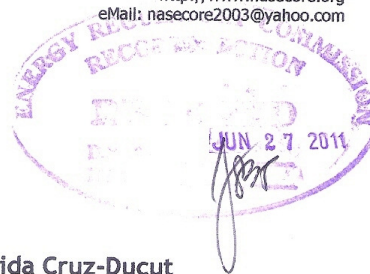




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23 June 2011

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS
Energy Regulatory Commission
16th Floor, Pacific Center Building
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City



Attention: ERC Chairperson Zenaida Cruz-Ducut

Dear ERC Commissioners:

Greetings!

This pertains to our study of San Jose City Electric Cooperative, Inc (SAJELCO) financial statements showing an over collection of P123,443,803.00 from 2004 to 2009.

Our finding is based on this Honorable Commission's *Unbundling Decision* dated 21 May 2004 under ERC Case No. 2001-848 granting SAJELCO's annual revenue requirement of P26,679,006.00 (net of purchased power cost).

To determine if SAJELCO was getting its ERC-approved annual revenue requirement, NASECORE studied SAJELCO's 2005-2009 annual reports and compared its ERC-approved annual revenue requirements against its actual annual revenues as shown in the table below:

ERC Approved vs Actual Distribution Revenue

Year	Total Revenue	Cost of Power	Actual Distribution Revenue	Approved Revenue-Unbundling	Over/ (under)
	(A)	(B)	(C=A-B)	(D)	(E=C-D)
2004*	129,797,109.02	111,110,403.52	18,686,705.50	17,312,753.50	1,373,952.00
2005	302,924,529.42	261,583,493.66	41,341,035.76	29,679,006.00	11,662,029.76
2006	335,964,417.68	297,683,861.23	38,280,556.45	29,679,006.00	8,601,550.45
2007	372,561,087.16	316,368,764.84	56,192,322.32	29,679,006.00	26,513,316.32
2008	327,324,551.97	267,777,311.03	59,547,240.94	29,679,006.00	29,868,234.94
2009	384,737,796.97	309,634,071.23	75,103,725.74	29,679,006.00	45,424,719.74
*proportionate to 7 months only				Total Over/(Under)	123,443,803.00

The table above clearly shows that SAJELCO realized an accumulated over-collection in the amount of P123,443,803.00 (net of purchased power cost) from 2004-2009. We still need to look into the 2010 annual report of SAJELCO to find out if there is also an over collections in the said year.

We find these over-collections alarming because we take this as an abuse of market power when SAJELCO decided to deliberately keep to itself these over-collections instead of disclosing these by way of a petition to reduce its current rates but maintaining its approved annual revenues, especially that SAJELCO is a *non-stock, non-profit organization*.

It is a common industry knowledge that this increase in its annual revenues is attributable to the increase in its annual sales in kilowatt-hours and kilowatt from its captive customers owing to the increasing consumption of its customers and the reduction in its system loss. (emphasis supplied)

We also find this alarming because these SAJELCO over-collections show that the Honorable Commission blatantly failed to closely monitor and review the operations of SAJELCO to determine whether the annual revenue it granted SAJELCO is what is actually being collected only from the consumers based on its approved annual cost of service including its system loss percentage which should be reflected if the utility is operating efficiently or not.

Had ERC done its primary duty of reviewing the annual revenues it granted SAJELCO, it would have easily discovered these over-collections which NASECORE, on its own initiative, have discovered. It appears that ERC needs some reminding on its legal mandate of ensuring adequate promotion of consumer interests which basically revolves on determining just and reasonable rates.

Further, this ERC failure lamentably renders its approved annual revenues for SAJELCO (the result of its exhaustive study to ensure the viable operations of the electric utility) inutile as it failed to use these to serve as its way of ensuring that the SAJELCO rates it granted are just and reasonable.

In this regard, we urge ERC to immediately conduct a regulatory audit of SAJELCO and reduce its rates so as to stop this over-collection and to immediately direct a refund of this over-collection.

We fervently hope ERC will swiftly act on this request based on its mandate to protect consumers from unjust and unreasonable rates.

Thank you so much.

Very truly yours,



PETE L. ILAGAN
President

Cc: Hon. Jose Rene Almendras, DOE secretary
Hon. Sergio R. Osmena III, Senator and Chair-Committee on Energy, Senate of the Philippines
Hon. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Senator and Chair-Senate Committee on Cooperatives Development
Hon. Henedina R. Abad, Chair-Committee on Energy, House of Representatives
Hon. Jose R. Ping-ay, Chair, Committee on Cooperative Development
Hon. Ponciano D Payuyo, APEC Partylist Representative
Hon. Benjo Benaldo, Vice-Chair, Committee on Energy, House of Representatives
Hon. Isidro Q. Lico, Ating Koop Party List
Hon. Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Nueva Ecija 2nd District Representative
Hon. Aurelio M. Umali., Nueva Ecija Governor
Hon. Marivic V. Belena, San Jose City Mayor