

FILE

SOUTHSIDE RESOURCE GROUP

A Professional Services Corporation

CASE NUMBER: 08-935-EL-SSO
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attention Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Alan R. Schriber
Commissioner Paul A. Centolella
Commissioner Ronda H. Fergus
Commissioner Valerie A. Lemmie
Commissioner Cheryl Roberto

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PUCO

October 4, 2008,

My Name is Thomas Adkins; my business address is 1340 Conant Street, Maumee, Ohio. I am the President of a small manufacturing firm in Maumee, and I operate commercial real estate in the same location. On Thursday October 2, 2008 I attended a hearing for public comment on the above captioned case at Gateway Middle School in Maumee Ohio. In this case First Energy is requesting significant rate increases in their ESP Plan. Presiding over this meeting was Commissioner Paul Centolella.

The hearing was well attended, and it first struck me that those who testified were earnest and effective in communicating the serious consequences that this set of rate increases would have on economic development, business operations, and family members. I urge the commission to review the testimony of the evening's respondents. Those that appeared clearly stated the effects this extraordinary cost increase would have. Please understand the tone of the meeting. Nearly every participant was prepared, in control, and well spoken. Mr. Centolella was very attentive and he can attest to the energy and sincerity in the room.

I was unable to stay long enough to testify, although I was in attendance for nearly two hours. My responsibilities to my work, in these very critical times, pulled me away before the session ended.

I wish to make three points that I did not hear in my time at the hearing:

The first is concerning the unknown "proposed numerous additional riders that, when added to customer's bills, would further increase rates" This is a quote from the handout from the PUCO, given at the meeting. In short no entity can justify undefined numerous add-ons to customer billings, regardless of what product or service they provide to the public. Products and services in the private sector must be defined and costs must be annotated. No one ever went to the grocery store to buy staples and later found out there were additional undefined add-ons at the cash register. Please review these "numerous

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additional riders" and eliminate them from any final decision, regardless whether you allow the rate increases, or only some part of them.

Secondly, please consider fairness and parity in any decision. Should you decide to grant some rate increase, please review the base costs associated with that region. Northwestern Ohio has very high rates now. That is a given. However, from the PUCO handout, it is clear that customers in the original Toledo Edison footprint pay more than those in the Cleveland Electric illuminating, or Ohio Edison footprint.

Before you allow any increase, I ask that you try to create parity, so there are no users more impacted than others.

Finally, please consider the mandating of a program that is partially user and partially utility funded to insure the removal of all incandescent lighting in Ohio over a 3-year period. In many cases lighting accounts for up to 40% of an electric utility bill. Compact fluorescents (CFL's) and LED (light Emitting diode) technology is far superior, from an operations point of view. Reduction of demand from the elimination of incandescent lighting would be a huge economic shifter in your equation. There are some capital costs, but the two technologies have a long rated life and very efficient operational costs. The impact to the environment will be positive, and the need for additional coal based generation will be reduced.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this missive. These are difficult decisions, but you, the members of the Commission, can make a real difference for your constituency. Please make wise, and informed choices.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Adkins
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