit of a decade and a half of rate case decisions to recognize the hindsight and the benefit of the very decisions that we've made at this Commission.

A decade and a half where, if I have not been in the majority of every major rate proceeding, clearly most of them.

The results are in -- again, a reliable, efficient and affordable system.

I will not, I cannot change from this successful

path. Despite the attacks, I will continue business as usual. I hope my colleagues will continue to support what has been nationally recognized as a favorable and quality regulatory environment and model.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.