

KS consumer advocates recommend Westar rate cuts

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) - Kansas consumer advocates are recommending state utility regulators reject Westar Energy's request for a \$17.2 million rate increase and instead order the company to cut rates.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports employees of the Kansas Corporation Commission and the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board recommended this week that the commission cut Westar rates for customers by at least \$69 million. The board, or CURB, is a state agency representing consumers in utility rate cases.

Westar provides service to about 700,000 customers in Kansas. The company has filed a rate request that translates to an increase of \$2.80 a month for the average residential customer.

But KCC staff and CURB are urging regulators to reject the idea that Westar needs any overall rate increase.

Westar is expected to submit a rebuttal by July 2.

Associated Press