

ELCON *PRESS RELEASE*

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FERC TO BE APPLAUDED FOR QUICK ACTION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

“FERC should be applauded for taking quick action to protect consumers’ rights,” stated John Hughes, president of the Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON). Hughes was referring to an Order FERC issued on November 12 making clear that retail customers may file complaints and protest transmission rates and wholesale power sales rates before the Commission.

“This case was very bizarre,” explained Hughes. “For years retail customers and organizations like ELCON that represent them have been active in FERC cases involving wholesale rates, because we understood there was a direct nexus between wholesale markets and retail rates. Then out of the blue a FERC Administrative Law Judge decided that retail customers could no longer participate. We agree with FERC which rejected the ALJ’s ruling and reaffirmed that ‘protecting consumers is one of the Commission’s primary responsibilities’ under the Federal Power Act. That is why ELCON filed an amicus brief at FERC to ensure that the rights of retail customers were not curtailed in any way. We are pleased that FERC agreed with our filing.”

On behalf of its member companies, ELCON has been involved in hundreds of FERC cases through the years. “Intervening in the regulatory process is at the heart of ELCON’s mission,” said Hughes. “Large and small consumers need to be part of the dialog at FERC.”

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ELCON, established in 1976, is the national association of large industrial users of electricity from virtually every manufacturing sector. ELCON members seek a reliable supply of electricity at competitive prices and have long supported federal and state efforts to achieve that objective. More information about ELCON is available at ELCON’s website, www.elcon.org.