

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the matter of the :  
Application of Columbus :  
Southern Power Company :  
for the Approval of its :  
Electric Security Plan; :  
and an Amendment to its : Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO  
Corporate Separation Plan; :  
and the Sale or Transfer of:  
Certain Generation Assets :

- - -

In the Matter of the :  
Application of Ohio Power :  
Company for the Approval : Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO  
of its Electric Security :  
Plan; and an Amendment to :  
its Corporate Separation :  
Plan

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Greta See, Hearing Examiner, at the  
Washington State Community College, 710 Colgate  
Drive, Marietta, Ohio, called at 6:30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

- - -

21

22           ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.

185 South Fifth Street, Suite 101

23           Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201

(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

24           Fax - (614) 224-5724

25           - - -

1 APPEARANCES:

2 American Electric Power  
By Mr. Marvin I. Resnik  
3 1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373

4  
On behalf of AEP.

5  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
6 By Mr. Charles L. Richards  
10 West Broad Street  
7 Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

8  
On behalf of the Residential Consumers of  
9 the State of Ohio.

10 - - -

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1                   Tuesday Evening Session,

2                   October 14, 2008.

3                   - - -

4           HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Good evening.

5           The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

6 has assigned for public hearing at this time and

7 place case numbers 08-917-EL-SSO being captioned: In

8 the Matter of the Application of the Columbus

9 Southern Power Company for Approval of the Electric

10 Security Plan and an Amendment to its Corporate

11 Separation Plan and the Sale or Transfer of Certain

12 Generation Assets.

13           In addition, case numbers 08-918-EL-SSO

14 being captioned: In the Matter of the Application of

15 the Ohio Power Company for Approval of its Electric

16 Security Plan and an Amendment to its Corporate

17 Separation Plan.

18           As Ms. Zeigler stated, my name is Greta

19 See. I'm an Attorney Examiner with the Commission's

20 legal department, and I am one of the AE's assigned  
21 to this case. I will be conducting the hearing  
22 tonight.

23 When you came in, there is also  
24 commission personnel at the front table. You signed  
25 in with Mr. Campbell, just outside the door. You

1 also were just given a brief summary of the case by  
2 Ms. Zeigler.

3 I'd like to ask that if you have  
4 questions about utility matters that your address  
5 those with AEP personnel or Commission staff. I  
6 believe AEP has some individuals here that are  
7 willing to answer your questions, and counsel for AEP  
8 will introduce those individuals here tonight.

9 I'd like to note that there's a court  
10 reporter sitting here just to my right. She will be  
11 composing the transcript for tonight's hearing. All  
12 the comments made will be recorded for the  
13 Commissioners' consideration, and it becomes a part  
14 of the record in this case.

15 I'd like to remind you that, in addition  
16 to tonight's hearing, AEP is scheduled for four  
17 additional local public hearings throughout the State  
18 of Ohio; one in Canton, Lima, Columbus and  
19 Clintonville.

20           But the local public hearings are just  
21 one aspect of the process in this case. There will  
22 also be evidentiary hearings held in Columbus where  
23 the interveners, the Company, and the staff of the  
24 Commission can have witnesses, offer testimony on  
25 their respective positions in this case.



1           There are a number of interveners in this  
2 case, and those are individuals that Counsel for  
3 those various interested parties including  
4 commercial, industrial customers, and a number of  
5 consumer advocate groups in addition to the company.

6           At this time, I'd like to take  
7 appearances of the parties that are here tonight, and  
8 on behalf of the company.

9           MR. RESNIK: Thank you, Your Honor. My  
10 name is Marvin Resnik. I'm appearing on behalf of  
11 the Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power  
12 Company. My address is 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus,  
13 Ohio 43215.

14          And if I could just take a moment to  
15 introduce these other folks that are here from the  
16 company.

17          HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Yes.

18          MR. RESNIK: They can try to answer  
19 questions that you might have. Mr. Dias,

20 Mr. Stemple. In the back row, Mr. Prater. Thank

21 you.

22 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: On behalf of

23 Ohio's Consumer's Counsel.

24 MR. ETTER: Thank you, Your Honor. On

25 behalf of residential utility consumers, I'm with the

1 office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Janine L.  
2 Migden-Ostrander, Consumers' Counsel. I'm Terry  
3 Etter. I'm Assistant Consumers' Counsel. Our  
4 address is 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800,  
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215.

6 Also this evening from the Consumers'  
7 Counsel are Marty Berkowitz and Benjamin Mechado and  
8 they will be in the back answering your questions as  
9 well.

10 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Is counsel for any  
11 other intervener present here tonight?

12 As I mentioned, this is the first step in  
13 a long process, and I believe I mentioned that there  
14 is an evidentiary hearing. I don't think I indicated  
15 to you the date that that is scheduled to begin. It  
16 is scheduled to begin on November 17 at the  
17 Commissions' offices in Columbus, Ohio.

18 When you first arrived, you were offered  
19 a number of brochures describing the case for you by

20 Commission personnel, and you were also asked if you

21 wanted to offer testimony to sign in.

22 I will be going down that list to call

23 witnesses forward. When I ask you to come forward,

24 I'm going to ask you to state and spell your name for

25 the record, and I'm also going to ask you to raise

1 your right hand. I need you to give an oath that

2 what you're about to say is the truth.

3 If you determine when your name is called

4 that you do not want to testify, you can just tell

5 me. Let me know by saying you pass. At that point,

6 I'll move on to the next witness.

7 I'd ask that you realize that everybody

8 here wishes to offer testimony and ask that you keep

9 your statements brief and concise. Okay. Give

10 everybody an opportunity.

11 If you did not sign up to offer testimony

12 and find that later in the process you do, either go

13 out to the table and sign up, or I will open it up

14 for an opportunity to everyone that may have changed

15 their mind during the course of the evening after

16 I've gone through the list.

17 Are there any questions about the process

18 tonight?

19 Then let's call the first witness.

20           Let me apologize now that I may butcher a  
21 couple of names. Please correct me, and let's move  
22 on.

23           Sharon Wolboldt. Please step forward.

24           Witness sworn.

25           Please state and spell your name for the

1 record, and if any of you have your statement typed,  
2 and if you can provide a copy of that statement to  
3 the court reporter, it would be helpful. Okay.  
4 Please proceed.

5 - - -

6 SHARON WOLBOLDT

7 presented herself as a public witness, and being  
8 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 My name is Sharon Wolboldt,  
11 W-o-l-b-o-l-d-t. I live at 223 East Spring Street  
12 here in Marietta, and I am employed by a local social  
13 service agency who works with the poor and elderly.  
14 And also I'm on the board of directors of a local  
15 organization that provides financial assistance to  
16 people who are in need to pay for utilities and such,  
17 and I just wanted to say that this community has had  
18 a really difficult time recovering from the  
19 30 percent increase that was suffered from when

20 Allegheny transferred to AEP, and in our organization  
21 we have seen the number of electric shutoffs increase  
22 substantially since that change over. What's worse,  
23 the organizations who have funds to help our local  
24 poor and elderly are somewhat strapped and many are  
25 out of money, and will not have any funding to help



1 people keep their power on until after the first of  
2 the year.

3 As a result, the minimum 15 percent  
4 proposed increase for the next three years will have  
5 a severe impact on our local poor and elderly.

6 And that's what I wanted to get across  
7 here that our community did not see a bounce back  
8 from the last recession. We're still in the last  
9 recession. We haven't even gotten to this one yet,  
10 and so our community is very sensitive to these  
11 changes. And I ask that the Commission not only hear  
12 what our community has to say, but I ask that you  
13 have a heart and listen. Thank you.

14 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Miss Wolboldt, did  
15 you happen to say what organization you work for?

16 MS. WOLBOLDT: I'm not permitted to.

17 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Thank you.

18 Kurt Best.

19 Witness sworn.

20           Please state and spell your name for the

21   record.

22           - - -

23

24

25

1

2

CURT BEST

3 presented himself as a public witness, and being

4 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

5

DIRECT TESTIMONY

6

My name is Curt Best, C-u-r-t, B-e-s-t.

7 I live at 266 Northwest Malta, and I am a township

8 trustee. I am a semi-retired farmer and Malta

9 Township trustee. What I want to talk to you about

10 tonight is the brush on our power lines out in the

11 country.

12 I have no objections to anybody getting

13 raises as long as they do their work. But somebody

14 along the line is not doing their job.

15 Back in July we was without electric for

16 over 32 hours. We run the tractor and alternators

17 ourselves and all of the neighbors up and down the

18 five mile road so we could keep our freezers and air

19 conditioners and stuff working to cool down.

20           And then again it was out in September  
21   for about nine hours, and it was brush again. And  
22   where the brush was this time, my neighbor had called  
23   the power company back in 2004 and 2006 about the  
24   brush because it sets some trees and brush on fire.  
25   And to this day, while they did cut it back that

1 night about 10:00, the electric was restored, but I  
2 did get ahold of the case management for AEP. That  
3 was October 8th, and the next day I had them there  
4 from the tree cutting outfit that cuts trees and we  
5 sat and discussed the issue for a half hour or so.

6 Then I called our local man today in  
7 Morgan County because, being a trustee, I had the  
8 local number in case there's trees down across the  
9 road and power lines.

10 And he told me that they had no control  
11 over that. That was somebody higher up. I can't  
12 find out who it is higher up, but somebody is not  
13 doing their job.

14 That's my statement and comments.

15 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Mr. Resnik,  
16 can somebody speak to Mr. Best after the hearing.

17 MR. RESNIK: Sure.

18 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Bill  
19 Hutchinson.

20           Witness sworn.

21           Please state and spell your name for the

22 record.

23                   - - -

24

25

1

2 BILL HUTCHINSON

3 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
4 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 DIRECT TESTIMONY

6 Bill Hutchinson, B-i-l-l,  
7 H-u-t-c-h-i-n-s-o-n, 815 Second Street, Marietta  
8 Ohio. I'm a business manager of the  
9 Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Counsel. My  
10 building trades along with the Tri-State building  
11 trades represent over 30,000 members. We support the  
12 proposed AEP rate increases. Our members work many  
13 hours in the AEP system. AEP pays millions of  
14 dollars in wages and benefits that in turn is spent  
15 in communities up and down the Ohio valley.

16 These increases would allow AEP to  
17 increase reliability and to provide a better  
18 distribution infrastructure.

19 AEP rates have always been some of the

20 lowest rates in the country and will remain that way

21 even with the proposed increases. Thank you.

22 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

23 Mr. Don Holdren.

24 Witness sworn.

25 Please state and spell your last name for



1 the record.

2 - - -

3 DON HOLDREN

4 presented himself as a public witness, and being

5 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT TESTIMONY

7 My name is Don Holdren, H-o-l-d-r-e-n. I

8 am from New Matamoras, Ohio, 230 Holdren Lane, New

9 Matamoras 45767.

10 I am a retired steel worker, and the area

11 that I live in is a depressed area. We have mostly

12 retired people on fixed incomes and people on

13 welfare. And these increases, I noticed they said

14 this -- these proposed increases would be the

15 minimum. They could charge more than that. Is that

16 not right?

17 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Let me correct.

18 The presentations you get that were given earlier by

19 Ms. Zeigler makes a reference to 15 percent and that

20 is what the company, AEP, has applied for.

21 MR. HOLDREN: Uh-huh.

22 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: That's the max.

23 MR. HOLDREN: Oh, that's the maximum.

24 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Per year.

25 MR. HOLDREN: Per year. Okay. I noticed

1 Ms. Zeigler said we would get more information on WWW  
2 whatever. The problem is, in my area, there is very  
3 few elderly people that have computers, and there's  
4 very few that even know what to do with a computer.  
5 So a lot of the information that you have to offer  
6 them, they won't get. The only way to get to them  
7 would be by mail.

8 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Okay.

9 MR. HOLDREN: That would help a lot on  
10 that.

11 The company that I worked for went  
12 bankrupt two years after I retired.

13 Well, I pay 50 percent on my medical  
14 expenses. With the way that the stock market is now,  
15 my retirement and my medical are tied right into  
16 that, and the further it goes down, the faster they  
17 deplete our base for our retirement and medical, and,  
18 before long, it will run out. I have heard that  
19 there's 3200 of us drawing on it, and that can't last

20 very long

21 Right now, I pay about approximately \$400

22 a month for medication. I pay 500 and some a month

23 for medical insurance for my wife and I. Now, the

24 company pays the other half. But if they run out of

25 money, if that runs out of money, then I have to pay

1 it all myself.

2 I worked 40 years at that plant. I get  
3 \$1,183 a month. So you take 400 and 500 away from  
4 that, you're left with about 300 a month to live on  
5 to pay your other experiences, and a lot of people in  
6 my area can't do that.

7 That's all I have to say.

8 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Okay.

9 Mr. Holdren, you made a comment about getting  
10 information out to the elderly who might not have  
11 access to a computer.

12 MR. HOLDREN: Yes, ma'am.

13 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: If they have a  
14 phone and they call into the Commission's 800 number,  
15 and I'll be sure you get that after the hearings,  
16 they will mail information that they are asking for.

17 MR. HOLDREN: Okay. Thank you.

18 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: If it's printed  
19 out, they can mail those things to you. Be sure to

20 see myself or one of the other Commission personnel

21 afterwards. Okay.

22 Mr. James Fernihough. Please step

23 forward.

24 Witness sworn.

25 Please state and spell your last name for

1 the record.

2 - - -

3 JAMES FERNIHOUGH

4 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
5 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT TESTIMONY

7 James Fernihough, F-e-r-n-i-h-o-u-g-h,  
8 1665 Browns Road, Marietta Ohio 45750.

9 When I received these tonight, I noticed  
10 a few questions that you had on here, and it said  
11 what impact of higher rates on your ability to pay  
12 your bills, I'm going to get further and further  
13 behind, because what's happening is, you're socking  
14 us with 45 percent over a three-year period, and  
15 persons on a limited income, if they get 3 percent  
16 per year, they are lucky. So we are always playing  
17 catch-up. We get 9 percent, you get the 45.

18 On the other, the rates I've had no  
19 problem with the rates if they are on a reasonable

20 cost, but it seems like it's at the customer's  
21 expense, not the company's.  
22       If I was a businessman, I wouldn't be  
23 asking the public who I serve to subsidize my  
24 business. I would take a chance, and I'd either make  
25 a profit or a loss. It just -- it's like gasoline.



1 Now, when gasoline topped at \$4.00 a gallon, I quit  
2 buying it, unless I absolutely needed it.

3       You can charge me whatever you want for  
4 electric, and I can't stop using electric. I need  
5 it. So you've got us in a position where whatever  
6 you want to do, you can do. But the ones on a  
7 limited income, it makes it pretty difficult. The  
8 other thing that I think is if I as a consumer are  
9 paying for all the costs associated with the  
10 generation of electricity, do I then become a  
11 shareholder in the company and receive some of the  
12 benefits as that shareholder?

13       Those are the comments that I have, and I  
14 just think that there should be some way different  
15 that they recover their costs, not on the backs of  
16 the consumer. Thank you.

17       HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

18 Mr. Richard Baker.

19       Witness sworn.

20           Please state and spell your last name for

21   the record and your address please.

22           - - -

23

24

25

1                   RICHARD BAKER

2   presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           Richard Baker, B-a-k-e-r, 4595 Muskingum  
6   River Road, Lowell, Ohio 45744.

7           I too am in agreement with some of the  
8   other folks here that you got to put -- everything's  
9   got to stop somewhere. You know, people on fixed  
10   incomes can't stand the \$4 gas prices, the higher  
11   utility bills that we're paying. I mean, it's not  
12   only just electric, it's gas. It's everything else.  
13   At some point in time, this has got to stop  
14   somewhere. It just can't continue. And you're about  
15   the only people we got that we can talk to to help  
16   eliminate this situation. So I think that they ought  
17   to take it into consideration everybody else.

18           I mean, I agree with the last gentleman.  
19   If you're in business for yourself, you kind of work

20 it out for where you make money, and the Ohio Power

21 that we have here in the area up to Beverly, there's

22 things I think they could do to improve their

23 situation. I mean, down home where I live about two

24 days a month our electricity goes off.

25 When it was Monongahela Power or

1 Allegheny Power, we didn't have that problem. So I  
2 think there's things that they can do to eliminate  
3 this higher cost instead of passing it on to us.  
4 Thank you.

5 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

6 David Brightbill.

7 Witness sworn.

8 Please state your name for the record,  
9 spell your name, and give us your address.

10 - - -

11 DAVID E. BRIGHTBILL

12 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
13 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 DIRECT TESTIMONY

15 My name is David E. Brightbill,  
16 B-r-i-g-h-t-b-i-l-l, 347 Main Street, Lower Salem,  
17 Ohio 45745.

18 My name is David Brightbill. I'm the  
19 executive Director of Washington-Morgan Counties

20 Community Action. We are a private non-profit  
21 corporation serving low income families in both  
22 Washington and Morgan Counties.  
23 We provide services to all age groups  
24 from children, (Head Start), to senior citizens. We  
25 provide emergency heating assistance through the

1 emergency HEAP program.

2 Over the years, our clients have changed.

3 Now most of the families and individuals we serve are

4 working. Many part time, most at wages well below

5 the actual level of self-sufficiency. As in much of

6 Ohio, high paying jobs have been lost, and jobs

7 paying much lower wages have replaced them.

8 AEP's proposed rate increase of

9 45 percent over the next three years will have a very

10 negative impact on the families we serve.

11 These proposed increases are on top of

12 increases which have raised the cost of electric far

13 above what we paid just a few years ago.

14 Electric is a commodity that families

15 need all year long. They need it for heat in the

16 winter, to preserve food, and to have light all year

17 long. The proposed increases along with higher

18 gasoline costs, increases in natural gas, propane,

19 fuel oil, food and other necessities force our

20 families into deciding which bills to pay, which  
21 bills they are unable to pay at the end of each  
22 month.

23 Non-profits, governmental subdivisions,  
24 schools and food pantries, all face these rising  
25 costs.



1           The impact is significant. Money that  
2   would have been used to pay for services for our  
3   families is instead used to pay higher electric  
4   bills. This at a time when demand for our services  
5   continues to increase, while resources often remain  
6   the same or decrease.

7           Now is not the time to grant these large  
8   increases. The burden of increased costs must be  
9   shared by the company as well as consumers. We have  
10   had to tighten our belts and do more with less.

11          AEP is a public utility for a reason.  
12   The commodity it provides is an absolute necessity.  
13   Any increase must take into account, not only the  
14   company's needs, but the needs of the communities and  
15   citizens they serve.

16          Thank you for providing this opportunity  
17   to testify.

18          HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Mike  
19   Jacoby.

20           Witness sworn.

21           Please state and spell your last name for

22 the record, and give us your address.

23                   - - -

24

25

1                   MIKE JACOBY

2   presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           Mike Jacoby, J-a-c-o-b-y, business  
6   address is 200 Putnam Street, Marietta. Home  
7   address, 202 Lawton Road Marietta.

8           I'm not here to speak about what  
9   appropriate rates would be. I'm going to leave that  
10   to the experts to determine what's justifiable and  
11   reasonable.

12           I do want to speak a little bit about my  
13   experiences with AEP, Columbus Southern Power.

14           I am an economic development professional  
15   working for Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, and I  
16   have found AEP to be a great resource for the things  
17   that I try to do. Their assistance has been critical  
18   with the Solsil project.

19           They put a team of engineers around the

20 table, figured out how to meet the customer's needs  
21 in a very short time frame, beyond what they normally  
22 would have to do. They have also been in front of  
23 the PUCO to work out power supply agreements.  
24 I know AEP is talking with other energy  
25 intensive companies in this area that these companies

1 located here because we have historically have had  
2 very low power costs, and, of course, we still have  
3 those industries here. Again, I found AEP to be a  
4 good partner in dealing with those companies and  
5 those situations.

6 AEP has also been a supporter of regional  
7 marketing efforts, regional planning efforts and  
8 local economic development planning efforts, and they  
9 are also working with our organization to put  
10 underground electric into a business park that we're  
11 building. I have nothing more.

12 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

13 Lynn Gellermann.

14 Witness sworn.

15 Please state and spell your last name for  
16 the record and give us your address.

17 - - -

18 LYNN GELLERMANN

19 presented himself as a public witness, and being

20 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT TESTIMONY

22 Lynn Gellermann, G-e-l-l-e-r-m-a-n-n,

23 speaking on behalf of my company, Adena Ventures

24 20 East Circle Drive, Athens, Ohio 45701.

25 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your

1 statement.

2 LYNN GELLERMANN: Good evening, my name  
3 is Lynn Gellermann, President of Adena Ventures, and  
4 we're a venture capital company based in Athens,  
5 Ohio, and we are six years old, and we have been  
6 focused for those six years on investing in central  
7 Appalachia, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky, and  
8 specifically low-income communities, companies  
9 located in low income communities.

10 Over the last six years, we have invested  
11 roughly \$20 million in ten companies, 90 percent of  
12 which have been located in low-income communities.

13 Over the past six years, we have provided  
14 operational assistance services to 82 companies and  
15 have provided about \$5 million of services to those  
16 firms.

17 Over 80 percent of those firms are also  
18 in low-income communities. So we have a track record  
19 of investing in businesses located in low-income

20 communities, and I wanted to come here tonight to let  
21 everybody know that over the last six years, AEP has  
22 provided significant investment capital for my firm.  
23 They have provided grant funding for our operational  
24 assistance program, and they have met with my firm  
25 regularly over the course of this period to advise



1 and support our efforts.

2 One example of what we have done is up in  
3 Nelsonville, Ohio, just up the road. We invested in  
4 a company call ED MAP. It's a business that provides  
5 learning materials, textbooks and other materials to  
6 some of the leading university, community colleges  
7 and K through 12 schools all over the country.

8 When we first invested in ED MAP, again,  
9 this is in Nelsonville Ohio, they were producing  
10 about 1.5 million of revenue. They employed 13  
11 people.

12 Today ED MAP is on schedule to hit about  
13 50 million in revenue, and will employ nearly a  
14 hundred people in Nelsonville, Ohio, a low income  
15 community.

16 Now, that story and that success could  
17 not have happened if AEP had not been one of our  
18 original investors and stepped up and provided us the  
19 investment capital to invest in ED MAP.

20           Without investors like AEP, those jobs

21   and that success story just would not have happened.

22           A partner of Adena Ventures is the Ohio

23   University Voinovich School for leadership and public

24   affairs, and while not directly involved in these

25   other areas, I wanted to mention them, particularly

1 AEP's longstanding relationship with that school in  
2 the area of watershed restoration in this region, and  
3 we have also done some work with the Wilds in  
4 Zanesville. And we have seen AEP's leadership and  
5 that organization's effort to practice extensive  
6 conservation in protecting endangered wildlife.

7 In some areas, we have found through  
8 experience that AEP is a strong partner in economic  
9 development and environmental work being carried out  
10 of here in southeastern Ohio, and I'd like to  
11 conclude by saying it is my understanding that an  
12 important piece of AEP's energy security plan is  
13 \$75 million economic development fund, and I urge  
14 PUCO to approve AEP's request so they can continue  
15 and expand upon the important work they do in  
16 southeastern Ohio.

17 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Ernest  
18 Biehl.

19 Witness sworn.

20 Please state and spell your last name for

21 the record.

22 - - -

23

24

25

1                   ERNEST BIEHL

2   presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           Ernest Biehl, B-i-e-h-l, 6680 State Route  
6   530, Lowell, Ohio 45744.

7           I am a township trustee of Salem  
8   Township. As I drive the township roads, we have --  
9   our community consists of a lot of elderly, people on  
10   fixed incomes, low income, and I've talked to several  
11   of them. They are really concerned about a price  
12   increase of any kind, utility of any kind. I think  
13   it would be devastating.

14          A lot of these people are proud people.  
15   They do not live on any assistance. They provide  
16   their own income. And I feel that if they are  
17   approached with a higher increase in utilities,  
18   electric or what it might be, that they will end up  
19   on public assistance. They have to. That's the only

20 way they will be able to survive.

21 Another point I want to make, I read the

22 Marietta Times a few months back where AEP was asking

23 for a rate increase and the necessity for the rate

24 increase. A few pages over, I read an article where

25 AEP announced a substantial profit percentage. I'm

1 not sure, but I think you ought to remember it. It  
2 had a 50 some percent increase in profit.  
3 I'd like to have -- that might need to be  
4 something that Public Utilities needs to check into.  
5 I'm kind of concerned if they are making that kind of  
6 profit, where this money might be going if we're  
7 getting CEOs with golden umbrellas. Maybe we need  
8 to -- this country can't afford to have CEOs with  
9 golden umbrellas anymore. We've already seen some of  
10 that coming to light now.

11 One of the things in this area,  
12 Washington County, we have very few high income jobs  
13 that are family supporting incomes.

14 I work in a job other than a trustee. I  
15 work at a company called RJF International, Marietta,  
16 Ohio. It used to be a former B.F. Goodrich. It has  
17 been in business for 60 some years. We make vinyl  
18 wall coverings and vinyl floor matting.

19 Our company manager, Randy Marble, has

20 made a statement asking his employees -- we have 300  
21 employees, and he's asking the employees to do what  
22 they can to lobby with the state representatives at  
23 PUCO. If this rate increase would be something to  
24 come to pass, the 15 percent increase yearly, that it  
25 would be a possibility that we would lose our jobs.



1 They could not sustain that kind of an increase in  
2 utilities.

3 One of the things I was thinking in my  
4 own personal well being that looking into solar  
5 energy that's coming into the future.

6 I called AEP customer service and asked  
7 how I can get net metering, and they said it was not  
8 available in this area. And another thing that's not  
9 available, three phase electric. And so most of our  
10 rural area, you couldn't get a company come out here  
11 that needs -- to work with three-phase motors. They  
12 cannot go out in the rural area and set up  
13 businesses. They'd have to go someplace in the big  
14 cities, which in big cities that's offered anywhere  
15 you go.

16 In closing, I guess when AEP -- when  
17 Monongahela was turned over to AEP, I thought we were  
18 saved from the fox, but now it looks like we've been  
19 turned over to the wolves. Thank you.

20 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Glen

21 Miller.

22 Witness sworn.

23 Please state your fame for the record and

24 your address.

25 - - -

1                   GLEN MILLER

2   presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           My name is Glen Miller, G-l-e-n,  
6   M-i-l-l-e-r, 145 Fairway drive, Beverly, Ohio, 45715.

7           I'm the president of our Muskingum Valley  
8   Area Chamber of Commerce. We have members all the  
9   way from McConnelsville to Beverly to Lowell to  
10   Marietta.

11          I'm here tonight to speak and tell you  
12   that AEP has been a very good neighbor in our area.  
13   They have supported our Chamber one hundred percent,  
14   and we have monthly luncheon meetings, and they will  
15   send four or five or six employees from their  
16   facility down to our luncheon meetings, and if  
17   there's any questions, they are there to answer the  
18   questions with our Chamber members. And we have two  
19   fund raisers every year, a golf outing, and an annual

20 dinner, and they are very supportive of both of  
21 those, and so I'm just here to say they have been a  
22 very good neighbor, and we appreciate what they have  
23 done for us. We have over a hundred members in our  
24 chamber, rural chamber, but I expect if you took a  
25 vote of our members, they would probably want me to

1 say tonight that they would want a very conservative

2 rate increase. Very conservative.

3 So that's all I have to say. Glad to be

4 here.

5 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Hunt

6 Brawley.

7 Witness sworn.

8 Please state and spell your name for the

9 record.

10 - - -

11 HUNT BRAWLEY

12 presented himself as a public witness, and being

13 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 DIRECT TESTIMONY

15 Hunt Brawley, H-u-n-t, B-r-a-w-l-e-y.

16 I'm the development director of the Colony Theater,

17 501C3 nonprofit organization. I'm in charge of

18 restoring the Colony Theater in downtown Marietta.

19 And basically, I would like to say,

20 again, you know, we certainly share the concern of  
21 higher power costs. We are a restoration project.  
22 Not operating now, but certainly foresee us using a  
23 lot of power in the future, and certainly concerned  
24 about the price increases, but, really, that's not  
25 what I'm here to speak about. I'm really here just

1 to speak about, in my opinion, I believe AEP has been  
2 a good corporate citizen in Marietta. They have come  
3 in real early with support for the Colony Theater  
4 restoration effort at a time when I think a lot of  
5 other companies really weren't looking at supporting  
6 the theater since it was such a startup and a large  
7 and ambitious endeavor in downtown Marietta.

8 I think AEP really had the foresight to  
9 look at something like the Colony Theater that really  
10 had the ability to bring a number of jobs and really  
11 serve as an economic catalyst in downtown Marietta.  
12 I think they have been very good to work with and had  
13 a lot of foresight.

14 I think at a time when more and more of  
15 our companies are either nationally or  
16 internationally owned, I think the support for a lot  
17 of local organizations is drying up, and I think AEP  
18 has demonstrated that they are interested in  
19 supporting local organizations, nonprofits and have

20 really contributed to our growth and in the  
21 development at this stage of the Colony Theater.

22 So I would certainly appreciate AEP's  
23 support, and encourage other companies to support  
24 local causes like AEP. Thank you.

25 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. John



1 Poling.

2 Witness sworn.

3 Please state and spell your name for the  
4 record.

5 - - -

6 JOHN POLING

7 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
8 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 My name is John Poling, 123 Brentwood  
11 Street, Marietta, Ohio. I spell my last name,  
12 P-o-l-i-n-g.

13 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your  
14 statement, sir.

15 JOHN POLING: I am retired from Allegheny  
16 Energy. Worked for them 41 years and eight months,  
17 and I was manager here in Marietta for the last 28  
18 years of that time. And the last -- this was after I  
19 retired that Allegheny was not allowed by the Public

20 Utility Commission to increase their rates because  
21 they said they had no competition. Neither does Ohio  
22 Power or Columbus and Southern have any competition.  
23 So they can just about -- with  
24 deregulation, they can just about reach the moon with  
25 the price increases that they want. I don't think

1 the rate increases are justified. And I don't  
2 understand why we are a part of the Athens Columbus  
3 and Southern part when they have got a power plant  
4 here in Beverly, Ohio, right here in our county.

5 You would think that they would be  
6 serving us from there at a more economical rates.

7 I don't know if Ohio Power is still  
8 getting their power here from Allegheny Energy, but  
9 for a while they were, and they may still be. I  
10 don't know.

11 But I think the amount of increase that  
12 they are asking is extremely exorbitant, and I'm very  
13 much opposed to it. Thank you.

14 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

15 Ed Forshey.

16 Witness sworn.

17 Please state and spell your last name for  
18 the record, and give us your address.

19 ED FORSHEY: Ed Forshey, 14098 Chapel

20 Drive, Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

21 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your

22 statement.

23 - - -

24

25

1 ED FORSHEY

2 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 First of all, give a little disclaimer,  
6 I'm going to talk about my company that I work with,  
7 but I wasn't asked to be here to speak for the  
8 company. I'm here tonight to speak for the 140  
9 employees that we have. I work for Metallurg  
10 Vanadium.

11 I'm the operations manager for Metallurg  
12 Vanadium, and we've been a partner with AEP almost 60  
13 years. And as other testimony that I've heard  
14 tonight, they have been a great partner. We have had  
15 great customer service. Any time that we have had  
16 issues, they have sent whatever manpower, equipment,  
17 was needed to get our operation back up and running  
18 and so forth.

19 So they have been a great partner with

20 us, but what I fear is with these, what I believe to  
21 be extremely high rate increases, our livelihood  
22 could be jeopardized over the next few years.

23 Let me explain a little bit about our  
24 company.

25 We take landfill waste from oil refiners

1 and power plants, and we melt that in electric arc  
2 furnaces. So our power usage is extremely high. We  
3 use about 5.8 million kilowatts annually at a cost of  
4 about \$3 million to our company, but we extract  
5 Vanadium which is a super alloy used in the steel  
6 industry. It's a hardener.

7 From that process also we have Revan(TM)  
8 Slag. We have FeNiMoly(TM), iron, and all these  
9 products are resold to the steel industry used by all  
10 major steel companies.

11 Our goal as a facility is to be zero  
12 waste facility. Everything that we produce comes out  
13 in a salable product. We landfill very little, and  
14 hopefully within a year's time, we will landfill  
15 absolutely nothing.

16 So we provide a service to this country.  
17 We also provide employment in an area that has been  
18 devastated by job losses for sometime. This past  
19 year a company in Cambridge closed, shut their doors.

20 400 jobs lost. We have a company just south of us in  
21 Caldwell has announced they're closing. That will be  
22 another 300 jobs they are losing.  
23 We are in the middle of a three-phase  
24 expansion as a company. We're in phase one with  
25 spending approximately \$40 million. This will not



1 only add construction jobs on a temporary basis, we  
2 will also be adding to our current employment.

3 What I fear for the proposed 15 percent  
4 increase for the next three years, and I recognize  
5 that it doesn't just stop there because if I read  
6 properly there's some delayed costs and so forth that  
7 are going to be delayed to 2012 and beyond. So we  
8 could be looking at significant increases over the  
9 next several years.

10 We have only one competitor in the United  
11 States. Gulf Oil down in Texas, and the biggest  
12 competitive advantage that we've had as a company has  
13 been our economically costed power. That's been our  
14 greatest advantage. Gulf Oil has about 20 percent of  
15 the market share in the U.S. Our facility has  
16 30 percent. The other 50 percent of the market is  
17 imported from Russia, China, Venezuela. Our  
18 objective over the next few years of expansion was to  
19 eat away at that 50 percent to provide more jobs and

20 opportunities in this great country that we live in.

21 Our owners are based in the Netherlands.

22 We have about eight other companies, and they are all

23 foreign companies spread throughout the world. We

24 are the only U.S. company.

25 In the future I cannot foresee why our

1 leadership would want to remain in the State of Ohio,  
2 let alone in the United States, with these type of  
3 increases that we've had.

4       So I guess I plead with the PUCO to be  
5 very diligent in their duties of reviewing these rate  
6 increases. We certainly do not want to jeopardize a  
7 fair increase to all companies. Even our company  
8 expects to have a reasonable profit and to stay in  
9 business. And I don't take that away from our  
10 partner AEP, but I would plead that it would be very  
11 reasonable in what is granted because it cannot only  
12 jeopardize our company in the business we're in, but  
13 many companies throughout this fine country we're in.  
14 Thank you.

15       HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Noel  
16 Wetz. Roger Early.

17       Witness sworn.

18       Please state and spell your name for the  
19 record and provide us your address.

20                    - - -

21

22

23

24

25

1                   ROGER EARLEY

2   presented himself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           Roger Earley, E-a-r-l-e-y, 190 Holdren  
6   Lane, New Matamoras Ohio 45767.

7           HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your  
8   statement, sir.

9           ROGER EARLEY: I'm more or less here to  
10   verify and testify that these other people ahead of  
11   me is true, but, like they are all saying, when AEP  
12   took over, we was on Allegheny Electric. We was  
13   paying \$48 a month. It went to \$60 a month. Now  
14   it's \$73 a month.

15           I'm retired from the same company he's  
16   from, aluminum company from steel workers. And I had  
17   the same problem that he has with our doctor bills,  
18   our --

19           HEARING EXAMINER SEE: I'm sorry. Sir,

20 just so the record is clear, you keep saying he.

21 Tell me the individual you are referring to by name.

22 MR. EARLEY: Don Holdren. With me and my

23 wife, our insurance the way it is has went up, and as

24 he was stating, we don't know how much longer that --

25 we might get a letter this week or next week and say,

1 well, your pension is cut off.

2 But anyways, what he was saying, too,  
3 that like gasoline, well, I mean, it went up, and you  
4 can stop driving a car sometime, but just like the  
5 other people said, this electric is ongoing. We need  
6 it. We have to have it. So we can't say, well, we  
7 changed all the lightbulbs in the house to save  
8 electric, but the electric bill still went up from 60  
9 to 73 dollars.

10 So what do we do? We turn all the lights  
11 out or what. So what I'm saying, that the way the  
12 rates has gone, with set income -- another thing, I'm  
13 on the board of Community Action. And every month we  
14 see people lined up coming in there, they can't pay  
15 their bills. They are going to shut their electric  
16 off.

17 So where do we go? Do we let electric  
18 companies make the big profits, put everybody out of  
19 electric?

20           And another thing, I live where we have  
21   two different electrics. Washington County Electric,  
22   that's out in the rural area, and every time AEP  
23   raises their electric, well, they raise theirs about  
24   a half more. They are paying double what we're  
25   paying here. So look what it's doing to the people



1 that lives out in the country. Thank you.

2 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

3 Ron Wesel.

4 Witness sworn.

5 Please state and spell your name for the

6 record and give us your address.

7 RON WESEL: Ron Wesel, W-e-s-e-l. I live

8 at 113 Knox Street, Marietta.

9 I'm here to represent my company Mondo

10 Polymer Technologies, 27620 State Route 7, Reno,

11 Ohio.

12 We are a plastic recycler. Our utility

13 bills from AEP run about \$23,000 a month, and a

14 15 percent increase, that will be an additional

15 \$42,000 a year we're going to have to try to absorb.

16 Companies in this area in Southeast, Ohio

17 just cannot afford that kind of an increase. I mean,

18 I can't believe that the PUCO cannot see what impact

19 all those things are having on business in Ohio.

20           We're losing business every day in Ohio  
21   and southeast Ohio and to try to push through a  
22   15 percent increase, companies here just cannot  
23   afford it. I mean, do we want to push all our  
24   business to some other country, some other state?  
25   People here just can't afford it. I mean, I have to

1 lay off people. It could put us out of business.

2 We're looking at \$42,000 a year increase

3 in electric. We just cannot afford that in this

4 area. Anything you do to -- I mean, I understand, I

5 could live with a 2 or 3 percent increase, cost of

6 living increase, but 15 percent is totally out of

7 line and totally exorbitant. Thank you.

8 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

9 Linda Masters. I'll assume Bob Masters

10 went with her.

11 Dave Stutzman.

12 Witness sworn.

13 Please state and spell your last name for

14 the record and give us your address.

15 - - -

16 DAVID STUTZMAN

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being

18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 David Stutzman, Stutzman, 265 Warrior  
21 Drive, Vincent, Ohio 45784.  
22 I just want to make a few brief  
23 statements.  
24 I took some time and got on line with my  
25 computer at home. Something some of the elderly

1 can't do. And looked at comparative rates throughout  
2 the world, industrialized nations, and the cost of  
3 the raw materials to produce electricity throughout  
4 the world and industrialized countries are a lot more  
5 with the exception of natural gas alone.

6 I know that the majority of electricity  
7 produced in Ohio is coal. So coal is much cheaper in  
8 the United States for the production of electricity  
9 according to the U.S. Energy Information  
10 Administration and the International Energy Agencies.

11 So I can't see a justified increase of  
12 15 percent for one year, let alone for three years  
13 when a profit -- a reasonable profit can be made now,  
14 and infrastructure maintained and infrastructure  
15 improved with the money that's being made now.

16 I have older parents too. I have older  
17 relatives in the community. I have neighbors who are  
18 older, retired, fixed incomes, just like we've heard  
19 here tonight. I'm only one voice, but there are

20 hundreds and thousands of those people right here in

21 our county that I'd like to take the opportunity to

22 speak for.

23 Now, those people can't be here, and

24 we've heard from businesses who have worked well with

25 AEP. That's fine. But it's those individuals,

1 thousands of them who are going to be paying this  
2 increase that's going to provide the future profit  
3 for AEP.

4 They can't afford it. If they can't  
5 afford it, they are going to be gone. You won't have  
6 any income. So I think that that should be under  
7 consideration for PUCO.

8 I appreciate you taking the time to hear  
9 us. That's really all I have to say.

10 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

11 Andy Thompson. Ray Mahan.

12 Witness sworn.

13 Please state and spell your last name for  
14 the record and give us your address.

15 - - -

16 RAY MAHAN

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being  
18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 I'm Ray Mahan, M-a-h-a-n, 3911 North  
21 Rainy Road, Malta, Ohio. I'm one of the few of many  
22 people that's been described here today as retired  
23 persons on a very limited income. And I think these  
24 raises -- occasional raise of 15 percent we could  
25 sustain, but if you do this every year, it's going to



1 be devastating to people like myself, and the  
2 hundreds of thousands of others -- these other  
3 gentlemen mentioned that are going to be affected by  
4 this.

5 I would ask that you all perhaps put a  
6 hold on these raises, and help support the poor  
7 people of Ohio.

8 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Is that all you  
9 have?

10 RAY MAHAN: Yes. Thank you.

11 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 The Honorable Joy Padgett.

14 Witness sworn.

15 Please state and spell your name for the  
16 record and provide us with your address.

17 JOY PADGETT: Joy Padgett, P-a-d-g-e-t-t,  
18 871 Walnut Street, Coshocton, Ohio 43812.

19 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your

20 statement.

21 - - -

22

23

24

25

1 JOY PADGETT

2 presented herself as a public witness, and being  
3 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 Well, I do serve as the State Senator  
6 for this region. Washington County is one of my  
7 counties. I live in Coshocton, and I am a customer  
8 of AEP.

9 I think I've been around -- I was around  
10 in 1999 in the House when we went through the  
11 electric deregulation Bill, and, of course, was there  
12 when we just passed House Bill -- Senate Bill 221  
13 which is the restructure. So there's been a lot of  
14 discussion about electric, electric rates, what it  
15 does to the economy, what it does to the cost for  
16 people who are on fixed incomes, the low income, and  
17 these are all very, very serious issues.

18 I've spent much my time not just in the  
19 legislature, but also as Director of the Governor's

20 office of Appalachia. That's a 29 county region.

21 Much of it served by AEP.

22 I think the important thing is that if I

23 talked to all these different businesses, the

24 industrial electric users, there are several

25 companies in this area that belong to the industrial

1 electric users organization, and the two things that  
2 they ask for constantly is to make sure there is  
3 sustainable electric coming to their companies, and  
4 also that there are predictable rate increases.

5       Probably that was the biggest message  
6 that I heard is that we cannot live without some kind  
7 of a rate stabilization plan. We need to know that  
8 we can predict where the costs are going.

9       I worked with AEP to save companies. I  
10 can tell you that there are a couples companies, one  
11 is over -- at that time they had about a thousand  
12 employees, not quite that many now, if AEP had not  
13 come to the table, I know that company right here in  
14 southeast Ohio would not be with us.

15       I guess what I'm saying is that they do  
16 step up to the plate. When there are issues going on  
17 of trying to help companies get stabilized, that they  
18 do come to the table and have often worked with  
19 companies in order to even go through and do what

20 they call walk-throughs of how to reduce the use and  
21 the consumption of electricity.  
22 So they are not just there to sell  
23 electricity, but they are also there to help partner  
24 these businesses so that they don't use all the  
25 electricity.

1 I also believe that that's true for  
2 residential, that they have programs within that area  
3 that help residential folks figure out how to reduce  
4 their electric costs.

5 I was right there with Mong Power. I can  
6 tell you, some people thought I moved to Marietta I  
7 was down here so often. But I can assure you that if  
8 Mong Power had done what they wanted to do, those  
9 electric rates wouldn't be up 30 percent, they  
10 probably would have doubled. So although, the rates  
11 went with AEP, they would not have gone up -- they  
12 did not go up nearly as much as they would have had  
13 they stayed on Mong Power.

14 I also know that in talking with AEP that  
15 they are aggressively working with, and I think you  
16 heard Mike Jacoby earlier talk about that they  
17 regularly work with the local economic development  
18 director. They have set aside money within their  
19 plan in order to promote economic development to

20 promote alternative types of energy that they can  
21 bring to the table and put on the grid. And  
22 sometimes we forget about not just the new jobs that  
23 people are crying for, but the jobs that have been  
24 actually retained because of the work that they have  
25 done.



1 I guess I will close by saying that I  
2 don't like rate increases either. I don't like any  
3 of this. I don't like what's happened to the cost of  
4 gasoline. I don't like what's happened to all the  
5 different utilities that have gone up, but it is here  
6 to stay. And I do look at AEP as being a partner in  
7 southeast Ohio to help us grow the economy here so  
8 that we can bring more jobs to this region.

9 I will say to you that people from across  
10 the rest of the State, you know, when you look at  
11 what their rate increases are, they would be glad to  
12 have the rate increases that we have down here, not  
13 that I like them, but we are still with AEP having  
14 some of the lowest rate increases. Thank you.

15 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Carl  
16 Dingus Brook. Kara.

17 Witness sworn.

18 Please state and spell your last name and  
19 give us your address.

20                    - - -

21

22

23

24

25

1 KARA DINGUS BROOK

2 presented herself as a public witness, and being  
3 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 Kara Dingus Brook, B-r-o-o-k, 279 East  
6 Hunter Street, Logan, Ohio 43138.

7 I serve as the president and CEO of a  
8 foundation for Appalachia Ohio. We are a regional  
9 community foundation that works to enrich the quality  
10 of life in the 29 counties of Appalachia Ohio. My  
11 purpose is to share my experience working with AEP  
12 and perceptions of their benefit to our region as a  
13 corporate citizen.

14 Southeast Ohio as a region receives  
15 1 percent of all the corporate giving that takes  
16 place in the State of Ohio. So 99 percent is taking  
17 place outside our region.

18 I have found AEP in my work with the  
19 foundation to be a strong charitable partner to our

20 communities and to our foundation.

21       They have community affairs

22 representatives who are stationed throughout our

23 region, keeping them in touch with needs and

24 opportunities to help. I have found that they really

25 encourage their employees to give and to volunteer.

1           Our foundation personally has benefited  
2   from American Electric Power Board members and  
3   assistants in that way. I have also found that they  
4   really give significant charitable dollars to their  
5   communities. We have heard many references to these  
6   gifts this evening. They have invested over \$525,000  
7   in our foundation. Big things for environmental  
8   stewardship. They have also helped with essay  
9   contests that we have done in the school to work with  
10   students.

11           Their charitable fingerprints are on many  
12   good things here in our community, and I thank you  
13   for the opportunity to bring that perspective to your  
14   discussion.

15           HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Gordon  
16   on Baker Road. Delmar Larkins.           .

17           Witness sworn.

18           Please state and spell your name for the  
19   record.

20                    - - -

21

22

23

24

25

1                   DELMAR LARKINS

2   presented herself as a public witness, and being  
3   first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4                   DIRECT TESTIMONY

5           My name is Delmar Larkins, L-a-r-k-i-n-s.

6           HEARING EXAMINER SEE: And provide us  
7   with your address please.

8           MR. LARKINS: 848 Logan Street,  
9   Middleport, Ohio.

10          I'm here just to represent myself. A  
11   number of things, it's been brought up, so kind of  
12   expanding on things that I want to touch on.

13          I have a residence in Middleport. I also  
14   have a summer residence in Hartford, West Virginia  
15   which is across the river from Pomeroy Syracuse area,  
16   just adjacent to this.

17          My place in Hartford, West Virginia, I  
18   have the current electric bill for this month. In  
19   Hartford, West Virginia it says average energy cost

20 per kilowatt hour is 8 cents. My usage was 316

21 kilowatt hours. My bill is \$27.34.

22 In Middleport, it says the money you

23 save, but a new supplier must offer you a price lower

24 than 6.7 cents per kilowatt hour for the same usage

25 to appear on this bill. My usage was 270 kilowatt



1 hours. 46 kilowatt hours less than Hartford, but my  
2 bill is 32.29. Five dollars and some odd cents  
3 higher than Hartford.

4 My bill in Middleport, Ohio lists the  
5 charges, and it has service delivery identifying  
6 number, then it goes: General service charge 15.48,  
7 transmission service, 2.63, distribution service  
8 8.62. Customer charge 4.75. Transmission charge 81  
9 cents.

10 My one in Hartford says, rate billing,  
11 26.80. Local utility tax .54 for the total.

12 One thing I've been confronted with this  
13 summer, I think maybe probably actually started last  
14 year, but my natural gas company is Columbia Gas of  
15 Ohio. In the -- because Columbia Gas rates were  
16 going up in years past, I converted over to electric  
17 hot water tank, electric cook stove, so that all I  
18 used was my natural gas furnace in the wintertime,  
19 but in the summertime, I get a bill for a service

20 charge from Columbia Gas. I wrote on my bill, I'm

21 being charged for no service rendered.

22 I got a call from a woman from Columbia

23 Gas, left me an answering machine message, notifying

24 me, this was concerned my note I wrote on my bill. I

25 just want to inform you all customers pay this

1 charge.

2 I tried to return her call, got her voice  
3 mail. I told her I was very sorry to have missed the  
4 opportunity to be schooled by her on how I should  
5 feel good because everyone is getting charged for  
6 something we're not receiving.

7 I don't understand where these companies  
8 get the ability to add all these service charges and  
9 hide that, it seems, while they still come along and  
10 say, well, our rates, our kilowatt hour rates are  
11 lower. So now we want to increase that while they  
12 are actually taking charges from all avenues.

13 We individuals pay not only for our own  
14 use, which is the increase of our electric bills, but  
15 as the gentlemen were talking, people were talking  
16 here about their companies, that cost is turned over  
17 to the consumer as well.

18 We all know from the use of our gasoline  
19 and our diesel fuel, we pay for the diesel fuel that

20 delivers all the goods to all the Wal-Marts and all  
21 the grocery stores and everything else. We pay for  
22 it all. We're the bottom end users.

23 I was sad to hear the Senator sound like  
24 she represents AEP other than individual voters.

25 And one last thing, I've heard a lot of

1 people say about AEP being a good community giver.

2 It's easy to give when you have a lot. When you're

3 getting a lot from all of us consumers, you have a

4 lot. To give back what we're giving to them is not

5 generous. Thank you.

6 HEARING EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

7 There is no one else on the list. If

8 there is anyone else that wishes to offer testimony

9 at this time that has not already done so, please

10 raise your hand. Okay. That's the case.

11 I appreciate your taking the time out of

12 your evening and coming out tonight and offering

13 testimony.

14 As I said before, the comments made

15 tonight will become part of the hearing transcript

16 and part of the hearing in this case.

17 Thank you very much.

18 Thereupon, at 8:00 p.m. the hearing was

19 adjourned.)

20                    - - -

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a  
true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken  
by me in this matter on Tuesday, October 14, 2008,  
and carefully compared with my original stenographic  
notes.

---

Deborah J. Guzzo, Registered  
Professional Reporter and Notary  
Public in and for the  
State of Ohio.

My commission expires June 25, 2012.

(1749-DJG)

- - -

20

21

22

23

24

25





**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**10/28/2008 3:17:12 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 08-0917-EL-SSO**

Summary: Transcript Columbus Southern Power 10/14/08 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer D. Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc.