



The Inscription from the Tomb of the Unknown Ratepayer

Here lie the mortal remains of one who has no name
But we can be sure he was the customer of a regulated utility
We know this by what he said that day he expressed his anguish in
the power company offices

Into the lobby he strode and said
*“Riders, riders everywhere, but not a drop of relief from
over earnings”*

Clearly he had studied his power bill closely

Everyone turned to hear his comments as he raised his voice
“Renewable credits are just paper, they keep the tax credits”
This indicates our antagonist was a victim of the utility’s
green energy program

Then he proclaimed
*“The coincident peak should be divided by an equal percentage
before being applied to embedded costs”*

An onlooker gasped
*“This poor S.O.B has tried to find logic in revenue allocation, no
wonder he’s gone mad!”*

“Madman, madman” Cried the gathering crowd
“Someone call security”

Suddenly he clutched his chest and keeled over, saying
“Return should be limited to three points above Treasury”

They strapped him to a gurney to wheel him out
But not before his final screams echoed down the hall
*“The amortization of the regulatory compact should be recognized
in FERC account 2063”*

The birds sing, the seasons change and life goes on
Yet the meaning of this strange prophet’s words remain a mystery
We can only speculate that perhaps he was trying to tell us that the
way we price electricity is more complicated than it needs to be