

## Erik Christeson

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**From:** Jennifer Gogan <jenniferpgogan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2021 10:28 AM  
**To:** Erik Christeson  
**Subject:** Public Comments

Good morning -

Thank you for considering changes to electrical rates in Kirkwood.

I am in support of rate changes - I feel they are much needed - but have a couple questions and/or concerns.

1. The new rates are based on past consumption. Is there a means to reset or review this rate if a homeowner were to switch to gas or more efficient electric appliances? My concern is that you are locked in to past higher rates and if you reduce your usage by any means (which I think we can all agree is a good thing) you do not see the benefit in your bill. This discourages upgrading your home to be more efficient if there is no mechanism to have your base rate recalibrated.
2. Benefits new homeowners disproportionately while almost penalizing old homeowners. Again, discouraging old homeowners from upgrading their homes to be more efficient and/or install more environmentally friendly systems.

Personally, I know that our home will be charged more annually under this plan. Our family has owned our home in Kirkwood since 1993, and my husband and I purchased it from my parents in December 2019. My husband and I have been spending the last two years looking at how we can make our home more efficient - the impetus being both financial and being better environmental citizens. We have looked at the possibility of solar. We would like to run gas to the house and convert some major appliances to gas instead of electricity. We have already installed a new energy smart washer/dryer and dishwasher. We were hoping to replace our inefficient (ie: energy wasting, bad for our bills and bad for the earth) electric wall heaters that are over 40 years old.

All of these upgrades come at a cost, which we were willing to bear as we knew it would benefit the property in the long run and also reduce our consumption. But under this new plan, these upgrades would only help us on our mission to be more environmentally sound, they would not benefit us at all financially. In fact, if our consumption goes down, we will still be paying more than we pay under the current price system. This is discouraging as these upgrades are not inexpensive and the costs will no longer be offset by a reduced utility bill. For most people looking to do the same and reduce their overall energy consumption by making energy smart home improvements, this will likely be a major deterrent. So we are left with less efficient homes in our beautiful mountain home, only adding to the impacts of climate change and injuring the environment that was all love.

Kirkwood is a very special place and the people that choose to own properties here tend to be drawn to it by its privacy, remote location, amazing skiing and unparalleled natural beauty. We are all sort of a tribe of like-minded people when it comes to our love of this mountain.

I would ask that KPUMD consider putting incentives in place that allow for your base level to be re evaluated when energy efficient upgrades are installed.

Thank you for the consideration.

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## KMPUD Rate Revision Comments

I am in favor of a revision of the current PUD electric rate structure.

I agree with the proposal to shift from a high usage cost to a high base cost. It will encourage an increase in use of electricity in the valley over other polluting energy sources and equalize monthly income to the PUD to aid its budget management.

However, the rate revision as proposed is not equitable to the customers. The proposed new rate structure is based on data from past electrical rates that by default have discouraged the use of electricity in our homes and condominiums and required the use of propane and wood and pellet stoves.

If the PUD is to create a new base rate for each customer or equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), it must be based on the future use of electricity following the rate restructuring. As currently proposed, the current higher usage homes and all electric homes are penalized for their higher past usage while rewarding those homes that increase usage going forward.

I suggest the PUD start and proceed with proposed EDU and kilowatt/hour charges as submitted but must recalculate the average electric use and EDU of each customer annually for next 3 years to determine usage based on the new rate structure. It would then be done every 5 years as is standard for the utility industry. You are currently proposing this for all new homeowners with less than 3 years of ownership. It should be the same for all customers to evenly distribute the costs of electrical service in our community.

Respectfully,

Gary Sargent

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