

FILE

Case # 08-0917-EL-SSO

PUCO

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The following 3 page diatribe is something I am trying to send to AEP. They won't give me their mailing address nor that of their corporate headquarters of the consortium which I understand is in Oklahoma.

Dissembling, sowing confusion, and outright lies seem to be their strong suit.

Don M Krause

PUCO

2008 NOV -4 PM 1:25

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AEP

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Case # 08 -0917-EL-SS0

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Nearly 30 years ago, being aware that it takes seven trees to counteract my carbon output, I planted four trees on the west side of my house, with the additional intent that in my old age I would be able to reduce my dependence on air conditioning for my house. I am retired on \$800/month SS, and high utility bills are a hardship.. I have always tried to minimize my carbon footprint. I collect my bath water to flush my toilet, and my laundry water is collected to water my yard plantings and trees, as is my dishwasher. I use only one unit of water per month. I have replaced all incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones, and 7 watt night light bulbs in my chandelier and wall sconces. I keep my thermostat set at 55 degrees F. in the winter, and have not used air conditioning for five years. I have an old Toyota Corolla that with good maintenance and careful driving can get 40 mpg. When I paid off my mortgage and credit cards, I destroyed them, and now purchase nothing for which I cannot pay cash. I have no debt. I could go on, but this should give you an idea of what I subscribe to. In May of 2006, an Asplundh tree service crew, at the behest of AEP drastically cut the three trees on my property on the Goethe Alley ( West side). When they reached well over the property line and topped my Norway Maple, destroyed the canopy of shade provided my a Magnolia Grandiflora, and cut out the center of a Thompson Seedless ash, I complained, and they ceased. On or about June 26 they returned while I was away and completed their destruction. I returned in time to see them finish the job. My house is now an inferno, and my side yard patio unuseable. The ash tree now lies on my roof and has done substantial damage to the shingles, because the removal of branches on the west side of the tree caused it to lean to the east. Heretofore I have been able to keep it pruned, but at 67 years of age, I am less inclined to climb to the roof to do this, and cannot afford to hire someone to do it. To AEP I am certain this is acceptable collateral damage, to me, it is a disaster. Nothing must interfere with that bottom line. And AEP spends its money so wisely: 50 million dollars to the city of Columbus for Whittier peninsula development. One cannot help but conjecture what AEP gets in return for that investment. Perhaps political pressure on PUCO to grant its recent request for a rate increase? And what rate of return: perhaps 250-300 million over the next four years? Not bad, how can I get a piece of that action? AEP reportedly spent 3.5 million on lobbyists. What special interest does AEP feel it need to protect? AEP reportedly spends 50-100 million for executive and board members salaries, honoraria, perquisites, bonuses, golden parachutes, stock options, and the list goes on. 10-50 million for advertisements. AEP is a monopoly, and should have no reason to advertise, except to encourage profligate consumption. That rather flies in the face of the twaddle that AEP puts out about conservation. As a public utility, i.e. a quasi-governmental entity, none of the expenditures are prudent, or justifiable. Salary structures should be more in line with government service pay scales, i.e. GS pay ranges 10-38, rather than those of the private sectors. One could make a case, that were these excessive and gratuitous outlays of cash eliminated, that a rate reduction might be in order. AEP seems to have lost sight of its mission statement: to provide service at the lowest economically feasible rate. Someday, AEP will request yet another large rate increase to update its infrastructure and technology. In the late 1950's, when the first warnings of global warming appeared in the scientific community, the efficiency rating of coal burning power plants was 28 percent. The efficiency rating 50 years later is still a pathetic 28-30 percent. Rather than trying to improve its efficiency, and being kinder to the environment, AEP has chosen to expend its enormous profits on the items enumerated above. Hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, that could and should have been spent on improving infrastructure was otherwise unwisely spent. However, coal is cheap, and the cleanup of the environment can be foisted off on the government. These past fifty years have demonstrated that energy is too important to leave to the largely unregulated private sector, and that deregulation of the energy sector many years ago have led us to the ecological disaster with which we are now confronted. We must accept the reality that a private sector energy consortium, whose sole raison d'être is the profit motive, is irrevocably contrary, even hostile, to any concept of conservation, and perhaps even the salvation of our civilization. Some 20 years ago, Smithsonian Magazine published a scientifically based study concerning the fate of civilization on Rapa Nui { Easter Islands } Overpopulation led to the exhaustion of the flora and fauna of the

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island, When the last tree was cut down, in order to serve as a roller for moving the Moa [i.e. stone statues], the residents were not able to build boats and were therefore unable to catch fish. There is evidence that in the end, they were reduced to eating the rats that they had introduced to the island, cooking them over grass fires, and there is also evidence that they descended to eating each other. And the civilization ended with only the statues as a mute testimony to their existence. Perhaps we should consider this parable as a portent of our future. If it requires 7 trees to counteract the carbon output of one human being how many millions of trees will be necessary to neutralize the millions of tons of toxic carbon effluvia put out by AEP's coal burning power plants? And yet AEP would like all trees to be kept to less than 15 feet in height, and destroys those that impinge on its power lines. AEP not only has created an environmental disaster waiting to happen, but seems hell bent on destroying that entity which can ameliorate this problem. It would not be inappropriate that we assign to AEP as their motto, the Openheimer quote: "I am become death, the destroyer of worlds." It appears to me that there is but one ultimate solution to this impending disaster: and that is the nationalization of all natural resources. There is now ample precedent from the imperial presidency of Mr. Bush for doing this. The bail-out of Bear- Stearns, the take-over of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac when malfeasance and incompetence are amply demonstrated. Each day brings more support for this position, in the interface between government and the formerly private sector. I think that no rate increases should be granted to AEP unless and until a complete GAO comprehensive audit of AEP's books, to determine where cost cutting measures can be implemented, before any rate increases are even considered. AEP's suggestion that the base rate for electrical service be raised will hit hardest those who can least afford it. I have a novel solution: an escalating base rate scale based upon useage- the more profligate the use, the higher the base rate, instead of the current practice of giving discounted rates to heavy users. The present practice subsidizes the rich at the expense of the poor, otherwise known as corporate welfare. None of the above will happen- AEP will bring is juggernaut of legal and political forces to bear, and it will prevail. Lord Acton said it very nicely when he gave us the aphorism: "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." It is no coincidence that Pope Benedict XVI listed obscene wealth as one of the ten modern deadly sins. And we will go down this road to destruction, It is my feeling that Mr. Gore was overly optimistic. I think it is happening now. This summer I have been frightened by two things: I have respiratory problems, and I have had more days when I had trouble breathing this muck we call air, and there are no birds. I have not seen a Robin for two or three months. Perhaps we should take Rachel Carson's "The Silent Spring" off our bookshelves, dust it off and read and believe it. I am old, and will die soon. In all honesty, I look forward to it. This brave new world, we are entering is not one of which I want to be a member. Thank you AEP for your contribution.

CC PUCO

V.P. AL GORE

Citizens Action Comm.

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what I failed to note in my opening paragraph is that in addition to having a very efficient car, I drive it only 200 miles / month or \$20.00 worth of gas— whichever comes first. I bicycle everywhere up to and including five miles distant, summer and winter.

Recently I have learned that AEP wants to assess its customers for the hurricane costs. Our state government has the sagacity to have a rainy day fund for unforeseen catastrophes. If AEP has the funds to spend frivolously as noted above why does it not have such a contingency fund? AEP's conduct: its management is unfit to manage without stringent guidelines by government, mandating a set aside of a percentage of gross receipts must be allocated for just such contingencies.

Recently a spokesman for AEP went on the broadcast news and stated that it was on a five year tree maintenance schedule. I planted my trees nearly 30 years ago and AEP has never been near my trees to prune them in those 30 years. It would appear once again that AEP has been negligent in the things it needs to do. AEP appears to have only an occasional tangential relationship to the truth. The truth to AEP appears to be whatever must be put forth to achieve the short term goal of the moment. In short, AEP's spin masters wouldn't know the truth if it bit them in the ass.