

CONFIRMATION HEARING

CAROLYN
GUESS (APUG)

House Judiciary Committee

April 2, 1982

Rep. Ramona Barnes, Chairperson

I believe that clarification of a portion of my oral testimony before this committee yesterday is of vital importance to your consideration of reconfirmation of Susan Knowles to the Public Utilities Commission. This clarification regards a telephone conversation between Mrs. Knowles and Deborah Williams, and the description of that conversation to me by Mrs. Williams.

At no time did Mrs. Williams state to me that Mrs. Knowles was mentally imbalanced or incompetent. As a poor choice of words on my part, I tried to state that, if Mrs. Williams related her conversation to me correctly (the conversation in question, between herself and Mrs. Knowles), Mrs. Knowles' attitude regarding criticism of A.P.U.C. actions, or hers as a member of that body, was poor if not improper. This was my opinion, and I do not know for a fact whether or not Mrs. Williams shared that opinion. Mrs. Williams is currently out of state, and I cannot reach her for comment or clarification.

Since I cannot personally attest to the

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text of that conversation, and cannot
attest to the veracity of Mrs. Williams,
I recognize that I may have been unduly
swayed to request not reconfirming Mrs.
Knowles to the A.P.U.C. and created an
unjust bias towards Mrs. Knowles.

I also recognize that - as an adage
goes - one cannot unring a bell, but I
now feel that for what I personally know,
for fact, of Mrs. Knowles, I cannot ask
this committee to take negative action on
the reconfirmation of Mrs. Knowles to the
A.P.U.C.

I offer my apologies to this committee for
taking advantage of the public hearing
process, and to Mrs. Knowles for not
affording her a proper opportunity to rebut
my understanding of her and her position
prior to my testimony.

Sincerely,
Dan Mettley

9304 Turn St.

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 789-3603

April 2, 1982

Commissioner Susan Knowles
Alaska Public Utilities Commission
1100 Mac Kay Building
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Commissioner Knowles,

I have enclosed a copy of a statement, to the House Judiciary Committee, which I hope to present orally and as a written record to that committee today. I believe that it is self-explanatory.

I felt enlightened after our discussion yesterday on the way to the airport. I did follow through on my commitment to seek more information on both you and O:ivah, although my contacts were fruitless.

You have my most sincere apology for playing a pawn to unverified statements, and I believe that I have learned a very valuable lesson from this incident.

I wish you the best of luck in your bid for reconfirmation and hope that we can work together in the future towards a better system of public utilities in Alaska.

Best Regards,
Dan Smalley

A-AP

ALASKA CONSUMER ADVOCACY PROGRAM

P.O. Box 1093

Anchorage, Alaska 99510

272-6355

82-187

DAN
MOTLEY

January 22, 1982

Mr. Brian Rogers
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Brian:

As we discussed on January 20, ACAP is quite concerned that three APUC Commissioners (Guess, Knowles and Snowden) have yet to be confirmed by the legislature. Further, we question whether or not Commissioners Guess and Knowles, the consumer representatives, have fulfilled their roles as intended by the legislature.

Because of these concerns we suggest that the following questions be raised during the confirmation hearings of Commissioners Guess and Knowles.

1. For the last five years you have served as the first consumer representatives on the APUC. Please define your role on the Commission; how does it differ, if at all, from the other members of the Commission; what, if any, goals did you set for yourself and how do you evaluate your achievements in the area of consumer representation?
2. What steps have you taken since your appointment to improve consumer involvement in APUC proceedings?

Follow-up questions:

- a. Do you feel that consumers have an important role in APUC proceedings and in decision-making by the Commissioners? Is this an informed role?
- b. Have you held meetings with any consumer groups or representatives?
- c. Have you initiated and held any public workshops regarding consumer participation before the APUC?

Answer: To our knowledge neither Knowles nor Guess has made any attempt to improve communications with the consumer.

3. Describe the present consumer education or outreach program employed by the APUC?

Answer: No program is in existence. The consumer division only responds to questions asked by individual consumers.

4. What brochures or plans for consumer publications now exist?

Answer: No brochures or publications exists.

5. What procedure has been adopted to insure public notification of rate cases and testimony at public hearings?

Follow-up question.

- a. Are the individuals with letters on file notified that a matter regarding their utility is pending before the APUC?
- b. Have you advertised for public input beyond the formal notice published in newspapers?

Answer: Notification is advertised under the legal or public notice section of the newspapers only.

6. What is the role of the consumer division of the APUC? How many personnel are presently assigned to the consumer division? What, if any, plans do you have to expand this division?

Answer: Two people are assigned to this division. Commissioner Guess told us that that division has low priority for expansion and additional funding from the APUC budget.

7. What procedure has been adopted to insure consumer input into Staff's representation of the "public interest?"

Follow-up questions:

- a. How do you define "public interest?"
- b. Does "public interest" differ from consumer interest? If so, how does Staff determine what the consumer interest is? Do you encourage Staff to work with consumers? Have Staff's recent recommendations on rate design and revenue requirements been based on any consumer input?
- c. What role does the consumer division play in the tariff meetings? What weight is given their recommendations?

Answer: No organized effort has been made by the APUC to incorporate consumer concerns into the rate-making procedure. Recent Staff proposals have been jeered by consumers.

8. What recommendations do you have for the future of consumer representation and advocacy?

Follow-up questions.

- a. Would you advocate legislation in this area? If no: Do you really believe that the consumers feel adequately represented by Staff?
- b. Would you encourage increasing the personnel in the APUC consumer division?
- c. Would you work with consumers to design a public education program?

Answer: Chairman Guess indicated to ACAP that this area has low priority.

We would appreciate the hearings being held prior to February 28, 1982, as this is the date ACAF goes out of existence. If that is not possible please contact the following consumers so they may be present at the hearings.

ANCHORAGE

Kay Paddon, Chairman
P. O. Box 41143
Anchorage, AK 99509
272-4777

Charles Evans
605 West 2nd
Anchorage, AK 99501
278-4691

MAT-VALLEY

Tamie Miller, Chairman
P. O. Box 151
376-5636 (home)/276-8033 (work)

Harvey Bowers
P. O. Box 1069
Wasilla, AK 99687

KENAI

Tom Atkinson, Chairman
P. O. Box 282
Kenai, AK 99611

Patricia Wheller
P. O. Box 3357
Kenai, AK 99611

KODIAK

Lorna Arndt, Chairman
P. O. Box 2069
Kodiak, AK 99615
486-6486

Walter E. Wheeler
P. O. Box 1934
Kodiak, AK 99615
486-4600

FAIRBANKS

Karen Eddy, Chairman
314 Iditarod
Fairbanks, AK 99701
452-6060

Jeff Weltzin
218 Driveway Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
479-3005

JUNEAU

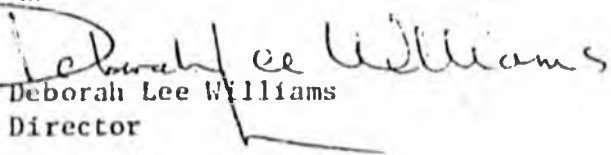
Daniel J. Motley, Chairman
9951 Sprucewood Ct., #35
Juneau, AK 99801
789-3603 (home)/465-2240 (work)

Kenneth King
P. O. Box 272
Auke Bay, AK 99821
789-2239 (home) 364-2121, Ext. 114 (work)

Thank you for your interest and support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

ALASKA CONSUMER ADVOCACY PROGRAM


Deborah Lee Williams
Director

DLW/ijm

cc: Nancy Ford

CAROLYN S. GUESS

Commissioner Guess is currently the Chairman of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree - College of Williams & Mary
Williamsburg Va

The Annual Regulatory Studies Program
National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners - 1976

Seminar for Retail Rate Consultants
Rural Electrification Administration - 1977

Public Utility Seminar on Corporate Finance
Kidder, Peabody & Co., Incorporated - 1978

Electric Utility Rate Design Study
Electric Power Research Institute - 1980

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Alaska Public Utilities Commission

1975 - present - Commissioner
March 1981 - present - Chairman
March 1978 - November 1978 - Acting Executive Director
July 1979 - October 1979 - Acting Executive Director

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

1975-present	Member
1978-present	Ad Hoc Committee on the National Energy Act

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Sunset Review of AS 42.05 - 1980

Merger of Alaska Pipeline
Commission and Alaska Public
Utilities Commission - 1981

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Energy Conference sponsored by the Alaska Native
Foundation 1979

Governor's Committee - State Energy Policy - 1978-80

Reliability Council for Alaska (electric)
sponsored by Alaska Power Administration 1980-present

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Jack B. Farleigh
Executive Director

DATE: March 8, 1982

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Carolyn S. Guess
Chairman

SUBJECT: Commissioner decision-making
procedures

In response to your inquiry regarding the Commissioners' decision-making procedures, to the best of my knowledge and memory, for the past six years it has been as follows:

Tariff Action Meetings

The basis for Commissioner decision-making is the utility's request and Staff's written recommendations, amplified, when necessary, in response to Commissioner questions. The votes in Tariff Action meetings are recorded and public record.

Commission Orders

In regard to decisions on substantive and procedural matters which result in a Commission Order, the Commissioners' role is similar to that of judges. Our procedure is similar to that of the Alaska Supreme Court. After the hearing panel's initial decision conference on the issues involved in the proceeding, a proposed Order is drafted by the Commissioner docket-manager and circulated, for discussion purposes, to those serving on the panel. Based on the comments received, a final Order is then drafted for concurrence with or dissent by the panel members. A Commissioner who does not agree with the majority decision can indicate his/her dissent and provide a statement, including the reasons for his/her decision, if desired. In addition, a Commissioner who agrees with the result of an Order but disagrees with the rationale supporting the decision may write a separate statement indicating his/her views. Unless otherwise noted, a Commission Order is a consensus decision of the hearing panel. In the event all five Commissioners do not participate in a decision, it is so noted.

Attached are copies of Orders which have been authored by Commissioner Knowles, Commissioner Snowden and myself. It should be noted that Commissioner Snowden joined the APUC in October 1981; therefore, her repertoire of authored Orders is more limited than Susan's and mine, which spans a six-year time frame. These Orders address substantive issues that have been before the Commission during the past six years and provide a broad range of subject matter that has required Commission action.

Enclosures



Superior Court
State of Alaska

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
303 K STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

Chambers of
VICTOR D. CARLSON, Judge

March 26, 1982

The Honorable Ramona Barnes
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Carolyn Guess

Dear Madame Chairman:

This letter is written in support of Mrs. Guess' confirmation to continue as a member of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

Having had the opportunity to review the transcript of several hearings in which Commissioner Guess has participated, I want to share my belief that she is thorough, fair, and patient with all parties and witnesses and that her decisions are carefully reasoned. From my experience she has fulfilled the duties of a public utilities commissioner in an exemplary manner.

Thanking you for considering this letter, I am

Very truly yours,

Victor Carlson
Victor D. Carlson
Superior Court Judge

VDC:rw

Capital Moves
Hearings
Legal Notices.

Husband - Wife Conflicts