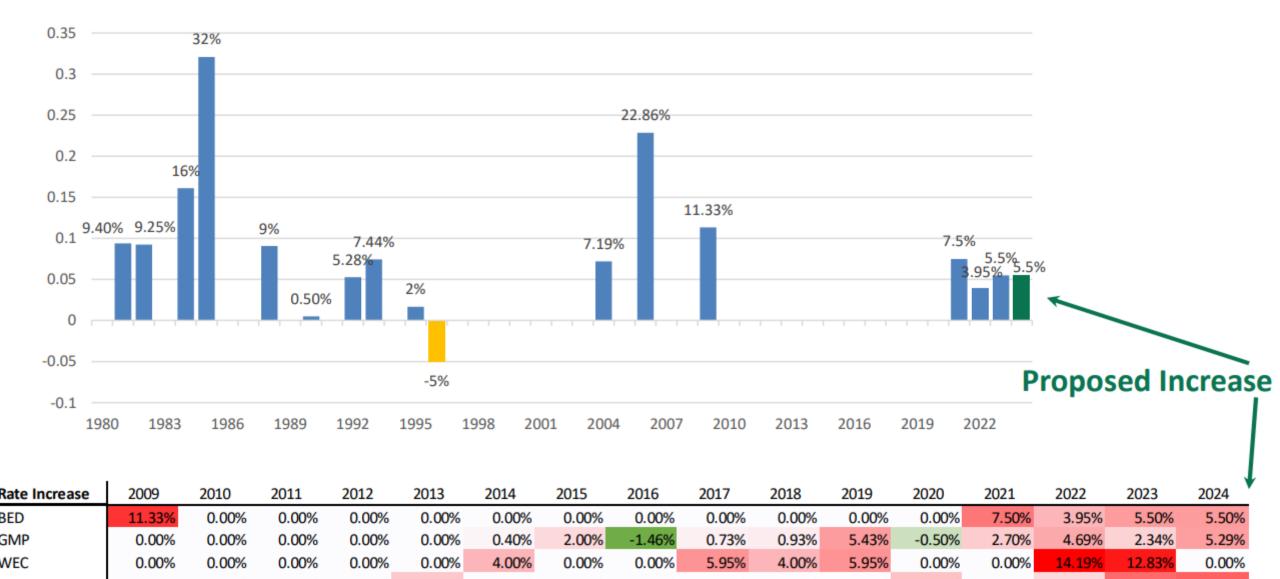


BED Rate Changes Since 1980





Rate Increase Drivers

Need to increase operating revenues commensurate with increased operating expenses to maintain strong credit rating and adequate cash reserves

- Flat sales to customers
- Flat/declining REC revenues due to relatively stable prices and variation in production across the portfolio
- Higher purchased power costs due to lower forward prices for sale of excess winter energy
- Increased transmission costs
- Continued inflationary pressures in other O&M expenses
- 3 years of rate increases < demonstrated need

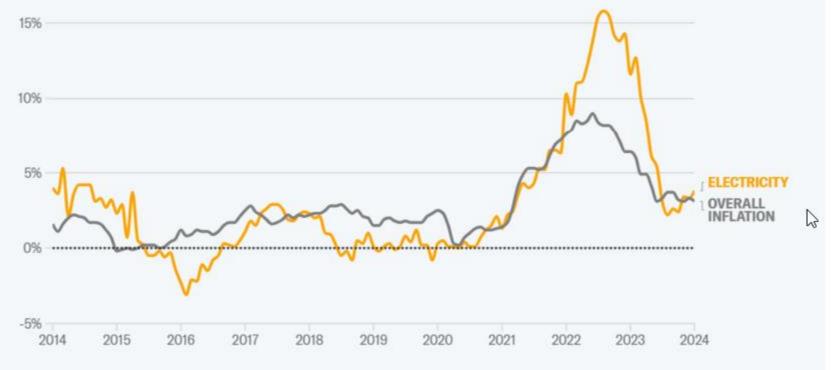


U.S. Electricity Prices Rising Faster than Inflation

STICKY ELECTRICITY PRICES

Electricity prices have ticked higher for the past six months as overall inflation has cooled.





- Nationally, electricity averaging 7.7% annual increases over past three years
- Transmission cost increases, volatility in fuel prices are drivers
- https://www.utilitydive.com/news/uselectricity-prices-rise-customer-eiaoutlook/710113/ and https://money.usnews.com/investing/articles/ /5-areas-where-inflation-is-highest

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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