



The Chicagoland Healthcare Service Company

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May 23, 2005

RECEIVED

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Illinois Commerce Commission
Chicago Office

Mr. Edward C. Hurley, Chairman
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave.
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: NICOR Rate Case Docket No. 04-0779

Dear Chairman Hurley:

This letter is in PROTEST of Nicor's "Proposed Rate and Tariff Changes".

Hospital Laundry Services (HLS) has been in business since 1972, supplying clean linen and services to more than 55 Acute Care and Extended Care Facilities as well as over 450 clinics and surgery centers throughout the Chicagoland area.

HLS uses Natural Gas to generate steam for heating water and finishing equipment. Natural gas is also used for drying the more than 80,000,000 pounds of laundry, HLS processes each year.

The rising cost of natural gas has been traumatic in and of itself.

To allow Nicor the proposed rate and tariff changes could be devastating. The adverse effect of the proposed rate changes could ultimately affect the lives of as many as 600 employees and their families.

Sincerely,

Richard Phelon
Executive Vice-President

RP/dcf

Cc: Lula M. Ford, ICC Commissioner
Robert F. Lieberman, ICC Commissioner
Erin M. O'Connelly-Diaz, ICC Commissioner
Kevin K. Wright, ICC Commissioner
Scott Wiseman, Executive Director

RP