

FILE

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PUCO

PUCO Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Case # 80-0917-EL-SSO, AEP

To Whom It May Concern:

Although I am not opposed to any fee increase, I am opposed to pretty much a 50% increase in fees. In this economy, it will tremendously hurt many people.

Already, in Ross County, we are seeing an increase in theft of copper wiring from AEP's facilities as well as theft of electricity. I am also opposed to fee increases with a company who has no competition in our area. Perhaps the transformer line that my house utilizes would be better served if there was competition.

Since my family moved to Chillicothe, Ohio in 1971, we have had innumerable power outages, most of the unexplained except for the same catch-all excuse of "there are too many businesses and houses on the line". For 38 years we have gone too many times without power. This company has had ample time to fix the problem but hasn't. I am tired of watching the entire city, including my neighbors across the street have power, especially in the winter months, and not have to put up with throwing away the contents of their refrigerators and freezers.

I understand the impact the new environmental controls are having on AEP; however, as seems pretty standard to most businesses these days, when there are increases in fees or services, the monies go to pay salary increases, not upgrade equipment and service. If this statement isn't so, then I'd like to know why 38 years later we are still having weekly power outages at my house IN Chillicothe? And these are not just quick bump offs. These outages last from hours to days and they are not caused by ice storms or hurricanes.

When AEP upgrades our transformer and power station area off State Route 50, perhaps I would understand why they are requesting such a huge fee increase.

In difficult times, we don't need to see utility prices increase. Utilities are not a commodity nor should they be treated as such. They are a service that all people MUST have and as such, the costs must be protected so that all people can afford the service. I urge the PUCO to decline these excessive fee increases.



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