

FILE

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September 22, 2008

PUC

Governor's Office
Riffe Center 30th Floor
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Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

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08-935-550⁶⁶⁻

Dear Governor Strickland:

I am retired and living in your old congressional district just north of Lisbon. I remember when you came to this area a few years ago after the bad flooding that occurred one summer. I was very impressed by your thoughtfulness to the people here. I really think you care about this area. This is why I'm writing you this letter.

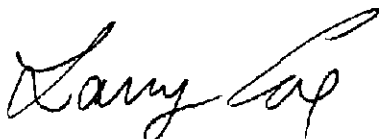
I retired in 2002, sold our home in Reynoldsburg, Ohio and we moved to our new home in Columbiana County. Then we started to run into more problems than I could mention in this letter with the reliability of the electrical service. One example is one sunny day in July a few years ago we had 7 short power outages in a 12 hour period. Our electrician recommended we put surge suppressors on everything we can, so we can avoid any damages. Because of these problems we will not leave our home for many hours at a time during the winter months for fear of damage to our house because of an electrical outage. I even purchased a portable generator to run the furnace during these outages and have used it numerous times including this month.

We were out of electricity for 183 hours this past week. After talking to area residents I think my fears might be true. I am very concerned about the maintenance and quality of the electrical components and how they are installed in our area. I was hearing that the repair crews from other companies here to assist ~~Ohio Edison~~ this past week found many code violations and would not re-energize our circuit until all the code violations were corrected.

I am asking someone to investigate if there were actual code violations. If this is the case what can be done to make sure Ohio Edison does not follow the same path in the future? I am also asking if someone can make sure Ohio Edison performs routine maintenance to our electrical circuits before someone gets hurt or even worse killed. If Ohio Edison was lax in performing routine maintenance could this have contributed to the large number of outages from this wind storm? The local TV station said we received 50 mph winds with some 60 mph gusts.

Ohio Edison is asking for rate increases with a hearing scheduled in our area on October 14. I have been to one prior Ohio PUCO hearing only to see no one from the actual Ohio PUCO board present at the hearing. Everyone that spoke could not understand why no Ohio PUCO board members were there. There was a perception by the people in attendance that no one from the Ohio PUCO board cared about what they had to say. We already pay the highest electric rates in the state of Ohio and I heard at the Ohio PUCO hearing that Ohio Edison has recently had the biggest profits in their history. If that is true why can't they use their profits to pay for routine maintenance instead of using it to increase their dividends and or stock price? This sounds a lot like the current problems with the financial markets and banks in the U.S. No one is monitoring the utilities and things are not working correctly for the citizens of Ohio.

Sincerely,



Larry Cox

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