

Hunter, Donielle

From: ContactThePUCO@puc.state.oh.us
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2008 5:18 PM
To: Docketing
Subject: Docketing
Attachments: SAPP102008YX 3730634.pdf

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Investigation and Audit Division

Memorandum

Date: 10/20/2008

Re: Shirley Apple
3900 Crestwood Dr NW
Canton, OH 44708

Docketing Case No.:
08-0918-EL-SSO

Notes:

Please docket the attached in the case number above.

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10/21/2008

Shirley L. Apple

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OCT 25 2008

3900 Crestwood Dr., NW
Canton, Ohio 44706
330-477-8366

October 16, 2008

RECEIVED
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

P.U.C.O.
180 E. Broad
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: Proposed AEP rate change

I am writing in response to the AEP request for a rate increase as reported in the Canton Repository October 14th. The article said "a consumer advocate says limits in the proposal – 15 per cent a year for three years – means rates could be raised for an unknown number of years". As a senior citizen on a fixed income I cannot afford to pay 45% more for my electric power – almost double the current rate! The problem is the consumer is stuck with AEP – we have no alternative for power but to take what they throw at us!

I have complained for years because when the wind blows my power is out but the houses across the street never lose power – they are on the Whipple Road substation that services the businesses along Whipple Road. I want my substation to be upgraded to the level of that one. When "Ike" hit Stark County and much of the county was out of power for 8 days – I was out 3 days – the houses and businesses that get power from the Whipple Road substation were not out of power one minute. You can't tell me the wind blows harder on my side of the street!

AEP argues that it is not the substation but trees falling on the power lines. Why aren't they clearing the trees off their right-of-way regularly and systematically rather than waiting for a major storm to bring the trees down. Then they wouldn't need to pay for hours and hours of overtime due to their negligence when a storm hits. They could use some of that money to cover the rising costs of commodities!

An example of their negligence in clearing their right-of-ways follows. The year before Katrina a crew cleared trees from the right-of-way on the property adjoining mine. I had 6 trees that went up into the highest wires and I suggested to them that they take them out while they were in the area. No they couldn't do it because this was a special request but the crew was scheduled to do my right-of-way in a few months. Katrina hit and the crews went to Louisiana – which they should have done – but they never came back to do my trees. When the Ohio Consumer Council's telephone number was in the Canton Repository I called and complained. Low and behold a customer rep was at my door before noon the next day to take a look, several days later the forester came and said, "Yes" they should come down". He said it would be about three weeks. Not

only that, he is going to try to get property owner permission to clear trees on the both properties adjoining mine. Where have they been all these years that they were not checking and maintaining tree maintenance on their right-of-ways?

Until AEP shows that they are handling and using the current monies responsibly – money that the consumer is already supplying for their service- I cannot favor the rate change that they are proposing! **Since consumers are “stuck” with their electric company, we need the P.U.C.O. to see that we are not gouged by AEP!**

The Canton Repository reported that the UTILITIES were trying to skirt the Ohio energy law which would require utilities to produce part of their power using wind, solar or other renewable resources. **The P.U.C.O. should accept the responsibility for the monitoring and verification needed to hold utility companies accountable for adhering to this Ohio law!**

Another Canton Repository article reported that AEP was considering billing customers for the cost of restoring power following the September 14th windstorm. The same article stated that AEP reported \$1.1 billion in profit on revenue of \$13.4 billion last year. In the first six months of this year, AEP has \$854 million in profit on \$7 billion in revenue. **AEP's Ohio utilities accounted for about \$1.2 billion of that revenue. Ohioans do not need to look to Wall Street and Washington for greed, we have it right here in our utility companies!**

As the young man says in the RBS commercial “enough”!

Sincerely yours

Shirley L. Apple

Mrs. Shirley L. Apple