



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Spectrum Disorders
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Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

April 28, 2017

Diane X. Burman
Commissioner, New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building #3
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Commissioner Burman,

I write to express my deep concern over National Grid's recent application proposing rate increases for Upstate New York customers.

As a member of the Assembly Committee on Energy, I take very seriously the impacts of rate increases on residents and their ability to afford their utility bill. The proposed hike would have a significant and possibly devastating impact for far too many families in Upstate New York. Residential electric customers could see their monthly bill increase by \$11 – a 14 percent hike – and gas customers would see a monthly increase of \$10.50 – a 15 percent increase. That's about \$260 more each year for many families and seniors that already struggle to pay their utility bills, especially during the colder months, and very often need to apply for assistance programs just to keep their homes heated and the lights on.

While National Grid has suggested stretching out the rate increase over three years, the financial impact will be significant nonetheless. I have urged National Grid to reconsider and withdraw their application to the New York State Public Service Commission. In the meantime, I urge members of the Public Service Commission to consider the impact of utility rate increases and reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Representing Albany, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties