

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDE FOR THE OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION PUD2025-000075

PSO is seeking a \$597 million annual rate increase "to recover increased business costs and electric infrastructure investments." For a Residential Service customer, this is 16% a month increase; for businesses, it is 22%.

This guide will

- explain how to provide public comments to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) for Public Service of Oklahoma's (PSO) requested "rate adjustment" on residential and business users' power bills
- provide discussion points to guide you in crafting your comments

How to provide a public comment

There are many ways for you to submit public comments. By far the most impactful is in person, next is Zoom, then of course in writing. Please consider both in-person comments and submitting something in writing. If you plan to make a public comment in person or via Zoom, comments are limited to five minutes.

1. In person

There are currently two meetings scheduled where the OCC will be hearing public comments.

- **First Hearing - Monday, June 1 at 1:30pm**
The Concourse Theater, Suite C50
Will Rogers Memorial Office Building
2401 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
- **Second Hearing - Thursday, June 25 at 1:30pm**
Currently also scheduled at the Concourse Theater of the Will Rogers Memorial Office building. We will be requesting this meeting be moved to Tulsa and will provide updates.

The Concourse Theater is located in the underground tunnel between the WR Memorial Office Bldg and the Sequoyah Memorial Office Building. *Entrance to the Concourse Theater is through the Will Rogers Memorial Office Building.*

2. **Remotely via Zoom**

You can watch the hearing live via this link: [Public Comment on Utility Cases](#).

- If you want to comment via Zoom, you must register 12 hours prior to the beginning of the hearing: [Registration for OCC Commission Meeting](#).
- If you cannot follow the link, type this address into your browser: <https://oklahoma.gov/occ/divisions/public-utility/case-public-comments.html>

3. **In writing**

There are several ways you can submit written comments:

- send an email to CS@occ.ok.gov.
- fill out the online comment form at OCC: [New Submission](#)
- send a letter to

Oklahoma Corporation Commission
ATTN: Public Utility Division
Public Comments
PO BOX 171
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-9918

Discussion Points for Submitting Public Comments to the OCC

Because the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's (OCC) ability to reduce or deny PSO's requested rate change is limited, the best public comments will be specific and relevant to OCC's jurisdiction. In other words, the OCC does not decide whether the smelter is built. Relevant comments will focus on the following discussion points. Adding details particular to you and your household will strengthen them.

Impact on Household Budget

PSO's requested rate adjustment will increase utility bills by an average of 16%. While others have objected to some of the changes that will result in this increase, none have explained how these increased costs will impact individual consumers.

Your comments can fill this gap. How will a more expensive PSO bill affect your household? Will you be able to pay your normal expenses?

Will you have to give up or cut back on anything and, if so, what? Are you under any other financial pressures? Comments should note if you are:

- Retired,
- On a fixed income,
- Between jobs,
- Living paycheck to paycheck,
- A single income household, and/or
- Caring for dependents without their own income

The Association for the Advancement of Retired Persons (AARP) has filed a Statement of Position joining in the requests of other objecting parties. If you are a member of AARP, your comment should note that and state that you support their position.

Potential Loss of Jobs/Businesses

Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers (OIEC) filed testimony from multiple witnesses. One witness testified that PSO’s proposed increases “could result in significant job losses in Oklahoma” because of the impact on businesses’ operating costs. Increased operating costs can have a domino effect, putting pressure on other expenses and consumer prices.

No one benefits from sudden job loss, but those who are most vulnerable to that loss should comment on this. Many of the discussion points for the Impact on Household Budget will also be relevant here, including whether you are living paycheck to paycheck, reliant on a single source of income, or caring for dependents with no means to provide for themselves.

OIEC does not have a published list of its member companies, but employees of any large energy consumer should note this in their comments. Walmart filed testimony objecting to PSO’s rate increase, so if you work for Walmart or another large retailer, mention that in your comment.

In addition, if you are a business owner, the rates your company pays will also go up. For example, industrial customers will suffer an average base rate increase of 91% and average total bill increase of 22%.

How will increased rates affect your business? Will you have to layoff employees or leave positions unfilled? Will you be able to stay in business? What other impact will the rate increase have on your business?

Unfair for Consumers to Pay for Shareholder Benefits

PSO’s rate increase includes a number of compensation, incentive, pension, and other corporate costs. These costs benefit shareholders, not consumers. We should not have to pay for them.

The details of these costs and the underlying law are complex. But, ultimately, PSO has a duty as a monopoly utility to operate for the public benefit at a reasonable cost.

In your own words, your comment should explain why you think it is unfair for consumers to pay for costs that do not benefit them. Your comment can state that you join in AARP, OEIC, and the Attorney General’s objections to those costs.

Shifting Costs for Large Load Customers to Residential Consumers

New large load customers like the smelter and data centers will need more power than PSO can realistically provide. This increased demand will require improved infrastructure and greater generation capacity.

These improvements will not be cheap. Based on its other requests, there is good reason to believe PSO will attempt to shift those costs onto residential consumers who will not benefit from them.

Your comments should let OCC know that it is unfair to make residents pay for improvements they do not need.



**You will find this document with hyperlinks online at <https://stoptheinolasmelter.com/intervene>