

FILE

October 28, 2008

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PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attn: Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Case Number 08-917-EL-SSO
08-918-EL-SSO

Dear Sir or Madam:

Although I was unable to attend the public meetings concerning the AEP proposed rate increase I do want to express my view. I find it ludicrous that with the current economic downturn AEP would request a hike of 45%. Having worked in the telecommunications industry for 40 years, with a good many of those years as a manager with a regulated telephone company, I understand the need to balance rates and service. AEP has done neither. Service levels are atrocious as witnessed by the weeklong outages this past fall and the continued intermittent outages in my neighborhood. AEP has long neglected its service obligations in the form delayed plant maintenance. Now AEP says they need the rate increase to replace plant and equipment. If the company was managed appropriately on going maintenance would be accomplished in a timely manner and increases would be more palatable. I strongly urge the PUCO to deny or severely limit the proposed increases.

Best regards,

Michael Bates



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