

FILE
To the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:
Re: Case number 08-918-EL-SSO

I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed unreasonable rate increase by Ohio Power. The rate increase of 15% per year for 3 years amounts to a 52% increase. As an added bonus, Ohio Power wants to collect additional monies if their expenses exceed the 15% over the next 3 years but, **there is no provision for a decrease in rates if their expenses fall short of the 15%.** Ohio Power also seeks to recover costs for economic development discounts and distribution system reliability improvements.

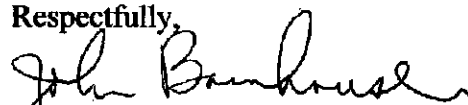
I don't know how Ohio Power came up with the 15% increase for the 3 year proposal but, I implore the commission to protect the citizens of Ohio from this unreasonable increase. This increase may seem like it is just for my electric, but what about the economic impact it will have on us at the grocery store, etc.? This increase in my opinion will negatively affect jobs, school levies, our communities and just about everything we do. The 52% increase is just the beginning of the misery many fixed income people will endure if this rate increase is approved.

Why would Ohio Power seek recovery for economic development discounts from the customers when they are proposing to give a portion of \$75 million for economic development? Please do not allow them to recover discounts that they write off for taxes or sponsorships of festivals.

I attended the public meeting in Canton, on October 16, 2008. I wished more people would have attended. I would like to thank the Timken Company representative for speaking out against the rate increase. I support Timken's statements for a fair and reasonable rate increase and for the PUCO to give due diligence to this increase. Another individual made an excellent point at the hearing, about the fact that there is no tiered rate structure offered for people who conserve electric. Why not as part of this proposal, the PUCO require a tiered rate structure?

In conclusion, I am not against Ohio Power making a reasonable profit but a **52% rate increase is excessive and should be rejected by the PUCO** until Ohio Power proposes a fair and reasonable increase. AEP, Ohio Power's parent company, is a very profitable company and as reported by the Canton Repository profited \$1 billion dollars last year. If that is true, then why is Ohio Power asking for such a large increase? How did AEP manage to profit so much when they paint a dismal picture of high costs for fuel and other expenses? I think Ohio Power is still acting like a monopoly and we need the PUCO to stand up to them for the people of Ohio.

Respectfully,



John Barnhouse
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