

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF OHIO

- - -

Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbus Southern Power Company for )  
the Approval of its Electric Security )  
Plan; and an Amendment to its )  
Corporate Separation Plan; and the )  
Sale or Transfer of Certain )  
Generation Assets )

- - -

Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Ohio Power Company for the Approval )  
of its Electric Security Plan; and an )  
Amendment to its Corporate )  
Separation Plan )

- - -

BE IT REMEMBERED that upon the hearing  
of the above-entitled matter held before  
Commissioner Cheryl Roberto at the Glenwood  
School Auditorium, 1015 44th Street, N.W.,  
Canton, Ohio, and held on Thursday, the 16th  
day of October, 2008, at 6:30 o'clock p.m.,  
the following proceedings were had.

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PUCO

1 MS. SEE: I prefer not to use the  
2 mike. I just need to know if everyone can  
3 hear me. Okay. Thank you. We'll now  
4 commence the formal part of the hearing.

5 We have scheduled for hearing at  
6 this place and time before the Public  
7 Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number  
8 08-917-EL-SSO being captioned in the Matter of  
9 the Application of Columbus Southern Power  
10 Company for Approval of its Electric Security  
11 Plan and an Amendment to its Corporate  
12 Separation Plan and the Sale or Transfer of  
13 Certain Generation Assets, as well as Case  
14 Number 08-918-EL-SSO being captioned in the  
15 Matter of the Application of Ohio Power  
16 Company for the Approval of its Electric  
17 Security Plan and an Amendment to its  
18 Corporate Separation Plan.

19 As Commissioner Roberto stated, my  
20 name is Greta See. I'm attorney examiner with  
21 the Commission's legal department and I am one  
22 of the attorneys assigned to this case by the  
23 Commission.

24 There is other Commission  
25 personnel here. When you came into the

1 auditorium tonight you were likely greeted by  
2 one or two members of the Commission,  
3 personnel of the Commission Amanda Stallings  
4 and Lawrence Hampton and you met previously  
5 Mrs. Jill Kocher.

6 If you have a question concerning  
7 your utility rate or service, other than the  
8 ESP case tonight, feel free to approach Miss  
9 Kocher, Miss Stallings or Mr. Hampton and they  
10 will try to get you information to address  
11 your issue or provide you with the  
12 Commission's 1-800 number.

13 I note that there are a number of  
14 parties that have filed for intervention in  
15 this case. That is, they're counsel for  
16 various consumer groups, be they residential  
17 customers, commercial customers or industrial  
18 customers, as well as other consumer groups.

19 At this time I would ask that  
20 counsel for the company make an appearance on  
21 the record.

22 MR. RESNICK: Thank you, Your  
23 Honor. My name is Marvin Resnick. I am  
24 appearing on behalf of Columbus Southern Power  
25 Company and Ohio Power Company. My address is

1       1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

2               And I would note that among the  
3       folks from the company that are here, a  
4       gentleman Bill Olds. Bill, do you want to  
5       raise your hand is here from our customer  
6       service representative group and is also  
7       available to answer questions that individual  
8       customers might have.

9               MS. SEE: Thank you. On behalf of  
10       the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

11              MR. REESE: Thank you, Your Honor.  
12       On behalf of the residential rate payers of  
13       Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power  
14       Company and on behalf of the Ohio Consumers'  
15       Counsel Janine Migden-Ostrander I'm Rick  
16       Reese, assistant consumers' counsel.

17              Also wanted to note I have several  
18       colleagues with me tonight that would be happy  
19       to help you with your questions as well.  
20       Marty Burkowitz from our communications  
21       department, Chris Verr from outreach and  
22       education and Lisa Cane from our consumer  
23       services department. Thank you.

24              MS. SEE: Thank you. In addition  
25       to tonight's hearing the Commission has

1 scheduled four local public hearings, two  
2 more. There was one held on Tuesday in  
3 Marietta and there are two additional hearings  
4 scheduled for later this month.

5 The purpose of tonight's hearing  
6 is to receive comments from the public  
7 regarding AEP's application. And, I'm sorry,  
8 a lot of times I say AEP. I'm referring to  
9 Columbus Southern Power and Ohio Power as one  
10 entity. Don't intend to confuse anybody.

11 But the local public hearing is  
12 only one aspect of the case process. As  
13 Commissioner Roberto said, we are just  
14 beginning. There is an evidentiary hearing  
15 scheduled in this case to commence in Columbus  
16 on November 17th at the Commission's offices.

17 The purpose of that hearing is to  
18 allow AEP Ohio consumers, numerous interveners  
19 and the Commission staff to present expert  
20 witnesses and evidence in support of their  
21 respective positions.

22 When you arrived here tonight you  
23 were offered an opportunity to sign in to  
24 indicate whether you wanted to offer  
25 testimony. If when you're called forward you

1       decide that you no longer want to offer  
2       testimony tonight, you can just indicate that  
3       you pass and I will go on to the next witness.

4               If for some reason you did not  
5       sign up but wish to offer testimony, you can  
6       go out to the table at any time and sign up or  
7       I will open it up at the end for anyone that  
8       has decided that they want to offer testimony.

9               When I call your name, please step  
10      forward, come down, I'll ask you to raise your  
11      right hand and affirm that the information  
12      that you're about to give is true.

13              I'll then ask you to state and  
14      spell your name for the record because there  
15      is a court reporter. I don't know if you can  
16      see the woman in front of me, but she's  
17      transcribing everything that's said here  
18      tonight and it becomes part of the  
19      Commission's record in this case.

20              Are there any questions about the  
21      process of tonight's hearing -- tonight's  
22      hearing process? If there are none, then  
23      let's get started.

24              I'd like to call Miss Peggy  
25      Claytor. Miss Claytor, please raise your

1 right hand.

2 PEGGY CLAYTOR

3 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
4 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
5 testified and said as follows:

6 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
7 your name for the record.

8 MS. CLAYTOR: P-e-g-g-y last name  
9 Claytor, C-l-a-y-t-o-r.

10 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your  
11 statement.

12 MS. CLAYTOR: Good evening. My  
13 name is Peggy Claytor and I am manager of  
14 state government affairs for The Timken  
15 Company.

16 As most of you know, Timken is a  
17 global leader in bearing and power  
18 transmission solutions and a leading  
19 manufacturer of high-quality alloy steel bar  
20 and tubing products, as well as precise steel  
21 components.

22 Our global headquarters is here in  
23 Canton and we have over 88 plants and offices  
24 in more than 124 sales offices, research and  
25 development centers and distribution centers

1 worldwide.

2 In 2007 we reported sales of \$5.2  
3 billion. We employ approximately 25,000  
4 associates worldwide with over 5900 of those  
5 here in Ohio and of that 5900 about 4800 are  
6 in Stark County.

7 I appear at tonight's public  
8 hearing as a result of our significant  
9 interest in issues that affect the price and  
10 availability of electricity for our Ohio  
11 facilities.

12 More specifically I am here to  
13 convey our concerns relative to the Electric  
14 Security Plan that has been filed by AEP  
15 which, if approved by the Commission, will  
16 establish the framework under which rates will  
17 be established for the next three years.

18 By way of explanation, we have 13  
19 plants, office buildings and other facilities  
20 that are served by Ohio Power. They're  
21 located in Canton, North Canton, Bucyrus and  
22 New Philadelphia. Collectively these plants,  
23 offices and other facilities consume in excess  
24 of 1.5 billion kilowatt-hours per year and the  
25 annual cost of that electricity for these



1 facilities is in excess of \$46 million per  
2 annum.

3 As you can well imagine, even a  
4 small change in the price per kilowatt-hour of  
5 electricity has a significant impact on the  
6 electricity bills to operate these facilities.

7 AEP's Electric Security Plan has  
8 been widely publicized as involving a 15  
9 percent rate increase in each of the next  
10 three years, 2009 through 2011 inclusive. In  
11 that this is a year-on-year increase, the  
12 compounded effect is, in fact, much higher:  
13 Yielding an increase significantly north of  
14 one billion dollars in increased revenues to  
15 AEP over the proposed three year period.

16 In essence, AEP is seeking  
17 recovery for past fuel and non-fuel costs it  
18 identifies as not having been recovered in  
19 current rates under the -- that were  
20 established during the rate stabilization plan  
21 period.

22 As you may recall, AEP's Ohio rate  
23 stabilization proposal included elements of  
24 seven percent automatic annual increases for  
25 Ohio Power, plus the opportunity for an

1 additional four percent incremental  
2 discretionary increases each year.

3 For Columbus Southern it was three  
4 percent automatic on generation and an  
5 additional four percent discretionary. In  
6 both operating companies' circumstance  
7 provisions for recovery of carrying costs on  
8 environmental capital investments and regional  
9 transmission organization was also alighted  
10 for.

11 Now, it's my understanding that  
12 AEP indicates that none of the revenues that  
13 were derived from the aforementioned rate  
14 increases from the rate stabilization plans  
15 went to recover prior fuel costs.

16 I would say, however, that it may  
17 be at least helpful if the Commission took a  
18 look at how those revenues that were  
19 collected, how they were allocated, to what  
20 were they directed?

21 Certainly in the case of The  
22 Timken Company our rates in total have  
23 increased about \$9 million per year since that  
24 rate stabilization plan was put in effect and  
25 it would be helpful to understand how those

1 incremental revenues were applied.

2           Additionally, the AEP company's  
3 request that the PUCO authorize various riders  
4 and surcharges for future cost recovery it  
5 associates with various programs: Things such  
6 as energy efficiency, the Grid Smart metering  
7 program, enhanced reliability program, et  
8 cetera.

9           According to what I understand and  
10 having read the ESP, the revenue that will be  
11 collected by AEP from these various riders  
12 alone is in excess of \$700 million over the  
13 three year period.

14           For large industrial customers  
15 like Timken that are served under what is  
16 called the GS-4/IRP-D rate schedule, it's an  
17 interruptible rate schedule, Ohio Power's  
18 proposed ESP rates would increase our rates  
19 from roughly four cents a kilowatt-hour to  
20 approximately six and a half cents a  
21 kilowatt-hour by 2011. That's over a 62  
22 percent increase in just three years.

23           Under current market conditions I  
24 assure you these increases in our cost  
25 structure will be impossible to offset the

1 price increases to our customers. Over the  
2 same three year period of time the cost  
3 increase for residential customers I believe  
4 is projected to be about 45 and a half  
5 percent.

6 Now, I'm not trying to be hard on  
7 AEP. Certainly we understand that utility  
8 rates can and do go up based upon costs, but  
9 in its ESP, Ohio Power's requested increase  
10 seems inflated and certainly, in my humble  
11 opinion, warrants additional scrutiny. Here  
12 are some examples that I think will illustrate  
13 why we are concerned.

14 For one, Ohio Power is long on  
15 generation, which means that it produces more  
16 than its Ohio consumers, customers can  
17 consume. Almost all of Ohio Power's  
18 generation is from low cost coal plants and is  
19 produced for probably around \$30 a  
20 megawatt-hour.

21 In 2009 Ohio Power projects that  
22 it will generate roughly 22 and a half billion  
23 kilowatt-hours more than its customers can  
24 consume. Yet it calls for in their ESP to buy  
25 eight and a half billion kilowatt-hours over

1 three years at a very high market rate of  
2 around \$85.32 a megawatt-hour.

3 Buying high cost market power when  
4 the utility has a large surplus of low cost  
5 power will unnecessarily raise costs to Ohio  
6 Power customers to the tune we approximate of  
7 about \$700 million over three years.

8 Under its ESP Ohio Power would  
9 then take the low cost energy that is freed up  
10 from the high cost purchases and sell it out  
11 of state at high market prices. These  
12 increased profits from off-system sales would  
13 go to AEP shareholders and to ratepayers we  
14 believe in West Virginia and Kentucky by  
15 virtue of how the AEP interstate would agree  
16 to operate.

17 That means that Timken and other  
18 Ohio Power customers would be subsidizing  
19 power costs in other states. I don't think  
20 that Ohio can afford such subsidies when  
21 manufacturers are struggling to hold on to  
22 business and to jobs.

23 Some of these increased profits  
24 from off-system sales will actually flow back  
25 to Ohio Power and Columbus Southern under the

1 AEP pool agreement. This will increase their  
2 earnings obviously.

3 But they want the profits from  
4 off-system sales excluded from the  
5 substantially excessive earnings test that  
6 Governor Strickland and the legislature put  
7 into Senate Bill 221 as a ratepayer  
8 protection.

9 Ohio Power's position, therefore,  
10 would greatly reduce -- would greatly weaken  
11 the excessive earnings test contrary to the  
12 will of the legislature.

13 Ohio Power essentially wants to  
14 hardwire a seven percent rate increase in its  
15 generation rates without any showing that its  
16 cost have gone up or that its earnings are  
17 deficient. This would unnecessarily cost Ohio  
18 Power ratepayers roughly \$135 million in over  
19 three years.

20 Ohio Power further wants to  
21 hardwire six and a half percent rate increase  
22 on its distribution rate. This distribution  
23 rate increase suffers from the same  
24 shortcomings as the seven percent requested  
25 generation increase. We estimate that this

1 would cost customers roughly \$68 million over  
2 three years.

3 Finally, Ohio Power wants to  
4 greatly increase the fee it charges customers  
5 who want to shop for competitive generation.  
6 This provider of last resort fee is  
7 complicated and has not been justified by Ohio  
8 Power.

9 In closing, The Timken Company  
10 understands the need for AEP companies to  
11 recoup legitimate cost increases and to earn a  
12 reasonable return on an investment. It is  
13 equally important, though, for customers to  
14 receive fair and balanced treatment of this  
15 regulatory process.

16 We recognize the aggressive  
17 timeline that the Commission is under to  
18 resolve this case, but given the significant  
19 impact that it's going to have on customers of  
20 every kind: Residential, commercial and  
21 industrial alike, it is absolutely essential  
22 that due diligence is not set aside. That  
23 concludes my comments.

24 MS. SEE: Thank you, Miss Claytor.  
25 May I ask that if you have your statement

1 typed out if you would be willing to provide  
2 it to the court reporter.

3 MS. CLAYTOR: Certainly.

4 MS. SEE: We appreciate it. Thank  
5 you.

6 Mr. David Boron. Sir, please  
7 raise your right hand.

8 DAVID BORON  
9 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
10 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
11 testified and said as follows:

12 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
13 your name for the record.

14 MR. BORON: My name is David  
15 Boron. D-a-v-i-d Boron B-o-r-o-n. I don't  
16 have anything written but I think that  
17 sometimes is the best. Say what's on your  
18 mind.

19 As the presidential candidates  
20 would say I'm your Joe Plumber, your average  
21 guy that lives in this neighborhood.

22 There are so many reasons and  
23 we're going to hear those tonight from other  
24 people. At the end of the month we have a few  
25 bucks left over. Now we have to give the rest



1 of that to a utility, which makes it very  
2 difficult.

3 And when I came in some tempers  
4 were flaring already because I just hope that  
5 -- I'm going to call it AEP because that's  
6 what I know it -- I just want AEP to know what  
7 a hardship this might be to almost every  
8 single American family.

9 I was reading here and it says  
10 that Senate Bill 221 was passed to avoid  
11 sticker shock, but when I look on the back  
12 page and see the rate increase, to me, it's  
13 still sticker shock: 46 percent the minimum  
14 that it might raise in three years. To me  
15 that's sticker shock. That's way too much.  
16 That is way too much of a percentage increase  
17 for my electric bill to go up. Where does  
18 that money come from?

19 Isn't it ironic that we are in a  
20 school that a levy isn't being passed? We're  
21 sitting in this school that a levy cannot even  
22 be passed for our children for their education  
23 and now the money that we were considering to  
24 pass a school levy, that money is going to be  
25 forced to be going into our utility payment

1       now if this is passed.

2               The other concern that I have is  
3       what is reasonable? I don't know about  
4       everybody else, but when my -- when I get a  
5       raise on my paycheck it might be between one  
6       percent and two percent of a raise. That's  
7       pretty hard to pay out something that might be  
8       going up 46 percent. It doesn't seem  
9       reasonable.

10              It also says that this is over a  
11       course of three years. Maybe there's a way to  
12       string it out longer to prevent a sticker  
13       shock.

14              Then the other point that I have  
15       is I'm sure most of us would agree the money  
16       that I spend I really want it to go to where  
17       it's supposed to be going. If AEP is raising  
18       their rates to fund numerous situations at  
19       AEP, the fuel, the generation I hope the money  
20       does go for that purpose.

21              I hope that they are not going to  
22       be building an excess and becoming almost an  
23       Exxon Mobile where they're funding retirement  
24       accounts.

25              If my repairs at my house cost a

1       thousand dollars, I pay a thousand dollars. I  
2       just hope that their -- the money that they  
3       need for generation and repairs, I hope the  
4       money that they receive are in -- is not in  
5       high excess of that amount.

6               So I hope if this increase does go  
7       through, that the money is going where it's  
8       supposed to be. I might feel a little bit  
9       better if that was true. That's basically all  
10      I have to say and I thank you for letting me  
11      share my opinion. Thank you.

12             MS. SEE: Thank you. Mr. Craig  
13      Roan and I apologize now if I mess up your  
14      last name. Please raise your right hand.

15             CRAIG ROAN  
16      of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
17      first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
18      testified and said as follows:

19             MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
20      your name for the record.

21             MR. ROAN: Craig C-r-a-i-g. Roan  
22      R-o-a-n.

23             MS. SEE: Go ahead with your  
24      statement.

25             MR. ROAN: My statement is this,

1 if PUCO is in favor of the Ohio public, then  
2 they should defer 15 percent increase. I  
3 don't begrudge anyone an increase. However,  
4 15 percent over the next three years, which is  
5 a 45 percent increase, actually is too much  
6 with people losing their jobs, this economy,  
7 as Mr. Boron stated, is in economic crisis.  
8 That is a little bit too much.

9 I think -- I think that we need  
10 PUCO to stand up for Ohio. They need to start  
11 talking about other things also as far as gas  
12 prices. Please represent us. That's why you  
13 are here. You are here to represent us.  
14 Please don't hurt us. That's all I have to  
15 say.

16 MS. SEE: Raymond Fernandez.

17 RAYMOND FERNANDEZ

18 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
19 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
20 testified and said as follows:

21 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
22 your name for the record.

23 MR. FERNANDEZ: Raymond

24 R-a-y-m-o-n-d Fernandez F-e-r-n-a-n-d-e-z.

25 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

1                   MR. FERNANDEZ: I'd like to take  
2 the opportunity right now to thank the PUCO  
3 for holding this hearing. I think it's very  
4 important, so important that I left my  
5 nephew's football game to come here.

6                   And my wife advised me not to come  
7 and I told her I said, well, that's just like  
8 saying I'm not going to vote because I don't  
9 like either one of them. But you sit on your  
10 duff nothing is going to get done.

11                  I might also say that I had a  
12 dealing with the PUCO back in 1975 and I  
13 faired out pretty well and I hope I do again.

14                  I read in the newspaper where AEP  
15 wants 15, 15 and 15. I thought it was a joke  
16 but it's not a joke. Let's put it this way,  
17 if I was an employee of AEP and asked for a  
18 wage increase of 15 percent per year for the  
19 next three years they'd think I was nuts.  
20 They'd go through the roof.

21                  Why should we give them a 15  
22 percent increase? And I recommend that you  
23 deny it or modify it maybe like five, five and  
24 five. You know, you always ask for more than  
25 what you really need.

1           You know AEP is not the same  
2       company it used to be back in the 1970s. My  
3       mother had a little apartment in her house and  
4       this young couple, the man worked for AEP. At  
5       that time it was called Ohio Power, yellow  
6       trucks with red lettering. Any time you were  
7       out and about you would see these trucks  
8       maintaining poles, maintaining cables.

9           AEP doesn't do that any more.  
10      They wait until we get a storm and then I'm  
11      out of power for six days and the first two  
12      days nothing was done because they were down  
13      south because they don't have maintenance  
14      crews here. So the service is not what it  
15      used to be, but they want more money.

16           I think the PUCO should go back to  
17      AEP tell them go back and cut your costs and I  
18      know they can cut their costs. For one  
19      example they make good salaries and I don't  
20      have anything against a person making a good  
21      salary. I think they should make a good  
22      salary.

23           I have nothing against them  
24      getting a wage increase every year, but I  
25      don't agree that they should give bonuses.

1     Why do you give a person a bonus when he's  
2     already making a good salary and an annual  
3     increase every year and then they say, well,  
4     here is some more money. Who is paying for  
5     this? Me and you. I thank you.

6                     MS. SEE: Thank you. Steve Katz.

7                     STEVE KATZ

8     of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
9     first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
10    testified and said as follows:

11                    MS. SEE: State and spell your  
12    name for the record.

13                    MR. KATZ: Steven S-t-e-v-e-n  
14    middle initial J Katz K-a-t-z.

15                    MS. SEE: Go ahead with your  
16    statement.

17                    MR. KATZ: First I want to thank  
18    you for the opportunity to comment tonight and  
19    I also want to put my remarks within the  
20    context that our organization, I work for  
21    Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, that we  
22    have not taken a formal position on the rate  
23    increase, but my purpose here tonight is to  
24    really give you some background in terms of  
25    AEP's role and contributions that they make to

1 the community as a corporate citizen and  
2 they're really a fine example of a corporate  
3 citizen.

4 I will tell you that AEP is  
5 involved in many community activities and with  
6 respect to our organization their executives  
7 serve as board members and also members of  
8 some important committees.

9 I would also like to mention that  
10 they're an integral part of our economic  
11 development program. Often when we have  
12 prospects or issues involving electric power  
13 that their Columbus staff is readily available  
14 and helps us with those leads and with those  
15 prospects, as well as local staffs as well.

16 AEP also has -- there is a grant  
17 program that we've utilized that's helped us  
18 with some industrial development projects and  
19 once again their staff is always on call,  
20 quickly responds when we have questions and  
21 issues regarding power and electric  
22 infrastructure.

23 AEP has been an active supporter  
24 of our economic development program in terms  
25 of helping fund that with some contributions.



1 They also support our downtown development  
2 efforts and they do that primarily through  
3 support of several programs that we conducted  
4 in the downtown area.

5 There is a holiday program that's  
6 coming up in the next couple weeks that  
7 they're supporting, as well as the annual  
8 blues festival and another downtown event and  
9 these events are really designed to bring the  
10 people from the suburban areas into the  
11 downtown areas and acquaint them with the  
12 benefits of what the downtown has to offer and  
13 it's helped with those development efforts.

14 AEP has also been an active  
15 supporter of our leadership program both in  
16 terms of sponsoring different events through  
17 that activity and having people go through our  
18 leadership class.

19 Finally, they've been an active  
20 supporter in one of the largest events that  
21 goes on here on an annual basis and that's the  
22 Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival. This past  
23 year an AEP executive was the volunteer  
24 chairman of that event and I will tell you  
25 that took many, many hours of his time and

1 resources to help make that a successful  
2 event, but they also help make the downtown  
3 facility available for staging that event and  
4 also provide support, financial support for  
5 many of the activities surrounding the  
6 festival. I've also been to their offices for  
7 some charitable endeavors such as the leukemia  
8 society and other activities like that.

9 So just wanted to provide you some  
10 comments tonight to talk a little bit about  
11 their role in the community as they are a  
12 corporate citizen. That's it. Thank you.

13 MS. SEE: Mr. Dan Birmingham.

14 DAN BIRMINGHAM

15 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
16 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
17 testified and said as follows:

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

20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Yes, ma'am.

21 Daniel D-a-n-i-e-l Birmingham  
22 B-i-r-m-i-n-g-h-a-m. My comments are really  
23 relative to a strategic partnership that my  
24 company has with AEP and what we think will  
25 eventually become very beneficial for all of

1 Ohioans.

2           As I said, my name is Dan  
3 Birmingham and I'm the Director of Engineering  
4 for Rolls-Royce fuel cell systems in North  
5 Canton. Although many people associate our  
6 name with the automobile, Rolls-Royce is  
7 actually a global power systems company  
8 providing power for land and air and sea  
9 applications and we have major positions in  
10 aerospace, defense, marine, as well as energy  
11 markets.

12           We also, you know, offer gas  
13 engines, as turbines kind of solutions for  
14 power generation markets in over a hundred  
15 countries.

16           Now, with this as a background,  
17 for the past 15 years Rolls-Royce has been  
18 developing a solid oxide fuel cell system. So  
19 this system will have nearly double the fuel  
20 efficiency of what is current power generation  
21 equipment. So that means that this system  
22 will use half of the fuel that would be  
23 required to produce the same amount of  
24 electricity.

25           The Rolls-Royce fuel cell power

1 system that's currently designed to run with  
2 natural gas, which is a clean fuel widely  
3 available in north America and other locations  
4 around the world. Our system can be  
5 configured to run on liquid fuels, other  
6 alternative fuels such as coal gas, bio-mass,  
7 some of the alternative fuels. From an  
8 environmental viewpoint, the system will have  
9 negligible air emissions, minimum noise  
10 profile.

11 So our company vision is to have a  
12 Rolls-Royce fuel cell system in every major  
13 city in the world. That's our goal.

14 In November of 2006 Rolls-Royce  
15 chose North Canton as its North American  
16 headquarters because of the state of Ohio's  
17 commitment to create a fuel cell industry in  
18 this area and due to the proximity to AEP, one  
19 of the nation's most progressive electric  
20 utility companies.

21 So Rolls-Royce and AEP have a  
22 strategic partnership for doing a joint test  
23 and evaluation program of a pre-commercial  
24 fuel cell power system at their Walnut test  
25 facility, which is down just outside of

1 Columbus.

2 This AEP test site is very unique  
3 in the electric power industry as a site to  
4 verify new technologies for the power grid of  
5 the future. This partnership that's allowing  
6 AEP and Rolls-Royce to evaluate a new power  
7 system in a real world type of application  
8 thereby accelerating its introduction as a new  
9 energy technology.

10 So success in this will position  
11 Ohio to be a leader in job creation for  
12 cutting edge fuel cell technology and its  
13 introduction into the Ohio electric grid will  
14 make Ohio a more competitive state.

15 So Rolls-Royce fuel cell systems  
16 we're excited about these opportunities and  
17 our strong partnership with AEP. Together  
18 we're working to capture the potential of fuel  
19 cells and its very high efficiency as a  
20 distributed power generation source with ultra  
21 low emissions and with low carbon footprint  
22 that qualifies as an alternative energy source  
23 in the Ohio portfolio standard. That  
24 concludes my comments.

25 MS. SEE: Thank you. Marcia

1 Roberts.

2 MARCIA ROBERTS

3 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
4 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
5 testified and said as follows:

6 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
7 your full name for the record.

8 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Marcia  
9 M-a-r-c-i-a Roberts R-o-b-e-r-t-s and I use  
10 middle initial P.

11 I'm new to this area. I moved  
12 here four years ago from Austin, Texas. In  
13 Austin I was an employee first of Austin  
14 Electric and I was also an employee of the  
15 Lower Colorado River Authority. I also worked  
16 for Northeast Utility when I lived in  
17 Connecticut and I was an energy conscientious  
18 representative for Northeast Utility in three  
19 states.

20 My job as an architect was to  
21 advise people, mainly commercial customers, on  
22 how they could save energy in their  
23 businesses. I also had a good amount of  
24 experience beginning with my master's thesis  
25 in helping people save energy in their homes

1 based on the design of the building, based on  
2 the equipment chosen, based on operations and  
3 based on utility rates.

4 And anyone who worked for a  
5 utility company knows that different rates are  
6 available to different types of customers.  
7 Different utility companies structure their  
8 rates based on what they consider to be their  
9 best opportunity to recover their costs and  
10 depending on the type of generation, different  
11 types of customers are more valuable to  
12 utility companies.

13 I have not studied Ohio Power  
14 since I've been here. I've just been a  
15 residential customer. I have not studied the  
16 rate structure, but I have looked for myself  
17 for the opportunity to improve the energy  
18 efficiency of my home, which I inherited,  
19 which is a 53 year old home that was built by  
20 my uncle here in Canton, Ohio.

21 Now, since I have been here I have  
22 been struggling to pay my utility bills. I've  
23 been unemployed for four years. I live out of  
24 my retirement savings. I do not spend any  
25 extra. All the money I have goes for my

1 actual bills. All the money I spend I take  
2 out of my retirement.

3 Now, fortunately I go on Social  
4 Security starting in December. So I will have  
5 some income other than my savings. However,  
6 my Social Security is going to be less than  
7 the amount I've been spending to cover my  
8 costs since I've been living here. That's  
9 coming directly out of my retirement.

10 Of course you know what's  
11 happening to retirement accounts. So I am not  
12 going to have any money to supplement my  
13 Social Security income once, you know, my  
14 retirement is gone.

15 The reason I'm making these points  
16 is there has not been an incentive available  
17 to me to reduce my electric costs other than  
18 to turn my thermostat down, not to use hot  
19 water, turn off all my lights. There is no  
20 available rebate. I do not see any plan  
21 available to a customer that is trying to  
22 reduce energy use. I don't see any benefit to  
23 myself to conserve energy.

24 Now, when I lived in the City of  
25 Austin a customer that used less than 500



1 kilowatts was on a different rate. I don't  
2 see that available here. I don't know whether  
3 large commercial customers get some kind of  
4 time reduced rate.

5 I heard the person from Timken  
6 talking about an interruptible rate. I don't  
7 believe those kind of rates are available to  
8 residential customers here. Those kinds of  
9 rates could help a residential customer, such  
10 as myself, to reduce my bills.

11 I'm suggesting that the Public  
12 Utility Commission look at AEP's proposal and  
13 ask them to develop a very transparent rate  
14 structure that will allow them to see exactly  
15 what types of customers are paying these  
16 rates. Break it out in terms of transmission  
17 costs, fuel costs, costs of operations, costs  
18 of generation and then set up different rates  
19 for different types of customers.

20 You have your customers that use  
21 five KW because they have a very large home or  
22 because who knows what they're doing in their  
23 home, if they have a business or whatever, but  
24 what about the small customers on fixed rates  
25 who are not eligible for LI HEAP because they

1 have a home, they have retirement. You know,  
2 whatever I would have to withdraw to pay my  
3 bills makes me ineligible for that type of  
4 assistance.

5 But I am conscientiously looking  
6 for ways to be able to stay within my means.  
7 I think the Public Utilities Commission in  
8 doing its job can find ways to help people  
9 like me that are on fixed incomes that really  
10 have no recourse when it comes to a 15 percent  
11 increase in rates.

12 Be happy to answer any questions  
13 if you haven't understood the points I'm  
14 making.

15 MS. ROBERTO: Thank you.

16 MS. SEE: Thank you. Robert  
17 Torres.

18 ROBERT TORRES  
19 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
20 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
21 testified and said as follows:

22 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
23 your name for the record.

24 MR. TORRES: Robert Torres,  
25 R-o-b-e-r-t T-o-r-r-e-s. Thank you and good

1 evening. I am the Director of Development for  
2 the City of Canton, Ohio. I have two letters  
3 that I would like to read into entry.

4 One is from the Honorable William  
5 J. Healy, II and the second would be a letter  
6 from myself as the Director of Development for  
7 the city.

8 This is the letter from the Mayor.  
9 I write to you in reference to AEP Ohio's  
10 recently filed Electric Security Plan. AEP  
11 Ohio continues to be a strong partner of the  
12 City of Canton and always considers the  
13 community they serve when making business  
14 decisions.

15 Although any rate increase will be  
16 a burden on Canton residents who are already  
17 struggling, the filed ESP works to mitigate  
18 any strain on these consumers by phasing in  
19 the increase over a three-year period. This  
20 arrangement promises to keep increases below  
21 levels expected in other parts of the state  
22 and country, as well as guarantees that AEP  
23 will remain one of the lowest-cost providers  
24 in the state.

25 Additionally, AEP renews its

1 commitment to the community through this  
2 proposal by allocating \$75 million to the  
3 "Partnership with Ohio" fund. On top of  
4 assisting in economic development efforts,  
5 this fund will provide weatherization and  
6 energy efficiency assistance to those who need  
7 it most, helping to defray short-term costs  
8 and promote long-term savings.

9 Furthermore, AEP's investment in  
10 advance and renewable energy development and  
11 deployment will help the city reach its goal  
12 of creating a more sustainable community.

13 In conclusion, I believe that AEP  
14 Ohio has created an Electric Security Plan  
15 that will provide stability and predictability  
16 for their customers while preventing sharp  
17 spikes in cost. This plan will allow AEP to  
18 continue to be an important ally in  
19 revitalizing our city and state.

20 Thank you for your time and  
21 consideration of this matter. Sincerely,  
22 William J. Healy, II, the Mayor, City of  
23 Canton. And I have copies to leave with you.

24 MS. SEE: Okay.

25 MR. TORRES: Now my letter. I

1 submit this letter referencing AEP Ohio's  
2 recently filed Electric Security Plan. This  
3 plan represents AEP's continued commitment to  
4 the economic growth of our community, more  
5 importantly, their willingness to offer  
6 resources to ensure its success.

7 The availability of electric power  
8 that has stable and predictable rates is one  
9 of the most important factors in attracting  
10 new development and retaining existing  
11 industries in Canton. This plan provides this  
12 advantage at a rate that will still be one of  
13 the lowest in the state.

14 The "Partnership with Ohio" aids  
15 in regional and statewide economic development  
16 in several specific ways. First, it provides  
17 assistance and incentives to companies for  
18 expansion projects with the service territory.  
19 Assistance is further available to help  
20 increase productivity and energy efficiently,  
21 helping not only to reduce operational costs,  
22 but also to develop a sustainable and  
23 environmentally responsible economy.

24 In addition, the partnership will  
25 invest in developing and utilizing alternative

1 and renewable energies, helping to keep Ohio  
2 on the forefront of this quickly growing  
3 demand.

4 In this Electric Security Plan AEP  
5 has created a balance between securing the  
6 company's future, investing in our community  
7 and reducing the overall effect on energy  
8 users. AEP plays a vital role in Canton,  
9 having a long-term presence in our city. AEP  
10 provides a significant amount of jobs and is  
11 important that they remain a sustainable  
12 corporate partner.

13 For the above-mentioned reasons, I  
14 ask for you -- for your support and approval  
15 of the full plan by the Public Utilities  
16 Commission of Ohio.

17 Sincerely, Robert Torres, Director  
18 of Development for the City of Canton. Thank  
19 you.

20 MS. SEE: Thank you, Mr. Torres.

21 MR. REESE: Excuse me, Your Honor,  
22 I would like to ask a question.

23 MS. SEE: Is this a clarifying  
24 question?

25 MR. REESE: No.

1 MS. SEE: Lavon Daugherty.

2 LAVON DAUGHERTY

3 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
4 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
5 testified and said as follows:

6 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
7 your name for the record.

8 MR. DAUGHERTY: Lavon Daugherty,  
9 L-a-v-o-n D-a-u-g-h-e-r-t-y.

10 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your  
11 statement, sir.

12 MR. L. DAUGHERTY: I do not have  
13 much of a prepared statement at all because I  
14 found out about this about 3:00 this afternoon  
15 and made a few notes sitting in the office out  
16 here after I got off work.

17 One of my concerns or what I would  
18 like to know is what is AEP's or Ohio Powers'  
19 return on equity presently? How profitable  
20 are they as a company?

21 Now, I realize that we had  
22 commodity prices extremely high and expand a  
23 lot in the last year, year and a half. I  
24 happen to be in the agricultural end of  
25 business and in a commercial broker of

1 commodities. I have lived with the commodity  
2 market for 30-plus years as a broker and many  
3 years before that as manager of grain  
4 elevators and hedging grain. I handle  
5 commercial accounts and consulting work  
6 through this type of client.

7 In the last six months we have  
8 seen commodity prices drop about 50 percent.  
9 We had oil prices, which I could understand  
10 where their costs have gone up, in the last  
11 year trading as a high as \$140 a barrel.  
12 Today we had it under \$70 a barrel.

13 We have also, looking at the  
14 agricultural community, we saw the price of  
15 grain run up very high this last year. It run  
16 so high that the biggest commercial grain  
17 companies refused to buy grain for more than  
18 40 days out. This did not allow our farmers  
19 to sell that grain in advance when it was  
20 there.

21 Today we have it down 50 percent  
22 from that high that we had four months ago  
23 right at harvest time and all of their input  
24 costs: Their fuel, their fertilizer were much  
25 higher when they were putting this crop in the



1 ground and now they're selling it on prices  
2 that we have not seen for the last two years,  
3 a year and a half to two years. That's from  
4 that standpoint.

5 Now, a lot of that I think is  
6 created by government. They have allowed our  
7 big, what they call, index funds to have  
8 unlimited amount of open position in the  
9 commodity markets both in oil and grain and  
10 the rest of them.

11 So this has impacted the costs of  
12 AEP over the last year. These markets go up  
13 and they come down and when they come down  
14 they come down in half the time as a rule is  
15 what it takes them to go up. So I have no  
16 idea that the input costs of AEP are going to  
17 be near as high over this next three years.

18 The other thing that bothers me  
19 is, I think this come out this week, that the  
20 cost of living index is going to go up about  
21 five and a half percent and that is the  
22 highest that we've had for quite a long time  
23 from the standpoint of these retirement checks  
24 under Social Security.

25 Yet we're talking about a 15

1     percent per year here. I did a little math  
2     sitting back here and I just took a hundred  
3     dollar bill and 15 percent that would be \$15  
4     next year, it would be \$17.25 the second year,  
5     and \$19.80 the third year, which comes up to  
6     52 percent by the end of the third year.

7                 Now, I spoke a little bit about  
8     from the agricultural standpoint, but I happen  
9     to come over here tonight with a man that's in  
10    the grocery business and in the freezer,  
11    refrigeration units and everything else in  
12    there with a 52 percent increase over the next  
13    -- at the end of three year period he says  
14    he'll be out of business.

15                I can understand some increase  
16    where it is justified, but I would like to see  
17    that it's absolutely justified because that  
18    kind of an increase is pretty hard for me to  
19    believe that it could happen.

20                I think that's really about all  
21    that I have to say, but I think that when you  
22    go back and look at this type of an increase  
23    that their costs will not go up anyways near  
24    that amount to require that type of an  
25    increase. Thank you.

1 MS. SEE: William Daugherty.

2 WILLIAM DAUGHERTY

3 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
4 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
5 testified and said as follows:

6 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
7 your name for the record.

8 MR. W. DAUGHERTY: William  
9 W-i-l-l-i-a-m Daugherty D-a-u-g-h-e-r-t-y.

10 I'm here to speak. I'm an  
11 ordinary guy. I'm a retiree and my golden  
12 years is slowly, slowly being tarnished by the  
13 vultures that are out there that are picking  
14 away at my savings and my money.

15 It just seems today that everybody  
16 wants a rate increase. Everybody has got  
17 something that they're trying to get at us.

18 I had a gas water heater that I  
19 had to replace. Because gas prices have gone  
20 so high I put in an electric one because the  
21 prices are good. So now with the low rates  
22 I've been conned into buying a piece of  
23 equipment that now they're going to tell me  
24 it's going to cost me more money to use now.  
25 So I feel that I've been lied to.

1                   They're constantly sucking us in.  
2       Years ago we had coal for our furnaces. Gas  
3       come along said it's cleaner, let's put clean  
4       fuel. You don't have to go down and get the  
5       coal out of your furnace. We do that. We all  
6       change over to gas. I don't think anybody  
7       here has a furnace that burns coal. Now coal  
8       is cheap.

9                   What's our gas? It's high.  
10       What's our electric? It's going up. I feel  
11       like I am sitting here and there is vultures  
12       going around to pick my bones. I've got the  
13       school system, I've got the MRDD, I have the  
14       library. I've got every political person that  
15       can suck money out of me in taxes trying to  
16       get more.

17                   We have the Chamber of Commerce  
18       saying AEP is great. They give us time, they  
19       give us people to help out. They give us  
20       money. They write it off on their taxes.  
21       Number one, how many politicians is here in  
22       the audience? We got a letter from the Mayor  
23       and shame on him.

24                   I'm mad. I can't see any light in  
25       the tunnel. All I see is the gas going up, my

1 gasoline going up, my taxes going up. We just  
2 had an increase last year of \$10 on our  
3 license plates for our roads. Do we see any  
4 better roads? Amen. So thank you.

5 I don't see any way -- I feel that  
6 it's gouging. It's just like all the other  
7 companies, the oil companies. It's just an  
8 excuse for them to gouge us more money and get  
9 their hands deeper and deeper into my pocket  
10 and everybody else's pocket here.

11 And thank you for being here.  
12 This is the biggest crowd that I've seen. We  
13 had maybe 25 people when the gas company  
14 wanted to make a raise. I'm glad to see  
15 everybody is getting excited. Thank you.

16 MS. SEE: William Sherer or  
17 Sherey.

18 WILLIAM SHERER, II  
19 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
20 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
21 testified and said as follows:

22 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
23 your name for the record.

24 MR. SHERER: William Sherer, II.  
25 W-i-l-l-i-a-m V as in Vernon for the middle

1       initial and S-h-e-r-e-r, II.

2               You know, I've been listening to a  
3       lot of people's comments in here tonight and  
4       to be honest with you it is very tough today  
5       for even -- for one income to make it in  
6       today's economy. I'm very fortunate that, you  
7       know, myself and my wife have decent jobs, but  
8       even today that -- it's even a struggle for  
9       us.

10              You know, I'll be honest with you,  
11       that on a week-to-week basis, I mean, we  
12       basically live check to check. Now, I  
13       understand, and trust me, there is a lot of  
14       people in this room that's on fixed incomes,  
15       there really are and even, you know, I heard a  
16       lot of good comments about, you know, the bond  
17       levy for Plain Township.

18              It's very tough for me that I have  
19       three children that go to Plain Schools and to  
20       be torn between me not wanting to vote for a  
21       bond levy to benefit my children, you know,  
22       and having my taxes raised and going through  
23       the roof that, you know, here you can't afford  
24       to do that, but the reason I wanted to come up  
25       here today is to give a different perspective.

1 I'm not, you know, trust me. I  
2 paid my gas bill last January and it was \$400.  
3 That's a house payment for a lot of people.  
4 Now, for the electric bill the last thing I  
5 want to do is see my electric bill go through  
6 the roof, but the reason I wanted to come up  
7 here today is give you guys a different  
8 perspective.

9 I'm a labor leader in the City of  
10 Canton. I'm the President of Iron Workers  
11 Local 550 and I am responsible for 500 members  
12 and their families to keep them working.  
13 Since we're, you know, the head of my union  
14 what we try to offer our people is to make a  
15 decent living wage and to have a good  
16 retirement and I couldn't even tell you how  
17 many pensions are going in the hole and offer  
18 our members and their families decent  
19 benefits.

20 And one thing that I -- the last  
21 thing I want to see is my electric rates go  
22 through the roof, but to give you an example  
23 we cover eight counties and part of eight  
24 others. Our jurisdiction goes all the way to  
25 Mansfield and all the way down to Cochocton.

1 To give you an example about Cochocton, five  
2 miles south of Cochocton there's a powerhouse  
3 called the Conesville Power Plant and that is  
4 an AEP plant.

5 Within the last three years they  
6 have sunk about \$600 million in upgrades in  
7 that plant. That has been able to increase  
8 our membership 20 percent in the last three  
9 years.

10 And now the last thing I want to  
11 do is see my electric -- I mean, I pay them  
12 every day, but I see, in a sense, I see the  
13 flip side of the coin that we've been able  
14 through AEP -- there are power plants out in  
15 the midwest who choose not to use union  
16 contractors where they pay their employees  
17 substandard wages and zero benefits.

18 Now, our employees used to do work  
19 up at the Hoover Plant. They're long gone and  
20 that is a very -- I'm ashamed to live in this  
21 community because I've seen so many  
22 manufacturing jobs leave. But on the flip  
23 side of the coin, I have seen, down at AEP's  
24 plant, I've seen them return so much more  
25 money that's been beneficial for us to



1       increase our membership 20 percent. Three  
2       years ago we had 400 members. Now we're over  
3       500.

4               When I used to be the head of our  
5       apprenticeship program eight years ago, we had  
6       32 apprentices in a four year apprenticeship  
7       program. Right now we have 140 apprentices  
8       that we're able to offer these people decent  
9       paying jobs.

10              I mean, the last thing I want to  
11       do is see my electric bill go through the  
12       roof, but in return, I mean, they've been able  
13       to put that money back in that plant and, you  
14       know, I mean, I look at the job, you know.  
15       Our jobs go for the next couple of years.  
16       They're talking about building another unit  
17       there. It's going to take a couple thousand  
18       workers to build this unit in the next couple  
19       of years, I mean, to keep our members working.

20              I mean, and the reason I wanted to  
21       come up here today is, you know, I'm kind of  
22       torn between both. The last thing, even  
23       though I'm fortunate that I have a decent  
24       paying job and I'll tell you right now I'm not  
25       loaded, I'm not rich, but we do struggle from

1 check to check and the last thing I want to do  
2 is see my utilities go through the roof, which  
3 I know they are already are, but, you know, I  
4 kind of see the flip side of the coin that  
5 they have been improving, making upgrades in  
6 that plant which has been very beneficial to  
7 our members and their families. So that's all  
8 I wanted to tell you.

9 MS. SEE: Thank you. Sandra  
10 Pyles.

11 SANDRA PYLES  
12 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
13 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
14 testified and said as follows:

15 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
16 your name for the record.

17 MS. PYLES: My name is Sandra  
18 Pyles S-a-n-d-r-a P-y-l-e-s.

19 First of all, I just want to say  
20 thank you to the PUCO and American Electric  
21 Power for giving the public the opportunity to  
22 testify this evening and holding this public  
23 hearing to alert and educate the general  
24 public about the proposed American Electric  
25 Power Electric Security Plan.

1 I'm the HEAP director here in  
2 Stark County. I work for Stark County  
3 Community Action Agency and I just feel  
4 compelled to get up here to speak on behalf of  
5 the clients that we serve.

6 No matter how you look at the  
7 plan, our customers know that it equates to  
8 higher bills for them. And the customers that  
9 we serve they're already struggling with  
10 paying their electric bills and their gas  
11 bills. So adding additional charges over a  
12 three year period is really only going to make  
13 it worse.

14 Little bit of history. Last year  
15 here in Stark County during our emergency HEAP  
16 program, which ran from November to March, we  
17 disbursed a total of \$1,040,720 to assist  
18 approximately 5600 households with utility  
19 assistance. Of that 5,670 households 2,762  
20 were AEP households. And the amount that we  
21 distributed directly to AEP to help pay for  
22 their services was \$257,741.

23 So approximately 48 percent of the  
24 customers that we serve here in Stark County  
25 are AEP customers who right now cannot afford

1 to pay their bills. And along with the low  
2 income customers that we serve increasingly  
3 households with incomes below the state median  
4 of \$44,000 find current electric prices  
5 unaffordable.

6 So there are just three points I  
7 kind of want to make regarding the Electric  
8 Security Plan. Number one, from what we have  
9 determined and estimated the plan could  
10 possibly provide AEP with an additional  
11 possible \$2 billion-plus over three years and  
12 that's just simply too big of an increase, you  
13 know.

14 And it's larger, in my opinion,  
15 than the 15 percent that they're proposing  
16 over three years. And it's really larger when  
17 you start looking at other costs that get  
18 collected later, you know, deferrals and other  
19 charges.

20 Number two, there is a critical  
21 need here in Stark County, like there was the  
22 person that talked about it earlier, that we  
23 need some low income energy efficiency funding  
24 and I'm not sure what AEP has done in that  
25 regard, but if you started to reach out to

1 organizations that do that type of work I hope  
2 that it results in you funding some programs  
3 to help people to be able to, you know, do  
4 some energy efficiency within their homes so  
5 that they can reduce their costs.

6 The third thing that I wanted to  
7 talk about is that I just feel there is a dire  
8 need for a fuel fund and if AEP could possibly  
9 establish a fuel fund because, you know, right  
10 now our agency, we're like the utility  
11 customer service center for poor people and  
12 when our resources run out when LI HEAP runs  
13 out of funding and it was possible earlier  
14 that we were going to lose some of our  
15 funding, you know, we don't have anywhere to  
16 turn.

17 So I would propose that if, you  
18 know, if this rate increase does go through  
19 that AEP look at developing a fuel fund and  
20 one of our partners, which is Ohio Partners  
21 for Affordable Energy, they're already helping  
22 Dominion and Vectren with a fuel fund. I'm  
23 sure if you decided to develop one they could  
24 help you with it and help you to implement it.

25 You know, I guess to put a human

1 face on all of this, you know, when our  
2 programs are in effect and we have two  
3 programs: We have a winter crisis program  
4 that runs from November to March and we have a  
5 summer crisis program that runs from June to  
6 August.

7 When our programs are in effect,  
8 we're able to help people. We get that person  
9 out of disconnect status. We get their  
10 service restored. We help them, but then  
11 there are times when we don't have a program.  
12 Like right now we're in between programs.  
13 September, October we don't have a program to  
14 offer. April and May we don't have a program  
15 to offer and that is when we see a lot of  
16 people that just simply can't -- they can't  
17 make it, you know. Their electric service is  
18 getting disconnected, you know.

19 Like right now we have people  
20 coming in to see us and their service is off  
21 and we can't help them. You know, I just had  
22 a customer in my office a couple of weeks ago.  
23 She was a cancer patient and her service was  
24 turned off, you know, and she was upset, you  
25 know.

1                   She came in the office. She was  
2                   crying and, you know, we were trying to calm  
3                   her down. We were making phone calls for her,  
4                   you know. I even suggested to her that she  
5                   try to get emergency medical to get her  
6                   service restored and she said that she  
7                   couldn't do that because her doctor was not in  
8                   the office.

9                   And so then I said, you know,  
10                  well, let me try to call. So I called Aultman  
11                  Hospital to see I could do something to get  
12                  the emergency medical expedited for her and I  
13                  wasn't able to do that. So the lady basically  
14                  had an anxiety attack right there in our  
15                  office, you know, and it was bad. And, you  
16                  know, I felt sorry for her, you know.

17                  And I kept calling different  
18                  people at AEP and finally I got ahold of  
19                  somebody and what I was able to do for her is  
20                  get the reconnect amount that AEP was telling  
21                  her that they needed. I was able to get it  
22                  lowered and we were able to find somebody that  
23                  could pay that for her to get her service  
24                  restored, you know.

25                  And so it started out being a very

1 bad thing for this woman, but it ended up in  
2 the end because of the phone calls and things  
3 that we made it ended up being okay. We did  
4 get her service restored but, you know, I just  
5 say that to say that every day that's the  
6 clients we see, you know.

7 We see vulnerable, low income  
8 people, elderly people, disabled people,  
9 single parent families that cannot afford  
10 their electric bill right now, let alone bear  
11 a 15 percent increase over the next three  
12 years.

13 You know, it goes back to that old  
14 saying and I know everybody has heard it  
15 before that, you know, people start making  
16 crazy choices. It's like what am I going to  
17 do? Am I going to pay my electric bill or am  
18 I going to buy some food? Am I going to buy  
19 my kids something to eat, you know? They have  
20 to make some serious choices when it comes to  
21 paying their bills.

22 And I just think that when you're  
23 looking at this rate increase or approving it  
24 you should look at trying to modify it in some  
25 type of way because this is really affecting



1 real people, you know. It's affecting real  
2 families and these people deserve to have a  
3 chance out here in life and they deserve to,  
4 you know, have their voices heard.

5 So that's pretty much what I  
6 wanted to say today. Thank you.

7 MS. SEE: Susan Artner.

8 MS. ARTNER: I think it's already  
9 stated.

10 MS. SEE: Okay. Michael -- I'm  
11 sorry, Michele Lucas.

12 MICHELE LUCAS  
13 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
14 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
15 testified and said as follows:

16 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
17 your name for the record.

18 MS. LUCAS: My name is Michele  
19 Lucas, that's M-i-c-h-e-l-e L-u-c-a-s and I'm  
20 Director of HARCATUS Tri-County Community  
21 Action Agency; that stands for Harrison,  
22 Carroll and Tuscarawas Counties and,  
23 Commissioner Roberto, pleased to meet you.

24 MS. ROBERTO: Nice to meet you.

25 MS. LUCAS: Haven't had the

1 opportunity yet but I'm sure we'll be seeing  
2 more of each other.

3 I'm here not only on behalf of my  
4 clients, much like Sandra, but I'm also here  
5 on behalf of myself. I live in Tuscarawas  
6 County, I've grown up in Tuscarawas County.  
7 Most of my life we have had Dover Electric  
8 which is a municipal utility which purchases  
9 power from AEP. I'm vulnerable just like the  
10 next guy.

11 I really do appreciate the time  
12 that everybody is putting into this hearing.  
13 I know it's been a long day for most of us.  
14 But one thing that I would really like to  
15 emphasize is that even a small increase in my  
16 monthly electric bill is going to be difficult  
17 to manage, especially if that small increase  
18 will eventually amount to 45 to 52 percent  
19 over the next three years.

20 I'm not going to get that kind of  
21 a raise. My husband is not going to get that  
22 kind of a raise. In fact, I'm going to be  
23 lucky if my husband has a job. I'm going to  
24 be lucky if I don't even end up having to  
25 layoff people who are seeing vulnerable, low

1 income individuals. And we don't have enough  
2 right now.

3 I know Sandra can agree with this.  
4 That first month or two starting November 1st  
5 is going to be hell because we're not going to  
6 be able to see everybody that's been shut off.  
7 We're not going to be able to resolve the  
8 issues. We're going to be spending a lot of  
9 time trying to establish eligibility and it's  
10 not easy.

11 One month ago Ohio felt the impact  
12 of a hurricane in a way we would have never  
13 imagined. Many people I personally know lost  
14 hundreds of dollars in food because their  
15 power was out for three or more days. Most of  
16 those people did not qualify for any relief  
17 and to add insult to injury they ended up  
18 cooking over camp stoves and in some cases  
19 fires out in their backyard.

20 Some folks I know ended up taking  
21 showers at our Tuscarawas YMCA, which opened  
22 their doors, and a few other locations that  
23 had their power restored within 24 hours.

24 They also suffered wind damage to  
25 their homes and they had trees down with huge

1 amount of debris everywhere. I have to admit  
2 I was in South Carolina with my parents at the  
3 time. Here we were worried about the  
4 hurricane coming up the coast and it hit Ohio.  
5 Who would have imagined?

6 People have already paid for that  
7 storm damage. They've had to restore their  
8 homes. They've had to cut up those logs.  
9 They had to cut up those trees. They had to  
10 deal with the debris and, according to  
11 reliable sources, it should have never  
12 happened to the extent that it did.

13 I was told that AEP has not  
14 maintained their power lines, not that I  
15 haven't noticed, equipment or support  
16 structures in a responsible manner. Had this  
17 routine maintenance been performed  
18 responsibly, falling trees and power line  
19 damage from extreme wind conditions would have  
20 been minimized.

21 Now it looks like AEP wants to  
22 recover their expenses from this storm or it  
23 already has.

24 I suspect that my husband and I  
25 will manage, we usually do. We're both

1     employed, our youngest child is in college and  
2     thank goodness it's the last one and we're  
3     probably going to end up paying increased  
4     college expenses because the college is going  
5     to have a higher electric bill and it's going  
6     to come out of someplace and it will probably  
7     be tuition. We're going to get hit from both  
8     sides.

9             And that is only one example of  
10    what a lower middle class or upper lower,  
11    whatever you want to call us, household like  
12    mine is going to experience.

13            My husband works in a local  
14    factory. Their electric bill is going to go  
15    up. It's going to effect their ability to  
16    give this man a raise, if he is still employed  
17    in a couple of months.

18            I work for Tri-County Community  
19    Action Agency and have been associated with  
20    other non profits, mostly HARCATUS, since  
21    1977. My operating budget, like Sandra's, is  
22    frozen.

23            I have four offices in AEP  
24    territory. I know all about HEAP and PIPP and  
25    the changes that have occurred over the past

1 30 years. I was one of seven individuals that  
2 helped create PIPP. I mean, it was a way to  
3 try to give our clients a fighting chance to  
4 keep their regulated utilities on during the  
5 harsh winters that we can experience in Ohio.

6 I know what I'm talking about when  
7 I tell you that seniors on a fixed income and  
8 the low income clients we attempt to help with  
9 their home heating bills are not going to be  
10 able to handle an increase of any amount.

11 American Electric Power or Ohio  
12 Power, whatever you want to call them, their  
13 customers are not going to be able to pay  
14 their bills without further cutting back on  
15 their food and their medicines. SSI, SSDI,  
16 low paying wages and many other fixed incomes  
17 will be expected to cover an increase that can  
18 only mean more money in the pockets of AEP  
19 employees and investors.

20 What will the penalties be if AEP  
21 fails to improve its services as promised?  
22 Please don't even consider increasing our  
23 rates to cover that.

24 Low income households, as defined  
25 in the Federal Poverty Guidelines, already pay

1 an average of 25 percent of their income for  
2 their housing, which includes their heat.  
3 According to a report that was presented last  
4 week -- over a week ago by Mike Smalz of the  
5 Ohio State Legal Services Association. How  
6 much should we be expected to conserve if our  
7 efforts don't result in any kind of a savings?  
8 Why do we have to pay for improving the  
9 distribution system reliability, economic  
10 development discounts or compliance with  
11 energy efficiency requirements?

12 I've been working with the Ohio  
13 Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the Office of  
14 Community Services (OCS) and Dave Reinbolt of  
15 the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy to  
16 restructure the percent of Income Payment Plan  
17 for the first time since 1983, other than what  
18 utilities have taken liberty with since 1996.

19 Hard work has been done on the  
20 energy efficiency side with weatherization and  
21 other conservation measures and AEP does have  
22 a fund that pays into this that we do benefit  
23 through our agency with our weatherization and  
24 housing department.

25 Personally my husband and I just

1 recently had our home insulated and sided with  
2 all new energy efficient windows. The  
3 HARCATUS Housing and Weatherization Program  
4 spends every last dime they receive doing  
5 similar work for as many low income residents  
6 as they can reach with hundreds still on the  
7 waiting list.

8 I know that it can take an average  
9 household, if you're not disabled, if you're  
10 not a senior, if you apply for weatherization  
11 through HARCATUS good luck. Three to five  
12 years before they may even contact you to  
13 update your information.

14 And then that doesn't guarantee  
15 they'll get to you because we have to  
16 prioritize the seniors and the disabled, which  
17 there's nothing wrong with that, but we can't  
18 get to the people that needs our service the  
19 most. They've got children for the most part.

20 All we're hoping for was to keep  
21 our bills at last winter's rates with the  
22 weatherization efforts, both on the part of  
23 our clients and my own home. We didn't even  
24 think about lowering our bills. That would be  
25 absurd.



1                   OCS has data that clearly shows  
2                   that my clients and Sandra's are not the  
3                   high-use problem contrary to popular opinion.  
4                   I am truly afraid that they are going to pay a  
5                   larger price this winter than many of us are  
6                   willing to acknowledge.

7                   These elderly, frail, mentally  
8                   challenged, economically challenged and  
9                   under-employed people are going to be very  
10                  cold and without necessities such as medicine,  
11                  decent food and other more frivolous things  
12                  like basic telephone and television service.  
13                  Those are the first things to go.

14                  I know seniors who cut their  
15                  medicine in half against their doctors'  
16                  recommendations so that they can make it last  
17                  twice as long. They can't afford. And we've  
18                  got affordable medical programs now for  
19                  prescriptions but it's still not enough.

20                  I made a few notes that are going  
21                  to add to my prepared statement. I feel like  
22                  we've been sold out by the City of Canton.

23                  I know how much my agency depends  
24                  on volunteers and how much we depend on  
25                  donations. We're not as dependent as a lot of

1 other agencies in this area. We're lucky that  
2 AEP and many, many other organizations that  
3 aren't going to ask us to pay them back donate  
4 their time and money and a good deal of the  
5 money that an AEP employee that may sit on a  
6 board or participate comes out of their own  
7 pocket because that's expected.

8           There may be support, and I was  
9 just in Columbus before I came here, trying to  
10 find ways of gathering some more money. It's  
11 getting more and more difficult. I can't find  
12 the money. Last summer our summer cooling  
13 program barely made it through July. We were  
14 out of money. I did not purchase any air  
15 conditioners. And I purchased 25 fans for  
16 each one of my offices.

17           Last winter lowly HARCATUS, which  
18 is much smaller than Stark County Community  
19 Action, spent over a million dollars and a  
20 very large part of that went to AEP because it  
21 doesn't matter how you heat your home you have  
22 got to have that electricity unless it's coal  
23 and you've got, you know, gravity furnaces.

24           I think we have two people that  
25 might have steam heat too but they're not as

1 dependent. It's a very small number. We're  
2 not coming up with alternatives. It's not out  
3 there. And I don't see it happening any time  
4 in the next five to ten years. It's not  
5 something that's that easy to develop and to  
6 implement.

7 Mr. Sherer, I understand where you  
8 come from on the union side. My husband was  
9 in the union. That's great that more jobs  
10 have been provided, but for Pete sake we can't  
11 ride that on the back of people that can't  
12 afford what their utility rates are right now.

13 For example, our home energy  
14 assistance program this year, and we're not  
15 even sure exactly how we're going to be doing  
16 it yet, hopefully we'll find out before  
17 November 1st, but we've been told that we can  
18 give \$950 to a household that heats with fuel.

19 Okay. That's pretty darn good,  
20 but then they might not get the state HEAP, so  
21 don't be too upset with them. \$750 for  
22 propane, \$350 if you heat with coal, which  
23 really isn't that cheap any more because the  
24 hauling fee is what's killing us. We have got  
25 to get this all over the countryside and our

1 coal haulers are not hauling out of as many  
2 mines as they used to, especially not in  
3 Harrison County.

4 Okay. Here we go down to the  
5 bottom of the heap here. And it really is a  
6 heap. \$175 to help with a utility bill. Now,  
7 that's fine and dandy if you have got a  
8 regulated utility because we've got PIPP that  
9 can protect you and we are working on revising  
10 that, like I said, which should help somehow.  
11 We have yet to see how that will develop, but  
12 if you heat with a municipal or cooperative  
13 like Carroll Electric, Belmont Electric a  
14 hundred and 75 bucks ain't going to cut it,  
15 folks.

16 And all of these other power  
17 companies follow suit with whatever AEP as a  
18 leader in Ohio is doing. You think for one  
19 minute AEP is going to get 15 percent a year  
20 and those other guys aren't? Not on your  
21 life.

22 I really appreciate this  
23 opportunity. I started testifying back in  
24 1983 when we developed PIPP. I went in front  
25 of an Ohio Power team of lawyers who doubted

1 my sincerity and I think I won. I would like  
2 to see that happen here. Thank you very much.

3 MS. SEE: David Thornton. David  
4 Thornton.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. SEE: Harry Eadon.

7 HARRY EADON, JR.

8 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
9 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
10 testified and said as follows:

11 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
12 your name for the record.

13 MR. EADON: Harry Eadon, Jr. and  
14 that's H-a-r-r-y E-a-d-o-n Jr. The passion  
15 here is incredible and it just really warms my  
16 heart that there are this many people that are  
17 willing to come out and talk about rate  
18 increases when, in fact, you know, many people  
19 are probably sitting at home on Thursday night  
20 maybe watching a football game. Maybe that's  
21 where I'll go next.

22 In any case, I would like to talk  
23 just briefly that I'm the President and  
24 Executive Director of the Tuscarawas County  
25 Port Authority. We're an economic development

1 agency in Tuscarawas County and actually  
2 regionally I guess and we have not taken a  
3 position on the rate increase.

4 We'll probably discuss that at our  
5 next meeting, but we certainly have not taken  
6 a position at this point.

7 I would like to talk, though, very  
8 briefly about the kinds of economic  
9 development partnerships that Tuscarawas  
10 County has, as well as what the role is of AEP  
11 in that economic development partnership.

12 I really appreciate you being here  
13 this evening, Commissioner, because I think  
14 it's important for you to hear the good as  
15 well as, you know, maybe the things that  
16 aren't considered quite so good.

17 The Tuscarawas County Port  
18 Authority, along with the Community  
19 Improvement Corporation, the Chamber of  
20 Commerce, the County have created an economic  
21 development partnership to try to promote the  
22 creation, as well as retention of jobs in  
23 Tuscarawas County and the region.

24 AEP certainly, along with the  
25 other utilities, frankly are important members

1 of that team and I would like to share just a  
2 couple of example of how they've created or  
3 fostered that relationship.

4 They have participated with the  
5 Chamber of Commerce in retention and expansion  
6 efforts for businesses. They provided funds  
7 for synchronous programs so we could afford to  
8 go out and interview businesses, both  
9 industrial customers, commercial businesses,  
10 as well as retail customers and that's been a  
11 very -- it's been very valuable to us because  
12 we found out about businesses that may be --  
13 may have been in trouble that we were able to  
14 help and actually retain in Tuscarawas County  
15 where we may have lost those businesses.

16 They also helped with a local  
17 business called Kimble Manufacturing through a  
18 grant that they made in order to extend  
19 utilities to a new site that they were  
20 building on. Kimble Manufacturing retained 75  
21 jobs and has already created 25 jobs and will  
22 over the next three years create an additional  
23 50 jobs.

24 Southern Gateway Business Park is  
25 a business park that Tuscarawas County Port

1 Authority owned and we have that building  
2 which was a 320,000 square foot building at  
3 the time that we received or acquired that  
4 building. That building was empty, had been  
5 empty for 12 years. Absolutely no one had  
6 worked there.

7 Through a number of different  
8 applications, not just AEP's grant that they  
9 provided to us for an electrical upgrade, but  
10 also a number of others we were able to bring  
11 a business into that business park that will  
12 be there from now until -- hopefully until at  
13 least after I retire.

14 We have retained 57 jobs in  
15 Tuscarawas County that likely would have  
16 moved. The company's headquartered in  
17 Wisconsin. This has become their Ohio  
18 headquarters. They were, in fact, they were  
19 encouraged to move to Indiana because of some  
20 better business climate, but we were able to  
21 retain them in part because of AEP's grant  
22 program that we were able to do an electrical  
23 upgrade at cost that was pretty reasonable for  
24 the business and fairly reasonable for us.

25 That, as I mentioned, has retained



1 57 jobs in Tuscarawas County and Ohio, 25 new  
2 jobs that will be created over the next three  
3 years and also made it possible to revitalize  
4 a 15,000 square foot office building that has  
5 also been empty for 12 to 14 years that we can  
6 perhaps use for local agencies. We're taking  
7 a look at how that might be utilized to help  
8 local agencies that can't afford good office  
9 space in the area.

10 That Southern Gateway Business  
11 Park is in Gnadenhutzen, Ohio so a little bit  
12 remote for most of you here probably that --  
13 probably in Canton I would guess.

14 So, you know, I guess what my  
15 message is is that certainly a 52 percent  
16 increase, you know, 15 percent compounded over  
17 three years sounds like a tremendous amount of  
18 money and it is, you know. I'm not going to  
19 discount that fact. It is and it's a heck of  
20 a presentation that they're going to have to  
21 make I'm sure to the PUCO to convince you to  
22 do it.

23 But AEP is a good corporate  
24 partner, you know. Whether or not they get 52  
25 percent that certainly, Commissioner, in part

1 will be in part up to you. And, you know,  
2 maybe that isn't going to be 52 percent.  
3 Perhaps it's going to be some other amount.  
4 And I can understand the anxiety from people  
5 here that are facing that amount. Certainly  
6 I'm one of you also that is going to face that  
7 amount, just like the steel union head. So I  
8 can understand your anxiety.

9 I can also understand, I hope you  
10 can understand that AEP truly is a good  
11 corporate partner, a good corporate neighbor  
12 and not only in Tuscarawas County, I'm sure in  
13 Stark County and the other parts of Ohio that  
14 they participate in.

15 So thank you very much. I  
16 appreciate your time and all of your passion.  
17 Thank you.

18 MS. SEE: Thank you. Shawn  
19 Starlin.

20 SHAWN STARLIN  
21 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
22 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
23 testified and said as follows:

24 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
25 your name for the record.

1 MR. STARLIN: Shawn Starlin,  
2 S-h-a-w-n S-t-a-r-l-i-n. I too am here to  
3 provide some incite regarding AEP's  
4 involvement in my local community of Holmes  
5 County.

6 Many years ago a concerned group  
7 of county leadership saw the need to establish  
8 an organization to address local economic  
9 issues. After years of careful planning this  
10 group, which included influential members from  
11 AEP, were able to fulfill their vision of  
12 forming what is now the Holmes County Economic  
13 Development Council. Joining the organization  
14 in December, I have come to realize and  
15 appreciate the counsel, support and generosity  
16 of AEP in fulfilling the council's mission of  
17 promoting quality economic life for the  
18 residents in Holmes County.

19 AEP has provided invaluable  
20 guidance, training, financial and technical  
21 assistance to my organization as we strive to  
22 create new employment opportunities and  
23 recreation opportunities locally.

24 In addition, I am also aware of  
25 other efforts on the part of AEP in Holmes

1 County aimed at community betterment. These  
2 include involvement with the local Main Street  
3 community. And in the short time that I have  
4 been actively associated with AEP I have found  
5 their interests in and concern for the local  
6 community to be quite genuine and sincere and  
7 I see them as a very good and loyal community  
8 partner. So that's it.

9 MS. SEE: Steve Paquette.

10 STEVE PAQUETTE

11 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
12 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
13 testified and said as follows:

14 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
15 your name for the record.

16 MR. PAQUETTE: Steve S-t-e-v-e  
17 Paquette P-a-q-u-e-t-t-e. I wish to address  
18 the group, the Commissioner, to you tonight.  
19 I'm President of Stark Development Board in  
20 Stark County. I'm not here to take a position  
21 on this rate case right now, but I do have  
22 some comments about the security plan that I  
23 would like to put on the record.

24 Four points. The first is that I  
25 realize that rate case is very difficult

1 because you're trying to balance interests of  
2 the utility company, the rates it charges, the  
3 equity it returns, the EPA requirements, all  
4 these things that go in to make the company to  
5 operate the utility today and that's a very  
6 difficulty part of running a business in the  
7 U.S. versus the interests of homeowners and  
8 customers, commercial, industrial and what is  
9 fair to them to be able to make sure that they  
10 can get affordable power at the best price and  
11 so I recognize it's a difficult job and hope  
12 that you do your best to try to balance those  
13 interests.

14 Having said that, what is critical  
15 I think to the economic development community  
16 is that when you balance that interest you're  
17 not just looking at what AEP is doing within  
18 Ohio, but also how it compares to utility  
19 rates and what is being charged, particularly  
20 the commercial industrial user rates, outside  
21 of the state and to other utility companies  
22 even within Ohio.

23 So that we look at the concept of  
24 Ohio's comparative advantage that what we hope  
25 we end up with is, through your deliberation,

1 is a rate that is competitive, that would  
2 still allow development groups like mine to be  
3 aggressive in attracting new jobs and new  
4 industry to the area because we're not placed  
5 in a situation where Ohio becomes  
6 uncompetitive in its rate because Indiana and  
7 other midwest states have a better rate.

8 So our concern is that you look at  
9 competitive advantages as a key factor in  
10 deciding what rate you choose so we can still  
11 have the opportunity to use the utility rates  
12 as one way to get people in here.

13 AEP is a great company. This is  
14 one of the leaders in the nation, but we just  
15 want to make sure that rates are competitive  
16 so we can continue to sell jobs and  
17 investments in Stark County and in the state.

18 Two other parts to the rate plan I  
19 think are very interesting. One is that when  
20 utility rates were deregulated years ago one  
21 of the things that was abandoned at that point  
22 was the idea of special contracts. In  
23 economic development and competing with other  
24 states the ability for utilities to provide  
25 special contracts for large users who are

1 major power users to come in and be able to  
2 locate because there are special rates was  
3 incredibly important prior to deregulation.

4 I believe it's hurt this state and  
5 hurt our area with deregulation in effect  
6 because there are no more special contracts  
7 and my understanding of AEP's Security Plan is  
8 that they will provide special contracts to be  
9 negotiated again in the future and I think  
10 that will help make Ohio much more competitive  
11 than they have been in the last ten years or  
12 so. We really support that idea.

13 The last thing is the development  
14 board has been involved particularly the last  
15 three, four years with really looking at  
16 alternative energy projects. We heard from  
17 Rolls-Royce tonight.

18 He helped create the committee to  
19 help put together and design the fuel cell  
20 prototype at Stark State believing that fuel  
21 cell has a real viable future here. They  
22 testified and worked on that project, but I  
23 can tell you that between Rolls-Royce and last  
24 week we had a hydrotech analysis which was  
25 looking at re-refining transporting oil. That

1 Ohio's got a very strategic opportunity  
2 through this rate case and through Senate Bill  
3 221 to look at really committing other  
4 companies to come into Ohio to look at  
5 alternative energy.

6 And one of the things that in our  
7 discussions with AEP is that they were  
8 prepared under their renewable portfolio  
9 standard to really address helping to fund  
10 research and development that will look at  
11 alternative energy as a way to spread out the  
12 cost of utilities by using alternative energy.

13 And we really support that as  
14 well, because I think it's going to create a  
15 lot of new opportunities to bring new business  
16 into the state who are coming to fill that  
17 void. So particularly the special rate  
18 packages and particularly the idea of the  
19 alternative energy funding through this plan  
20 we think is very important. So I thank you  
21 for the chance to testify.

22 MS. SEE: Thank you. Lee  
23 Henderson.

24

25



1 LEE HENDERSON

2 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
3 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
4 testified and said as follows:

5 MS. SEE: Please state your name  
6 and spell it for the record.

7 MS. HENDERSON: Lee Henderson  
8 L-e-e H-e-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm facilities  
9 manager at Union Metal Corporation. We're  
10 located on Maple Avenue, northeast section of  
11 Canton.

12 We have been heavily involved in  
13 Senate Bill 221 with the Ohio Manufacturers  
14 Association since the beginning. Along with  
15 Timken we were concerned about deregulation of  
16 electric power. It was going to raise our  
17 rates 75 percent. Senate Bill 221 was  
18 successful.

19 Ohio Manufacturers Association  
20 sent us many correspondence through e-mails  
21 and letters that it was successful. We didn't  
22 get a 75 percent increase, we got a 52 percent  
23 increase. 15 percent a year compounded is 52  
24 percent as stated earlier, that's correct.

25 And that's very, very difficult

1 for a mid to small sized company such as us as  
2 Union Metal. All Ohio companies that have  
3 sister plants in other states will also suffer  
4 from this type of increase. If you own a  
5 corporation and you had plants in three or  
6 four states would you choose Ohio when you  
7 know that the rates are going to be up 52  
8 percent for all your electric power?

9 This has happened in Maryland and  
10 other states where deregulation took effect  
11 and their increases went up 75, 80 percent.  
12 Companies actually pulled back plans to  
13 modernize the facility and to build additional  
14 plants there. They went to other states that  
15 are more friendly towards industry as far as  
16 utility rates.

17 The 52 percent increase that we  
18 will pay on our electric bill at Union Metal  
19 which accounts for \$250,000 at the end of the  
20 three years is really small compared to what  
21 we will pay with our local vendors.

22 My maintenance department spends  
23 in the local community in Canton area we have  
24 a truck that goes out every day and picks up  
25 parts, supplies, things like that. It's

1 nothing to do with our product, not even the  
2 steel we buy is between 100 and \$150,000 a  
3 year right here in the City of Canton.

4 If we weren't here that \$150,000  
5 goes away. Every business will have to raise  
6 rates to compete. They will not be able to  
7 absorb 52 percent increase in power.  
8 Therefore, the chart that we were submitted,  
9 that we were presented with tonight that shows  
10 what our electric bills are going to go up in  
11 our residential areas that's only a small part  
12 of what the true increase will be and true  
13 increase will be at the end of the month when  
14 you buy your groceries and everything else you  
15 buy.

16 Every vendor that we deal with  
17 will increase rates if they're within the AEP  
18 area. As I stated before, Union Metal's  
19 electric bill at the end of the three years  
20 will be \$250,000 a year, if it stays at 52  
21 percent. It may be more.

22 We have 356 families at Union  
23 Metal Corporation that depend on the company  
24 to be there. We also are a good corporate  
25 citizen. It's been stated that AEP is a good

1 corporate citizen. We are too.

2 Our employees donate time to help  
3 some of the schools in the Canton area with  
4 reading. We have donated bicycles and other  
5 promotional gifts to get students to come to  
6 school and with good attendance. We do a lot  
7 of good things within the community. Not to  
8 the level of some of the larger corporations,  
9 but we do I think an excellent job in  
10 promoting this area of Ohio.

11 And I don't think the City of  
12 Canton would really be very happy if they lost  
13 the income tax money from 356 employees.  
14 Thank you.

15 MS. SEE: Kevin Ellis. Please  
16 raise your right hand.

17 KEVIN ELLIS  
18 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
19 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
20 testified and said as follows:

21 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
22 your name for the record.

23 MR. ELLIS: Kevin K-e-v-i-n Ellis  
24 E-l-l-i-s. Thank you for the opportunity to  
25 speak. I'm speaking strictly as an individual

1 but -- and incidentally the presentations here  
2 have been dynamic you have to admit as far as  
3 covering all areas of this.

4 My area is strictly from a  
5 homeowner. Back in the end of '99 my wife and  
6 I moved from Geauga County down to Louisville,  
7 Ohio. One of the primary reasons was AEP.  
8 Because we were in Cleveland Electric whatever  
9 they are now, FirstEnergy, the gang and that  
10 was -- the rates were higher. AEP was very  
11 good. The rates were good. Stark County was  
12 great. Still is.

13 I'm so happy to hear that AEP is  
14 such a good community conscious. They're  
15 helping the community. One of the first  
16 things they should do is forget this damn  
17 increase. That would do a lot more for the  
18 community than anything else they're doing  
19 most assuredly.

20 I went through -- incidentally  
21 I've been battling the gas company. I didn't  
22 find out about the electric until just  
23 recently. I've had a little argument with MX  
24 Energy and I got slammed there with a high  
25 rate in July and getting out of their rate is

1 a hundred and 50 bucks. Take it or leave it.

2 Interesting thing, because of the  
3 gas we looked at the possibility -- we had to  
4 put in a new hot water heater. We said, hey,  
5 this would be great. Why wouldn't we use  
6 electricity? That would be one less -- AEP  
7 has a good rate. Then, of course, we found  
8 out copper wire has gone up astronomically to  
9 run and connect the electric hot water heater  
10 because obviously it was gas. We ended up  
11 staying with gas. I guess maybe we're going  
12 to be thankful we have gas.

13 But going through from '99 this is  
14 a summary of kilowatt hours and our rate. And  
15 back in '99 we were averaging right around \$7  
16 per kilowatt hour. Now we're right at 8, 8.5  
17 but I did a projection just going up in 2009,  
18 2010, 2011 just at our rate and another thing  
19 we did is our electric air conditioner went  
20 out. We said, hey, this is a good chance  
21 because we're familiar having lived in  
22 Kentucky with Kentucky utilities, which are  
23 much better rate than AEP ever had.

24 We installed a heat pump, which as  
25 anybody knows, you have efficiencies in excess

1 of particularly raising the temperature 200  
2 percent efficiency. It has been great. We  
3 have cut back our gas utilization last winter  
4 and the winter before was very, very  
5 significant.

6 Now we have a problem. What do we  
7 do? And it's staggering when you multiply our  
8 little problem with the number that we heard  
9 of the people in this area and what's  
10 surprised me tonight is the lack of government  
11 officials that are here. The people that are  
12 running for office, why don't they come out  
13 with their little cards here and make a pitch  
14 on behalf of the people they want to  
15 represent?

16 County commissioners, mentioned  
17 the City of Canton, Louisville where are you?  
18 I will certainly address Louisville council  
19 next Monday night and remind them that maybe  
20 they should write to you, PUCO. I don't know.  
21 Can government write and sponsor? I mean, why  
22 isn't Plain Township. I don't know who is  
23 here from government. Nobody. Or a few. I'm  
24 sorry.

25 And it has been a fantastic

1 presentation by the parties and you hear the  
2 tragedy of people with limited income.

3 I would love to see this whole  
4 thing at least get more time. I mean, as I  
5 understand it everything is geared for the  
6 December 31st date that they backup and they  
7 got 90 days, if I understand, so they get  
8 their magic time that there is very little  
9 time for anyone to do much evaluation.

10 They ended up coming with their  
11 hit right after I think they -- on their  
12 quarter report or something talked about some  
13 fantastic income and congratulations we're  
14 going to, stockholders, we're going to  
15 increase the rate 52 percent.

16 I believe that the PUCO and anyone  
17 else should kill this, at least delay it, give  
18 it a year to have it be looked at more  
19 thoroughly and get more input from people on  
20 all sides. Where is Marathon Oil for  
21 instance? They're probably not here. I don't  
22 know if they're in AEP territory or not, but  
23 I'm glad that Timken was here.

24 I'm glad that some of the industry  
25 was here, but out of horror stories that I can



1 tell in my previous life of what energy has  
2 done. There is a case up -- it's out of AEP  
3 territory, but a small body shop where they're  
4 still paying their gas, now this is gas, but  
5 the same problem, but it's deregulation where  
6 a company is -- one man goes around and makes  
7 -- his whole day is going around for Dominion  
8 East Ohio collecting on payments on last  
9 winter. Now we got this winter coming and  
10 congratulations we're going to have  
11 electricity up at a higher pace.

12 Again, I thank you for listening,  
13 but I would ask that at the very minimum this  
14 be delayed. I don't know if it can. I don't  
15 know state statutes. I don't know state  
16 regulations, but delay it a year, let it get  
17 as much information on all sides.

18 Maybe there is better ways of  
19 skinning a cat or skinning whatever and come  
20 up with a plan that is better for Ohio, better  
21 for industry and better particularly for the  
22 individual homeowners. Thank you very much.

23 MS. SEE: John M. Beckham, II.

24 (No response.)

25 MS. SEE: Rob Hankins.

1 ROBERT HANKINS

2 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
3 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
4 testified and said as follows:

5 MS. SEE: Please state and spell  
6 your name for the record.

7 MR. HANKINS: Robert R-o-b-e-r-t  
8 Hankins H-a-n-k-i-n-s. I paid my electric  
9 bill today. Curious that I was coming here on  
10 the same day I signed the check. By day I'm  
11 the Director of Arts of Stark County Arts  
12 Council. We run the cultural center downtown  
13 Canton, 330,000 square feet. All home to  
14 nonprofit organizations with very little  
15 money.

16 After three years of, let's see,  
17 putting UV on the windows, turning down the  
18 thermostats, getting computer controls to save  
19 energy, new insulation, I wrote out a check  
20 today for my monthly electric bill and it was  
21 \$11,000 and it made me think, gosh, that's a  
22 lot of money.

23 And none of the organizations at  
24 the cultural center as non profits want to do  
25 anything more than bring arts to all the

1 families in Stark County. They don't want to  
2 spend money on electric bills. So what is the  
3 answer here?

4 I used to think I was smarter than  
5 I think now. The world is a crazy place  
6 today. If you listen to the presidential  
7 debates, we know energy is a big issue and no  
8 one seems to have an answer. I was surprised  
9 to hear a week ago that a lot of the coal in  
10 Ohio and West Virginia and Kentucky is going  
11 to China and China is opening up a new coal  
12 powered energy plant every week.

13 And one of the reasons we're  
14 paying all of this money and AEP is paying  
15 money is because the energy situation in the  
16 world is so crazy. I think it's naive to  
17 suggest that there aren't world issues and  
18 energy issues that make this discussion  
19 difficult.

20 You know, I personally need to do  
21 better on saving energy. The non profits at  
22 my cultural center need to do better at saving  
23 energy. We use too much energy driving cars  
24 and we're not turning things off.

25 Now, people here tonight say,

1 well, AEP is a good corporate citizen as if --  
2 and some people seem to suggest that it  
3 doesn't matter. Let me tell you. I work with  
4 a lot of companies. Thank God I don't have to  
5 tell you about the companies tonight who  
6 aren't good corporate citizens.

7 I work with companies where no one  
8 serves on anyone's Board of Directors, where  
9 no one contributes or gives to the community,  
10 where the employees don't do anything. Part  
11 of the mess at Wall Street is by companies who  
12 aren't good corporate citizens.

13 So I think it is important if you  
14 believe AEP is a good corporate citizen to say  
15 that and suggest it counts for something.  
16 Since I'm not smart enough to know what the  
17 rate increase should be, but at 52 percent  
18 increase for my non profits scares me.

19 I don't have an answer to that,  
20 but I think it's naive to suggest in today's  
21 world that some adjustments don't have to be  
22 made. I'm just happy that you have to figure  
23 out what those adjustments are and I thank you  
24 for your time.

25 MS. SEE: Rod Crider.

1                    ROD CRIDER

2        of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
3        first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
4        testified and said as follows:

5                    MS. SEE:    Please state and spell  
6        your name for the record.

7                    MR. CRIDER:    My name is Rod  
8        Crider.    C-r-i-d-e-r is the last time.    Rodney  
9        Crider.    Thank you very much.

10                   I too like the last speaker have  
11        to appreciate the position that you are in.  
12        This isn't the easiest subject to address.  
13        There have been, like others have said, a  
14        number of different opinions that have been  
15        expressed and I think the diversity opinion is  
16        a good one.

17                   I'm one that's aligning with those  
18        that wants to just basically talk a little bit  
19        about my experience with AEP as an economic  
20        development partner.    We have had some of my  
21        colleagues have been up here to talk about  
22        their experience with AEP in their communities  
23        and how they have helped but, you know, as I  
24        sit here and listen to all the comments I  
25        appreciate that this is definitely not a black

1 and white issue. It's a very gray issue.

2 Like the previous speaker, glad  
3 that you are making the decision and I am not  
4 in your position.

5 However, I do want to say that AEP  
6 is an important partner in our community. I'm  
7 from the City of Wooster, but I run the  
8 economic development organization for Wayne  
9 County.

10 Like one of the previous speakers,  
11 my friend Steve Paquette, who works here in  
12 Stark County, I think what's important to  
13 consider is the competitive advantage because  
14 people like Steve and I and Shawn and others  
15 who were up here in economic development  
16 before me are dealing every day with the  
17 competitive I guess environment that exists  
18 for new investments in our communities.

19 We're working very hard to keep  
20 the companies that we have here. Like the  
21 gentleman that talked -- I guess Timken spoke  
22 before I was able to arrive here this evening  
23 about how it might impact them negatively and  
24 we're working really hard to do everything we  
25 can to keep those companies here.

1                   And certainly utilities is one  
2                   consideration that we have to take a look at  
3                   when we're trying to attract or retain  
4                   businesses, but it is only one of many factors  
5                   and for some businesses it's more important  
6                   than others and for some it's absolutely  
7                   critical. And one of the major expenses for  
8                   some, like some of the technology companies  
9                   that we're trying to attract today, it's not  
10                  that big of a deal.

11                  And I can tell you in Wayne County  
12                  we have three different -- at least three  
13                  different electric service providers and AEP  
14                  today is the most competitive of those three  
15                  in our county and we have people looking to  
16                  locate in AEP territory because their rates  
17                  are the lowest among the providers that exist  
18                  there today.

19                  I don't know what that will look  
20                  like if this proposed increase goes through,  
21                  if it will remain that way or not, but that's  
22                  the way it is today.

23                  And like some of my other  
24                  colleagues I'll just give you a couple of  
25                  examples of how AEP is helping us to attract

1 new jobs and retain jobs in Wayne County.

2 One of them is to provide funding  
3 for us to help us with technology that's  
4 necessary for us to compete. 87 percent I  
5 learned today of all site searches for new  
6 business locations start with the internet.  
7 So basically if a community does not have a  
8 good internet presence they're basically out  
9 of the game to begin with.

10 And AEP has helped to provide  
11 funds to our organization and to others to  
12 help us get that technology in place so that  
13 we can compete. They also fund directly some  
14 of our attraction efforts, our ability to go  
15 out and talk with companies from other states,  
16 other parts of the globe who are interested in  
17 coming here to develop marketing materials so  
18 we can communicate the advantages of northeast  
19 Ohio to companies who may be looking at making  
20 a new investment. And then retention efforts  
21 as well.

22 One of the previous speakers  
23 talked about the synchronous program. That's  
24 one of the leading software tools that's  
25 available to communities to help get



1 information about companies and some of the  
2 challenges that they may be facing, whether  
3 they be utility rates, whether they be  
4 worker's compensation rates, whether they be  
5 any other kind of expense that may be  
6 associated with the operation of their  
7 business. With synchronous we can identify  
8 what those are and then address them through  
9 programs like this and through others.

10 I also want to talk about some of  
11 their planning efforts. We have had our share  
12 of power outages when for no apparent reason  
13 it's usually the dreaded squirrel that gets  
14 in. I think we had one last week and power  
15 went down for about an hour, but I can tell  
16 you that AEP has been working with our  
17 organization to identify where those shortages  
18 are occurring and where the service needs are  
19 and are spending considerable amount of money  
20 to buy right of ways and other property from  
21 individuals, private citizens who are  
22 benefiting from those efforts to help us plan  
23 for the future of our community and the growth  
24 of our community.

25 Unlike many of the counties I

1 think in northeast Ohio Wayne County is still  
2 one that's growing. We have a very robust  
3 economy in Wayne County. We're highly  
4 diversified. Our biggest issue is we don't  
5 have enough land and buildings available for  
6 the people that would like to locate there.

7 That's our biggest detriment to  
8 attracting business to our community is the  
9 fact that we don't have the money to build the  
10 buildings that people would like to occupy in  
11 Wayne County. So AEP has been helping us with  
12 making sure that we have the electrical  
13 infrastructure in place in order to help us to  
14 attract those businesses in the future and we  
15 appreciate that a lot.

16 And then I know that they have  
17 made some efforts with our existing businesses  
18 to help them when they have experienced what  
19 they thought was some exorbitant expenses  
20 related to their power usage. Pepsico, a  
21 large international company located in Wayne  
22 County, operates a Frito Lay plant there, were  
23 having some issues at one time, in fact, about  
24 the same time our local Chamber of Commerce  
25 ran a survey of businesses who apparently had

1 issues with the outages that I mentioned  
2 earlier and the cost of those outages to their  
3 businesses which can be significant. There is  
4 no question about that.

5 But I would say that I thought  
6 AEP, and I've worked in five states now and  
7 worked with a number of different utilities, I  
8 would say that AEP was very responsive to that  
9 company's needs in particular and I think it's  
10 reflective of how they approached other  
11 companies in our community with their needs in  
12 going in and providing them with some  
13 consulting and engineering expertise to make  
14 them take a look at maybe what some of their  
15 internal systems where that could be improved  
16 to help them conserve some of their energy  
17 costs and at the same time doing upgrades to  
18 the service to the building and to that area  
19 generally in our community to assist them.

20 So, again, I'll just close with  
21 saying I don't envy your position. It is a  
22 difficult one that you have to make, but it is  
23 one of balance for us in the economic  
24 development community. It's one of making  
25 sure that Ohio remains a competitive place for

1 businesses to operate and we hope you will  
2 take that into consideration as you make your  
3 decision. Thank you.

4 MS. SEE: That concludes the  
5 witness list that was composed as people came  
6 in. Is there someone here that has not  
7 offered testimony that wishes to do so? Step  
8 forward, ma'am.

9 MS. KENDALL: Sharon Kendall.

10 MS. SEE: Please raise your right  
11 hand, Sharon Kendall.

12 SHARON KENDALL  
13 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been  
14 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,  
15 testified and said as follows:

16 MS. SEE: Please spell your name.

17 MS. KENDALL: K-e-n-d-a-l-l. I'm  
18 a senior citizen and each of these raises that  
19 come along really creates a hardship for all  
20 of us.

21 And I understand that AEP probably  
22 needs some kind of a raise, but the 15 percent  
23 averaging out to 52 percent is a little over  
24 the top and a little exorbitant and I think it  
25 would be very hard for many of us, not only

1 senior citizens but even young people with  
2 families to try to keep up with the cost of  
3 the utilities.

4 I believe that's way too much and  
5 I think that consideration should be made for,  
6 if there is an increase, a much less increase.  
7 The 52 percent would raise our costs way  
8 beyond what most of us could really consider  
9 paying.

10 That's all I have to say. I think  
11 it's too exorbitant. I think it should be a  
12 lower rate, if there is an increase at all.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. SEE: Thank you. Was there  
15 someone else that wanted to offer testimony  
16 tonight? Sir.

17 MR. L. DAUGHERTY: Can I speak  
18 again?

19 MS. SEE: Come forward. You spoke  
20 earlier today.

21 MR. L. DAUGHERTY: I'm still Lavon  
22 Daugherty.

23 MS. SEE: I would just remind you  
24 that you continue to be under oath. Okay.

25 MR. L. DAUGHERTY: I wanted to

1 point out a couple of things that came to my  
2 mind back here.

3 I am not saying that AEP does not  
4 need some kind of an increase, but most of the  
5 people that I heard tonight speaking in terms  
6 of their increases are basically the union  
7 that has the employees of AEP, the City of  
8 Canton which has their offices of AEP here and  
9 the like and they talk about holding their  
10 jobs and what have you and then also the port  
11 authority that talked about maintaining these  
12 jobs and the like.

13 I also own farm land in five  
14 counties and property in Tuscarawas County as  
15 well and some of this is in rural  
16 electrification areas. I think if you check the  
17 rates their rates are less than what AEP's  
18 are.

19 I will acknowledge that I got a  
20 notice last month that the electrification  
21 company was going to raise their rates but  
22 they're looking at more like a ten percent if  
23 I remember correctly. That's in Wayne County.

24 As Rod was speaking about in Wayne  
25 County, Holmes Wayne Electric serves you

1       there. I have land in the Lorain/Medina areas  
2       as well, which is I think cheaper than what  
3       you're going to have with this.

4               But the thing that I was talking  
5       about was competitiveness and they were  
6       talking about competitiveness between the  
7       other states around here. Now what I've heard  
8       in all our political talks on the radio or the  
9       TV and the like the last few months has not  
10      been about our competition against the others.  
11      It's these companies that are going to take  
12      them out of the United States if we can't stay  
13      competitive.

14              And I think that's the thing that  
15      we ought to be thinking about as much as  
16      anything else is maintaining the employment in  
17      the United States and that is where the  
18      biggest thing is happening with your  
19      corporations are moving clear out of the  
20      country. So I think we can not get too much  
21      concerned with the competition just between  
22      one another. We have to keep our employment  
23      in this country I think. Thank you.

24              MS. ROBERTO: Anyone else?

25              MR. W. DAUGHERTY: William

1 Daugherty.

2 MS. SEE: Mr. Daugherty, I would  
3 remind you that you continue to be under oath,  
4 okay?

5 MR. DAUGHERTY: Yes. I have been  
6 sitting back here and listening to everything  
7 and I guess I can't keep my mouth shut. I was  
8 in the Navy and retired and I retired as a  
9 first class petty officer because I couldn't  
10 keep my mouth shut. I never made chief.

11 But I was taught by a bunch of old  
12 chiefs if you had something to say you better  
13 say it and if you're right and whatever.

14 Now I've listened to the economic  
15 development people here talking about AEP is  
16 going to make it so easy for companies to come  
17 in and come from out of state and they're  
18 willing to pay 50 percent more for  
19 electricity. Now, how can that happen?

20 Are they going to give some  
21 sweetheart deals to companies to come in here  
22 and are we as citizens and as payers and  
23 taxpayers and people that use AEP are we going  
24 to bear the brunt of them making sweetheart  
25 deals?



1                   Now, I'm no expert and no economic  
2                   person, but I cannot see raising the rate 50  
3                   percent and you're going to tell me that  
4                   you're going to go out and bring companies in  
5                   here unless there is some things going on  
6                   under the table. And too many things have  
7                   gone under the table and I am down here  
8                   talking that I want it brought out in the  
9                   open. Thank you.

10                   MS. ROBERTO: Thank you. This  
11                   evening has been so very helpful to me  
12                   personally and I can't express to you enough  
13                   my gratitude that you took the time this  
14                   evening to spend it with us to share what your  
15                   experience has been paying your power bill,  
16                   living in this community. Thank you very  
17                   much.

18                   And as I said earlier, we will  
19                   stay around afterwards. If you have any  
20                   questions, we would be happy to hear from you  
21                   on other topics. Thank you.

22                   MS. SEE: Just one gentleman asked  
23                   if anyone could file comments in the case.  
24                   You can file comments in the case. We just  
25                   need you to indicate the case number, which is

1 08-917 and 08-918 and you can send those to  
2 the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at 180  
3 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

4 MALE VOICE: Do those have to be  
5 in affidavit form?

6 MS. SEE: No, they do not, sir.  
7 It does not have to be an affidavit. We just  
8 ask that you sign your name.

9 Okay. Thank you.

10 - - -

11 (Meeting concluded at 9:00 o'clock p.m.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

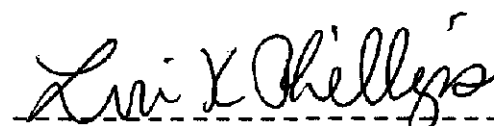
STATE OF OHIO, )  
                  ) SS:  
SUMMIT COUNTY, )

I, Lori K. Phillips, an RMR and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the proceedings were by me reduced to Stenotypy, afterwards transcribed upon a computer; and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the proceedings so given as aforesaid.

I do further certify that these proceedings were taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and were completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of any party, or otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron, Ohio, on this 27th day of October, 2008.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori K. Phillips, RMR and  
Notary Public in and for the State  
of Ohio.

My Commission expires December 2, 2010.

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