

4/11/17

Dear SC Legislator,

South Carolinians Against Monetary Abuse (SCAMA) contends that the SC legislature abolished the office of Consumer Advocate in 2004 at the behest of SC utilities, SCE&G, Santee Cooper and Duke. There has been no effort by our legislature to fill this void. Instead, ratepayer and consumer concerns have been turned over to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) both of which are staffed with industry hacks.

The PSC and ORS rubber stamp every utility request, including the building of and all nine rate hikes for the nuclear plants under construction in Jenkinsville, SC. These plants, with an estimated price tag of over \$19 billion dollars, will make rates in SC so high that not only will your average citizen suffer, but businesses will avoid setting up shop in SC.

The PSC and ORS were warned repeatedly that approving these nuclear plants would not only eliminate our options for clean, affordable energy, but would be a financial hardship for almost all South Carolinians. The cost of these plants has been legally forced upon the backs of utility ratepayers through the Base Load Review Act (BLRA). The BLRA, which the SC legislature passed in 2007 at the request of SCANA, SCE&G and Duke, allows utility monopolies to charge ratepayers ahead of time for their projects, instead of relying on investor financing as is done in a true democracy.

We of SCAMA urge the SC legislative body to eliminate both the PSC and the ORS and reinstate the Office of Consumer Advocate. It appears that the only purpose of these agencies is to give a farcical appearance of oversight while they do the bidding of SC utility monopolies. Plus, terminating these agencies would likely save SC at least \$1million annually.

If the legislature doesn't have the will to cut out the PSC and the ORS as they did when they abolished the office of Consumer Advocate, we hope that they can at least ask the Commissioners and the leaders of ORS to resign and turn over their taxpayer funded salaries to SC ratepayers as has been suggested by Wanted posters recently seen around SC.

Thank you,

**SCAMA**  
South Carolinians  
Against Monetary Abuse