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**TRANSCRIPT TO THE
TESTIMONY OF:**

The Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio
Public Hearing

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In Re:

Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO

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Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of PUCO:

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4 SHANA EISELSTEIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
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8 On Behalf of Ohio Consumers:

9 GREGORY J. POULOS, Esq.
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15 On Behalf of First Energy:

16 EBONY MILLER, Esq.
17 First Energy
18 76 South Main Street
19 Akron, OH 44308
20 330-384-5849

21 - - - - -
22
23
24
25

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Page 3

1 MR. PRICE: Good evening.
2 The Public Hearing Commission is
3 set for hearing at this time, in
4 this place, Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO
5 in the matter of the application
6 of Ohio Edison Company, the
7 Cleveland Electric Illuminating
8 Company, and Toledo Edison Company
9 for authority to establish a
10 standard service offer pursuant to
11 section 4928.143 Revised Code in
12 the form of an electric security
13 plan.

14 My name is Gregory Price.
15 I'm the attorney examiner that's
16 been assigned to preside over
17 tonight's hearing.

18 Let's begin by taking
19 appearances from the parties.
20 With the company?

21 MS. MILLER: Ebony Miller on
22 behalf of the Cleveland Electric
23 Illuminating Company, Toledo
24 Edison Company, and Ohio Edison
25 Company, 76 South Main Street,

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Page 4

1 Akron, Ohio, 44308

2 MR. PRICE: Are there any
3 interveners present who I have not
4 seen?

5 Seeing none. I would just
6 like to note that all testimony
7 that I'll be hearing will be sworn
8 testimony, therefore, I'll give
9 the opportunity to give an oath or
10 affirmation before your
11 testimony. After that, please
12 state your name and address for
13 the record. Let's begin by taking
14 our first witness. Rodney
15 Johnson.

16 RODNEY JOHNSON,
17 After having been first duly sworn, as
18 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
19 as follows:

20 MR. PRICE: Please state your
21 name and address for the record.

22 MR. JOHNSON: My name's
23 Rodney Johnson, 5690 Western
24 Reserve Road, Canfield, Ohio, the
25 township. All right. The only

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Page 5

1 reason I'm here tonight is, my
2 house is all electric. All
3 right. I'm retired. I'm on
4 disability. All right. Now
5 you're proposing all the
6 increases, and I want to know,
7 okay, you want to propose all
8 these increases in the electric.
9 What do we get out of it other
10 than nothing, and losing? How do
11 we afford the increases in the
12 electric?

13 Don't have an answer, do
14 you?

15 MR. PRICE: Let's just be
16 clear. This is an opportunity for
17 you to tell the Commissioners.
18 It's not my proposal. It's not
19 the Public Utility Commission's
20 proposal. It's FirstEnergy's
21 proposal. I work for the PUCO.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yep.

23 MR. PRICE: And second, this
24 it our opportunity for you to tell
25 us what you think about the case.

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Page 6

1 MR. JOHNSON: Well, you don't
2 want me to say what I think about
3 the case. I'm reading the paper
4 right here in front of me. All
5 right. Cleveland is a lower rate
6 already, and they're going down
7 lower than we are. Now, you want
8 to raise Ohio Edison up.

9 Now, here's the problem:
10 What about the people that can't
11 afford it? Are we looking at that
12 issue?

13 MR. PRICE: Again, I'm not
14 trying to be rude.

15 MR. JOHNSON: I know, but --

16 MR. PRICE: Sir, let me
17 interrupt. I'm sitting, presiding
18 over this case as a judge before a
19 case. If you ask me questions,
20 it's like asking a judge to make
21 statements about the case in the
22 middle of a trial, so I can't
23 answer.

24 MR. JOHNSON: I'm trying to
25 live on a fixed income, and you're

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Page 7

1 trying to tell me I got to
2 re-adjust my fixed income because
3 you want to get more money off of
4 me for my electric power. All
5 right.

6 I want to know why you want
7 to make an increase in the
8 electric power. That's what I
9 want to know.

10 MR. PRICE: I understand
11 that.

12 MR. JOHNSON: All right. But
13 you haven't answered it yet.

14 MR. PRICE: I can't answer.

15 MR. JOHNSON: I know you
16 can't. So why do you want to
17 increase it? Why do you want to
18 make an increase when you can't
19 answer the simple little questions
20 that I'm asking?

21 MR. PRICE: I'm not
22 permitted to answer your questions
23 because I'm presiding over the
24 case.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Politics,

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Page 8

1 right? Am I correct or
2 incorrect?

3 MR. PRICE: Again, I'm not
4 going to get into a back-and-
5 forth.

6 MR. JOHNSON: I know half of
7 these people out there are older
8 than me. All right. I'm 55. All
9 right. Half of these people out
10 here are older than me. They're
11 probably making less money than I
12 am on my fixed income. All right.
13 How are they going to answer the
14 question -- how are you going to
15 answer this question to them? How
16 are you going to help these people
17 to accommodate themselves, by
18 increasing the utility bills? All
19 right.

20 We got enough foreclosures
21 on homes. Now you guys want to
22 squeeze people out because of
23 utility bills. Is that what
24 you're trying to do? Is this what
25 this country and this is what the

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Page 9

1 economy is trying to do?

2 MR. PRICE: I understand what
3 you're saying, but again --

4 MR JOHNSON: No, you don't.
5 You don't understand what I'm
6 saying because you have not
7 answered my question yet. You got
8 the wrong person at the podium
9 first.

10 MR. PRICE: Let's go off the
11 record.

12 - - - - -

13 (Discussion had off the record.)

14 - - - - -

15 MR. PRICE: Let's go back on
16 the record.

17 MR. JOHNSON: I just kind of
18 wish somebody would be -- I kind
19 of wish we had a fourth chair up
20 there that somebody could give us
21 an answer, instead of taking our
22 questions, and our complaints, and
23 our problems and being told, well,
24 we are going to listen to you.
25 But what's the answer? That's

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Page 10

1 what I wish somebody can give us.
2 And I think everybody out here,
3 you all want the answer, correct?

4 AUDIENCE: Yes.

5 MR. JOHNSON: That's it. We
6 want an answer. We don't want to
7 hear you saying, we're taking this
8 input in. Okay. We want to hear
9 you trying to give us a halfway
10 decent answer as to why you want
11 to increase the power and
12 everything on us. That's all I'm
13 asking.

14 MR. PRICE: I understand.

15 MR. JOHNSON: And I think if
16 everybody else comes up and asks
17 the same question I'm asking,
18 they're going to ask for the same
19 answer that I'm asking for. Give
20 me an answer, please. Don't say
21 we have to review this. That's
22 nonsense.

23 I'm sorry. Call the next
24 one.

25 MR. PRICE: Before we take

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Page 11

1 our next witness, I believe we
2 have an appearance from one of the
3 interveners at this time.

4 MR. POULOS: Thank you, Your
5 Honor. Greg Poulos from the Ohio
6 Consumer Counsel, Janine Migden-
7 Ostrander herself, we represent
8 the residential customers in this
9 case. Thank you.

10 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Our
11 next witness is Irene McFall.

12 IRENE McFALL,
13 After having been first duly sworn, as
14 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
15 as follows:

16 MR. PRICE: State your name
17 and address for the record.

18 MS. MCFALL: Irene McFall,
19 M-C-F-A-L-L, 6295 Farmington
20 Circle, Canfield, 44406.

21 MR. PRICE: Please proceed.

22 MS. MCFALL: Pardon me?

23 MR. PRICE: Please proceed.

24 MS. MCFALL: Proceed?

25 MR. PRICE: Yes.

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Page 12

1 MS. McFALL: Well, I didn't
2 come here to speak, to tell you
3 the truth. I'm just wondering how
4 much the electric bill is going to
5 go up. And I guess if I have to
6 pay it, I don't have much choice,
7 do I? That's about all I have to
8 say.

9 MR. PRICE: Jane Price.

10 JANE PRICE,
11 After having been first duly sworn, as
12 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
13 as follows:

14 MR. PRICE: Please state your
15 name and address for the record.

16 MS. PRICE: Jane Price at
17 4096 Stratford Road in Boardman,
18 Ohio. Well, really, like Irene, I
19 didn't plan on speaking tonight,
20 but I feel the same way that
21 everybody else is here. With all
22 of our utility bills going up,
23 what are we going to do?
24 Especially all the seniors. We
25 all live on a limited income. And

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Page 13

1 just like the fellow that spoke, I
2 mean about his house, I think we
3 all did come to hear answers. But
4 I guess you can't give us any
5 answers at all. So that's all I
6 have to say.

7 MR. PRICE: Thank you. John
8 Fromel.

9 JOHN FROMEL,
10 After having been first duly sworn, as
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
12 as follows:

13 MR. PRICE: Please proceed.

14 MR. FROMWELL: John Fromel,
15 10900 Shadow Wood Lane, Canfield,
16 44406. I'm here to speak to you
17 about the two Energy for Education
18 Programs that FirstEnergy has
19 offered 249 participating Ohio
20 school districts over the last ten
21 years. These two Energy for
22 Education Programs have been
23 extremely helpful in keeping the
24 electric rates --

25 - - - - -

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 14

1 (Discussion had off the record.)

2 - - - - -

3 MR. PRICE: Start over.

4 MR. FROMEL: My name is John
5 Fromel. I live at 10900 Shadowood
6 Lane, Canfield, 44406. I'm
7 currently president of the South
8 Range Local School Board of
9 Education, and I'm here to talk to
10 you tonight about the two Energy
11 for Education Programs FirstEnergy
12 has offered over 249 school
13 districts over the last ten
14 years. These two Energy for
15 Education Programs have been
16 extremely helpful in keeping the
17 rates down for the schools, and
18 we've been very appreciative of
19 that fact.

20 The savings that we've
21 realized from these two programs
22 have been used for increased
23 learning opportunities for our
24 children. The current Energy for
25 Education 2 Program, which is in

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Page 15

1 effect, is scheduled to expire on
2 December 31st of 2008, which would
3 cause our rates to go up on
4 average about 13.4 percent.

5 Collectively, the loss, if
6 this program expires and isn't
7 renewed, will cost the 249
8 participating Ohio school
9 districts over 11.7 million
10 dollars per year. This increase
11 hits schools extremely hard.

12 At least, specifically, in
13 South Range Local Schools, that
14 increase, if this program isn't
15 renewed, will cost us at least two
16 educational teaching aides. The
17 money can also be spent for the
18 science textbooks for our entire
19 high school.

20 So what I'm asking you
21 tonight to do is, we're asking
22 thing PUCO to order FirstEnergy to
23 offer the Ohio Schools Council and
24 its 249 participating school
25 districts an Energy for Education

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Page 16

1 3 program so we can continue to
2 see some savings based on our
3 usage, and then go ahead and take
4 those savings and funnel it into
5 the learning opportunities for our
6 children. Thank you.

7 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Our
8 next witness is Linda Hott.

9 LINDA HOTT,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
12 as follows:

13 MS. HOTT: I don't have --
14 what do you call it -- the kind of
15 degrees that other people have.
16 I'm just a widow. I live on a
17 fixed income, and we need a break
18 also. We don't see any relief in
19 what we are getting for our
20 pensions. And I'm talking about
21 older ones, younger ones. There
22 is ones with children. How are
23 they going to survive with the
24 Public Commission doing these
25 things.

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Page 17

1 I've seen how it works with
2 the gas thing. And we're not
3 getting any help from the Public
4 Utilities Commission. We're not
5 being represented from that. And
6 we would like to keep our prices
7 reasonable.

8 We understand that the cost
9 for the utilities has gone up and
10 that you have expenses, but we
11 have expenses, and we have to live
12 too.

13 What are we to do when we
14 don't have any representation? We
15 get, yes, we're there for you.
16 They turn around, there is nobody
17 there for us afterwards. Do we
18 lose our homes because we can't
19 afford to heat our places? Set in
20 the dark because we cannot afford
21 to pay the light bills? We don't
22 have running water because their
23 prices are going up? We have to
24 cut back. Why don't they cut
25 back? It's not fair.

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Page 18

1 MR. PRICE: Our next witness
2 is Judy Prosen.

3 JUDY PROSEN,

4 After having been first duly sworn, as
5 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
6 as follows:

7 MR. PRICE: Please state your
8 full name and address for the
9 record.

10 MS. PROSEN: Judy Prosen,
11 3634 Kirk Road, Austintown, Ohio.

12 I also am a widow, and I have
13 seen my electric bill increase for
14 one person. I have been away on
15 vacation. I have not seen a
16 decrease in my electric bill when
17 I came home. Something is
18 drastically going on. I've had my
19 house checked. I've purchased all
20 appliances that are supposedly
21 energy efficient, and I still
22 don't see a decrease in anything,
23 so yes, I hope you check this out
24 very, very thoroughly before you
25 give them the increase.

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Page 19

1 MR. PRICE: Our next witness
2 is Dale Bradshaw.

3 MR. BRADSHAW: Pass.

4 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Larry
5 Tropepe. I'll just ask for a
6 pronunciation.

7 LARRY TROPEPE,
8 After having been first duly sworn, as
9 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 MR. PRICE: Please state your
12 name and address for the record.

13 MR. TROPEPE: Larry Tropepe,
14 4582 Aspen Drive, Austintown,
15 Ohio. I'm glad you brought up the
16 customer service issues. I would
17 like to address this directly to
18 Ohio Edison. It's non-existent.
19 On September 24th -- I'm sure
20 you've driven through this
21 community. We've got trees that
22 have been shaved in half by Ohio
23 Edison's contractors.

24 I made a complaint to the
25 PUCO on September 25th. My trees

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Page 20

1 were hacked on the 24th. Every
2 limb on the north side of my
3 street was cut off because the
4 lines were about twenty feet away
5 in my neighbor's yard, 200-foot
6 trees that were shaved all the way
7 to the top. Some south-facing
8 limbs were hacked away on these
9 trees.

10 The PUCO, like I said, has a
11 complaint on file if you would
12 like to reference it. It's LTRO-
13 092508.

14 It wasn't until after two
15 calls to Ohio Edison to get
16 somebody to return a call to me to
17 ask me why these trees were hacked
18 like they were. It took the PUCO
19 to send the complaint to Ohio
20 Edison for any response.

21 One of their arborists came
22 to my home on October 1st, and he
23 looked at me and said, "these
24 limbs will grow back."

25 I'm not an arborist. I've

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Page 21

1 been in banking for 25 years, but
2 I could see where the trees had
3 been cut prior to where it had
4 been trimmed. And believe me, the
5 limbs don't grow back. If we have
6 any medical experts here, somebody
7 loses a limb, it doesn't grow
8 back, does it?

9 I'm still waiting for the
10 PUCO to respond to this
11 complaint. Ohio Edison, the most
12 they will do is cut down the rest
13 of the tree. I bought this tree
14 to help keep my home cool in the
15 summer -- excuse me. I bought
16 this house with five trees on the
17 lot. Okay. It helps keep the
18 house cool in the summer. These
19 trees were over 200 years old.
20 Okay. All I'm going to see is an
21 increase in my electric bills
22 along with the rate increases.
23 What type of response is that from
24 Ohio Edison?

25 Now, I mean, if this person

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Page 22

1 were an arborist, like he claims
2 that he is, wouldn't he want to
3 defend the growth of trees? They
4 do help to keep the air cleaner.

5 If I knew that Ohio Edison
6 was -- best term I can use is
7 eco-terrorists -- I will replace
8 my electric dryer with a gas
9 dryer, the electric chain saw that
10 I just bought right after Ike came
11 through with a gas powered one.
12 Okay. I've been trying to keep my
13 home as clean as possible. Ohio
14 Edison does not do anything to
15 help that.

16 If you'd like to see some
17 pictures, I've got them right
18 here. If not, just look on the
19 site.

20 MR. PRICE: Would you like to
21 put them in the record?

22 MR. TROPEPE: Yes, I would.

23 MR. PRICE: On my own motion,
24 we're going to mark these pictures
25 as Hearing Exhibit 1. If you

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Page 23

1 would just give them to the court
2 reporter to make sure they're
3 included. Next witness is Don J.
4 Zambrini.

5 DON J. ZAMBRINI,
6 After having been first duly sworn, as
7 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
8 as follows:

9 MR. PRICE: Please state your
10 name and address for the record.

11 MR. ZAMBRINI: Don J.
12 Zambrini, 581 Sawmill Run,
13 Canfield, Ohio. However, I am in
14 the position of superintendent of
15 schools for Canfield Schools. I'm
16 here this evening to tell the
17 Commission, first of all, thank
18 you for providing us with this
19 opportunity to give testimony.

20 We, the school districts,
21 must find ways to save money. One
22 of those ways is by buying
23 different products as a
24 consortium. We are part of South
25 Range School District. We are

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Page 24

1 part of the Ohio Schools Council
2 with 249 other school districts.
3 We are very appreciative of
4 FirstEnergy of their cooperation
5 in the past.

6 In the past we've had two
7 Energy for Education Programs in
8 the last ten years, which have
9 been very helpful in keeping the
10 electric rates down. The savings
11 to school districts then have
12 meant that we've been -- we have
13 been allowed to have increased
14 learning opportunities for our
15 students, whether it's technology,
16 textbooks, and other matters.

17 The current Energy for
18 Education Program 2 will expire on
19 December 31st, 2008, which will
20 cause our electric rates to
21 automatically go up an average of
22 13.4 percent. Then any new
23 distribution rate increase, or any
24 generation increase authorized by
25 the PUCO will be on top of that

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Page 25

1 average of 13.4 percent.

2 To give you an idea
3 collectively what that means, the
4 249 schools in this consortium
5 that have worked very
6 cooperatively with FirstEnergy,
7 and appreciate the efforts of the
8 program, they will then be hit for
9 over 11.7 million dollars per year
10 just in this new change.

11 FirstEnergy's distribution
12 rate increase in this PUCO case,
13 and any generation increase will
14 be an addition to that 11.7
15 million dollar loss.

16 Ohio Schools Council is
17 currently analyzing the amount of
18 rate increase that will result in
19 the generation rates proposed.
20 That analysis is not complete, but
21 if this generation rate increase
22 is in place, we are told it could
23 increase as much as 30 to 40
24 percent. Again, that is beginning
25 January 2009.

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Page 26

1 Those of you in the audience
2 know something about schools and
3 property tax. In trying to keep
4 property tax down so we don't have
5 to come back to residents for
6 levies, we try to use our money
7 and try to join consortiums where
8 we save. We get a better price on
9 paper products, on computers, and
10 buying in volume, just as many of
11 you do in different ways.

12 Well, this is buying in
13 volume with a wonderful agreement
14 with FirstEnergy, except that must
15 cease at this time. And so at
16 this time, if our rates go up, we
17 have no choice but to then pass it
18 on to the property tax owner
19 because we don't get any extra
20 money.

21 There are certain things that
22 come from the Ohio Revised Code,
23 the legislature. They're called
24 unfunded mandates. So for
25 instance, if I have to do

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Page 27

1 something with my students, then
2 that district pays for that. It's
3 not supported by state money.
4 It's just told to us, you need to
5 do this. It's a mandate. And
6 there is no money that comes with
7 that mandate. So in the same way,
8 this particular problem we're
9 facing, this is an unfunded
10 mandate over which we have no
11 control. We have to cut elsewhere
12 in our budget in order to fund
13 this increase.

14 And to give you an
15 appreciation of what the schools
16 have already suffered, I will give
17 you facts. Fiscal year '07, which
18 is our school year '07 -- '06/'07,
19 we spent \$161,000 for diesel
20 fuel. In fiscal year '08, which
21 is '07/'08, it went up to
22 \$221,000. Now, again, we had --
23 we found the money by decreasing
24 and reducing, but we cannot make
25 other reductions. So at this time

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Page 28

1 the loss of Energy for Education 2
2 Program, and the special school
3 rates, this is going to
4 drastically affect the 249 school
5 districts. Our school district
6 cannot absorb any other levels of
7 increases of this nature.

8 Again, I'm sure you can
9 appreciate this hits our schools
10 and this region, and in the state,
11 but especially in Mahoning County
12 it hits our schools
13 disproportionately hard,
14 especially with the loss of the
15 discount, that Education 2
16 Program.

17 This is not a gradual
18 increase. It's a huge increase.
19 Therefore, in conclusion, I would
20 ask the Commission, I would ask
21 PUCO to order FirstEnergy to offer
22 the Ohio School Council and its
23 249 participating public school
24 districts an Energy for Education
25 3 Program to achieve gradually in

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Page 29

1 any rate increase to the schools
2 that may result from this case. I
3 thank you for the opportunity to
4 give testimony this evening.

5 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Our
6 next witness is Leon Kurm.

7 LEON KURM,
8 After having been first duly sworn, as
9 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 MR. PRICE: Please state your
12 name and address for the record.

13 MR. KURM: Leon Kurm. 4449
14 Burkey Road, Austintown, Ohio,
15 44515. I want to start by saying
16 that I've lived in five major
17 parts of the country, starting in
18 Chicago; including Phoenix,
19 Arizona; South Bend, Indiana;
20 Cooksville, Tennessee, and now
21 here. I have to give -- on a
22 positive note -- credit to
23 FirstEnergy, because out of all
24 the services I've ever had, the
25 service I have here in Ohio seems

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Page 30

1 to have been the best.

2 On the negative side,
3 recently I just improved my
4 service to my home. And going
5 back to the employees of
6 FirstEnergy, I was charged an hour
7 worth of time for an inspector to
8 come out and inspect the lines
9 that were installed in my home
10 before they could resume power.
11 It took him exactly five minutes
12 to do that, not including his
13 travel time, but still, he wasn't
14 at my house but for five minutes,
15 and they charged me a full hour
16 for his services. And I thought
17 that was a bit much.

18 What I would like to see,
19 with the Commission's involvement,
20 with any increase or not, is some
21 accountability for the increase.
22 Is it just for operating
23 expenses? And if so, in my line
24 of business in the past, every
25 year we had to cut costs.

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Page 31

1 Is the Commission actually
2 working with the services to see
3 exactly what they can do to cut
4 the costs, or are they cutting
5 costs? Are they looking for ways
6 to do that?

7 Also, I haven't seen or heard
8 of anything for increasing the
9 cleanliness of the energy that's
10 being produced. Is this money
11 going to go towards that? It
12 seems that more and more we are
13 more concerned with our
14 environment, so that's a big issue
15 that would have to be also
16 addressed.

17 And, again, with the -- with
18 what we've heard, the fixed
19 incomes, the schools, those are
20 all important things that need
21 help. We all need the help,
22 especially in the economy and the
23 situation that we're in today.
24 I'd like to see more done for the
25 people who need it. Thank you.

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Page 32

1 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Our
2 next witness is Jodi K. Stoyak.

3 JODI K. Stoyak,
4 After having been first duly sworn, as
5 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
6 as follows:

7 MR. PRICE: Please state your
8 name and address for the record.

9 MS. STOYAK: Jodi Stoyak,
10 5750 Logan Arms Drive.

11 Thank you for allowing me the
12 opportunity to speak with you this
13 evening. I have been a little bit
14 frustrated trying to figure out
15 how to find you guys to speak to
16 you, so I took this opportunity to
17 come here this evening.

18 First of all, I'm not in
19 favor of an increase of this
20 magnitude. I would like to ask
21 the PUCO to apply pressure to
22 FirstEnergy to actively work with
23 communities to change over street
24 lights to LEDs. I'm a Liberty
25 Township trustee, and when I first

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 33

1 came on board, we were paying
2 about \$50,000 a year for our
3 street lights in Liberty
4 Township. In addition, there are
5 lighting districts that streets --
6 like I live on a street that has a
7 lighting district that we pay for
8 in our taxes.

9 There is a lot of research
10 being done on LEDs right now. We
11 have a Liberty Business
12 Association that invited our local
13 representative from FirstEnergy,
14 and really what she said was that
15 they're doing research on it. But
16 the time for research -- the
17 research has already been done.
18 It's time to implement.

19 We visited Elwood City in
20 Pennsylvania. They're turning
21 over all their street lights to
22 LEDs. There is little to no
23 maintenance. They're good for 25
24 years, and it reduces the cost
25 significantly. This would not

1 only help townships and schools,
2 it would also help homeowners on
3 reducing the money that they pay
4 for their street lights through
5 their taxes. So I urge you, as
6 part of PUCO, to try to encourage
7 very diligently to look at LEDs
8 for street lights.

9 The State of Ohio is really
10 behind the times in that respect.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. PRICE: That concludes
13 our witnesses who have signed up.
14 Is there anybody who has not
15 signed up that would like to make
16 a statement for this evening?

17 Yes, sir.

18 JERRY YABLONKAI,
19 After having been first duly sworn, as
20 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
21 as follows:

22 MR. PRICE: Please state your
23 name and address for the record.

24 MR. YABLONKAI: Jerry
25 Yablonkia, Y-A-B-L-O-N-K-A-I, 5631

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 35

1 Cider Mill Crossing. I would like
2 to thank you for the opportunity
3 to speak tonight.

4 The concerns that I have are,
5 of course, that we're all
6 stretched thin, and it would be my
7 hope that the PUCO is looking out
8 for us, the consumers. We also
9 have the OCC that's looking out
10 for the PUCO, because it doesn't
11 seem like the PUCO is looking out
12 for us consumers. So we have a
13 watch dog organization, we have
14 the watch dog for the watch dog.

15 It would be my hope that
16 you're consumers as well, and you
17 pay electric bills. It would be
18 my hope that Ohio Edison,
19 FirstEnergy isn't paying your
20 electric bills and gas bills, and
21 so you're seeing firsthand what's
22 happening as well.

23 So we're all stretched thin.
24 None of us can afford increases.
25 We already have natural gas

1 increases.

2 This deregulation was
3 supposed to lower all this and
4 keep competition -- keep these
5 prices down. And so now it's not
6 doing that. And so to make this
7 more general, we are going to
8 phase in an outrageous increase
9 for market pricing.

10 Deregulation isn't working.
11 Let's fix that. Let's fix
12 deregulation. Let's have the
13 accountability. That's the one
14 word that really struck home with
15 me. But also, as a consumer,
16 we're going to have an increase,
17 but then the school systems can't
18 afford this as well, so they're
19 going to pass it on to us.

20 So our increase is actually
21 going to be 95 because we are
22 going to be paying greater
23 property taxes. So let's have
24 accountability. Let's put these
25 utility companies under the fire

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 37

1 and scrutiny that they need to be
2 under to keep -- you know, to
3 continue doing what you're
4 supposed to be doing.

5 The OCC can do what they are
6 doing. And try and get these
7 rates reduced, because that's
8 really the direction everything
9 should be going. It should be
10 going down instead of up. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Would
13 anybody else like to testify
14 that's not had a chance?

15 Come on up.

16 DENISE BARTHOLOMEW,
17 After having been first duly sworn, as
18 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
19 as follows:

20 MR. PRICE: Please state your
21 name and address for the record.

22 MS. BARTHOLOMEW: My name is
23 Denise Bartholomew, 319 Center
24 Street, Hubbard. I believe that
25 at the moment with FirstEnergy,

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 38

1 this company is not having enough
2 competition. Maybe we ought to
3 get all our towns, and cities, and
4 villagers, and aggregate, and
5 maybe if we have enough customers,
6 we might be able to get another
7 company that would be serving the
8 needs of this area, and possibly
9 we would have a better price.

10 I have heard Mr. Lee
11 Harrington, and I believe that he
12 had a very good idea. And maybe
13 all of us together, we might be
14 able to get more competition and
15 help out with the prices. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

18 SANDRA JENKIN,

19 After having been first duly sworn, as
20 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified
21 as follows:

22 MR. PRICE: Please state
23 your name and address for the
24 record.

25 MS. JENKIN: My name is

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 39

1 Sandra Jenkin. J-E-N-K-I-N. 2650
2 Homestead Road, Youngstown, Ohio,
3 44505. Now, I run a cleaning
4 business. I would like to know
5 why the PUCO or the FirstEnergy
6 can just come to us and say, hey,
7 we're going to raise our rates,
8 and we don't have a choice in the
9 matter. If I would do that to my
10 customers, they would say, hey,
11 you know what, you either survive
12 on what you have, or we'll look
13 for somebody cheaper. And what
14 that lady had just said about
15 getting somebody else in a
16 competitive area here would be
17 also a great advantage to the
18 consumers.

19 I'm also a widow, too, and
20 I'm struggling trying to keep my
21 business afloat, and then have to
22 contend with FirstEnergy wanting
23 to raise their rates. I hope the
24 people that are up here are really
25 listening to us and you are really

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 40

1 going to go to FirstEnergy and
2 give them our petitions here and
3 you're not just sitting up there
4 and looking at us. How you going
5 to remember -- I would like to
6 know, is some -- apparently --
7 okay. She's taking notes. I was
8 going to say, how are you people
9 remembering everything everybody
10 is saying.

11 MR. PRICE: The court
12 reporter is taking it down word
13 for word.

14 MS JENKIN: Okay. I thank
15 you for the time, even though I
16 didn't sign up for it, for letting
17 me speak. But I really do hope
18 that something is done to help the
19 residents and the businesses.
20 Thank you, sir.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Any
22 other witnesses? Seeing none,
23 this hearing will be adjourned.
24 The evidentiary hearing will begin
25 on October 16th. Thank you all.

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 41

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(Hearing adjourned at 7:28 p.m)

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Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 42

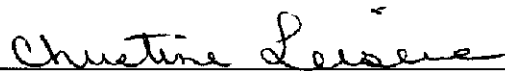
The State of Ohio,)
) SS: CERTIFICATE
County of Cuyahoga.)

I, Christine Leisure, RPR and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within-named witnesses was first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by him/her was by me reduced to stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed on a computer, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony so given by him/her as aforesaid.

I do further certify that this testimony was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified and was completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, employee of, or attorney for any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not a relative or employee of an attorney for any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not financially interested in the action; I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D); nor am I otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio on this 22nd day of October, 2008.


Christine Leisure, Notary Public
In and for the State of Ohio.
My commission expires April 12, 2012.

<p>A</p> <p>able 38:6,14</p> <p>above-captioned 42:12,13</p> <p>absorb 28:6</p> <p>accommodate 8:17</p> <p>accountability 30:21 36:13,24</p> <p>achieve 28:25</p> <p>action 42:12,13,13 42:15</p> <p>actively 32:22</p> <p>addition 25:14 33:4</p> <p>address 4:12,21 11:17 12:15 18:8 19:12,17 23:10 29:12 32:8 34:23 37:21 38:23</p> <p>addressed 31:16</p> <p>adjourned 40:23 41:2</p> <p>adjournment 42:10</p> <p>advantage 39:17</p> <p>affect 28:4</p> <p>affiliated 42:14</p> <p>affirmation 4:10</p> <p>affixed 42:16</p> <p>afford 5:11 6:11 17:19,20 35:24 36:18</p> <p>afloat 39:21</p> <p>aforsaid 42:5,8</p> <p>aggregate 38:4</p> <p>agreement 26:13</p> <p>ahead 16:3</p> <p>aides 15:16</p> <p>air 22:4</p> <p>Akron 2:14 4:1</p> <p>allowed 24:13</p> <p>allowing 32:11</p>	<p>amount 25:17</p> <p>analysis 25:20</p> <p>analyzing 25:17</p> <p>answer 5:13 6:23 7:14,19,22 8:13 8:15 9:21,25 10:3,6,10,19,20</p> <p>answered 7:13 9:7</p> <p>answers 13:3,5</p> <p>anybody 34:14 37:13</p> <p>apparently 40:6</p> <p>appearance 11:2</p> <p>appearances 2:1 3:19</p> <p>appliances 18:20</p> <p>application 3:5</p> <p>Applications 1:8</p> <p>apply 32:21</p> <p>appreciate 25:7 28:9</p> <p>appreciation 27:15</p> <p>appreciative 14:18 24:3</p> <p>April 42:22</p> <p>arborist 20:25 22:1</p> <p>arborists 20:21</p> <p>area 38:8 39:16</p> <p>Arizona 29:19</p> <p>Arms 32:10</p> <p>asking 6:20 7:20 10:13,17,19 15:20,21</p> <p>asks 10:16</p> <p>Aspen 19:14</p> <p>assigned 3:16</p> <p>ASSISTANT 2:3</p> <p>Association 33:12</p> <p>attorney 3:15 42:11,12</p> <p>audience 10:4 26:1</p>	<p>Auditorium 1:11</p> <p>Austintown 1:10 1:11 18:11 19:14 29:14</p> <p>authority 3:9</p> <p>authorized 24:24</p> <p>automatically 24:21</p> <p>average 15:4 24:21 25:1</p> <p>B</p> <p>back 9:15 17:24 17:25 20:24 21:5 21:8 26:5 30:5</p> <p>back-and 8:4</p> <p>banking 21:1</p> <p>Bartholomew 37:16,22,23</p> <p>based 16:2</p> <p>beginning 25:24</p> <p>behalf 2:2,6,11 3:22</p> <p>believe 11:1 21:4 37:24 38:11</p> <p>Bend 29:19</p> <p>best 22:6 30:1</p> <p>better 26:8 38:9</p> <p>big 31:14</p> <p>bill 12:4 18:13,16</p> <p>bills 8:18,23 12:22 17:21 21:21 35:17,20,20</p> <p>bit 30:17 32:13</p> <p>board 14:8 33:1</p> <p>Boardman 12:17</p> <p>bought 21:13,15 22:10</p> <p>Bradshaw 19:2,3</p> <p>break 16:17</p> <p>Broad 2:4,8</p> <p>brought 19:15</p> <p>budget 27:12</p> <p>Burkey 29:14</p>	<p>business 30:24 33:11 39:4,21</p> <p>businesses 40:19</p> <p>buying 23:22 26:10,12</p> <p>C</p> <p>call 10:23 16:14 20:16</p> <p>called 26:23</p> <p>calls 20:15</p> <p>Canfield 4:24 11:20 13:15 14:6 23:13,15</p> <p>caption 42:9</p> <p>case 1:3 3:4 5:25 6:3,18,19,21 7:24 11:9 25:12 29:2</p> <p>cause 15:3 24:20 42:5</p> <p>cease 26:15</p> <p>Center 37:23</p> <p>certain 26:21</p> <p>CERTIFICATE 42:1</p> <p>certified 4:18 11:14 12:12 13:11 16:11 18:5 19:9 23:7 29:9 32:5 34:20 37:18 38:20</p> <p>certify 42:4,9,11</p> <p>chain 22:9</p> <p>chair 9:19</p> <p>chance 37:14</p> <p>change 25:10 32:23</p> <p>charged 30:6,15</p> <p>cheaper 39:13</p> <p>check 18:23</p> <p>checked 18:19</p> <p>Chicago 29:18</p> <p>children 14:24</p>	<p>16:6,22</p> <p>choice 12:6 26:17 39:8</p> <p>Christine 1:9 42:3 42:21</p> <p>Cider 35:1</p> <p>Circle 11:20</p> <p>cities 38:3</p> <p>City 33:19</p> <p>Civil 42:14</p> <p>claims 22:1</p> <p>clean 22:13</p> <p>cleaner 22:4</p> <p>cleaning 39:3</p> <p>cleanliness 31:9</p> <p>clear 5:16</p> <p>Cleveland 3:7,22 6:5 42:16</p> <p>Code 3:11 26:22</p> <p>collectively 15:5 25:3</p> <p>Columbus 2:4,9</p> <p>come 12:2 13:3 26:5,22 30:8 32:17 37:15 39:6</p> <p>comes 10:16 27:6</p> <p>commencing 1:12</p> <p>commission 1:1 3:2 16:24 17:4 23:17 28:20 31:1 42:22</p> <p>commissioned 42:3</p> <p>Commissioners 5:17</p> <p>Commission's 5:19 30:19</p> <p>communities 32:23</p> <p>community 19:21</p> <p>companies 36:25</p> <p>company 3:6,8,8 3:20,23,24,25 38:1,7</p>
--	---	--	---	--

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 2

competition 36:4 38:2,14 competitive 39:16 complaint 19:24 20:11,19 21:11 complaints 9:22 complete 25:20 completed 42:10 computer 42:6 computers 26:9 concerned 31:13 concerns 35:4 concludes 34:12 conclusion 28:19 consortium 23:24 25:4 consortiums 26:7 consumer 11:6 36:15 consumers 2:6,8 35:8,12,16 39:18 contend 39:22 continue 16:1 37:3 contract 42:14 contractors 19:23 control 27:11 Cooksville 29:20 cool 21:14,18 cooperation 24:4 cooperatively 25:6 correct 8:1 10:3 42:7 cost 15:7,15 17:8 33:24 costs 30:25 31:4,5 Council 15:23 24:1 25:16 28:22 Counsel 2:8 11:6 country 8:25 29:17 County 28:11 42:2 course 35:5 court 23:1 40:11 42:13	credit 29:22 Crossing 35:1 current 14:24 24:17 currently 14:7 25:17 customer 19:16 customers 11:8 38:5 39:10 cut 17:24,24 20:3 21:3,12 27:11 30:25 31:3 cutting 31:4 Cuyahoga 42:2 <hr/> D <hr/> Dale 19:2 dark 17:20 date 1:12 day 1:12 42:17 December 15:2 24:19 decent 10:10 decrease 18:16,22 decreasing 27:23 defend 22:3 defined 42:14 degrees 16:15 Denise 37:16,23 deregulation 36:2 36:10,12 diesel 27:19 different 23:23 26:11 diligently 34:7 direction 37:8 directly 19:17 DIRECTOR 2:3 disability 5:4 discount 28:15 Discussion 9:13 14:1 disproportionat... 28:13	distribution 24:23 25:11 district 23:25 27:2 28:5 33:7 districts 13:20 14:13 15:9,25 23:20 24:2,11 28:5,24 33:5 dog 35:13,14,14 doing 16:24 33:15 36:6 37:3,4,6 dollar 25:15 dollars 15:10 25:9 Don 23:3,5,11 drastically 18:18 28:4 Drive 19:14 32:10 driven 19:20 dryer 22:8,9 duly 4:17 11:13 12:11 13:10 16:10 18:4 19:8 23:6 29:8 32:4 34:19 37:17 38:19 42:3,4 <hr/> E <hr/> East 2:4 Ebony 2:12 3:21 economy 9:1 31:22 eco-terrorists 22:7 Edison 3:6,8,24,24 6:8 19:18 20:15 20:20 21:11,24 22:5,14 35:18 Edison's 19:23 Education 13:17 13:22 14:9,11,15 14:25 15:25 24:7 24:18 28:1,15,24 educational 15:16 effect 15:1 efficient 18:21 efforts 25:7	EISELSTEIN 2:3 either 39:11 electric 1:7 3:7,12 3:22 5:2,8,12 7:4 7:8 12:4 13:24 18:13,16 21:21 22:8,9 24:10,20 35:17,20 Elwood 33:19 employee 42:11,12 employees 30:5 encourage 34:6 energy 2:11,13 13:17,21 14:10 14:14,24 15:25 18:21 24:7,17 28:1,24 31:9 entire 15:18 environment 31:14 especially 12:24 28:11,14 31:22 Esq 2:3,7,12 establish 3:9 evening 3:1 23:16 29:4 32:13,17 34:16 event 42:15 everybody 10:2,16 12:21 40:9 evidentiary 40:24 exactly 30:11 31:3 examined 4:18 11:14 12:12 13:11 16:11 18:5 19:9 23:7 29:9 32:5 34:20 37:18 38:20 examiner 3:15 excuse 21:15 Exhibit 22:25 expenses 17:10,11 30:23 experts 21:6	expire 15:1 24:18 expires 15:6 42:22 extra 26:19 extremely 13:23 14:16 15:11 <hr/> F <hr/> facing 27:9 fact 14:19 facts 27:17 fair 17:25 Farmington 11:19 favor 32:19 feel 12:20 feet 20:4 fellow 13:1 figure 32:14 file 20:11 financially 42:13 find 23:21 32:15 fire 36:25 firm 42:14 first 2:11,13 4:14 4:17 9:9 11:13 12:11 13:10 16:10 18:4 19:8 23:6,17 29:8 32:4,18,25 34:19 37:17 38:19 42:4 FirstEnergy 13:18 14:11 15:22 24:4 25:6 26:14 28:21 29:23 30:6 32:22 33:13 35:19 37:25 39:5,22 40:1 FirstEnergy's 5:20 25:11 firsthand 35:21 fiscal 27:17,20 five 21:16 29:16 30:11,14 fix 36:11,11 fixed 6:25 7:2 8:12
---	--	---	---	--

16:17 31:18 Floor 2:9 follows 4:19 11:15 12:13 13:12 16:12 18:6 19:10 23:8 29:10 32:6 34:21 37:19 38:21 foreclosures 8:20 foregoing 42:7,9 form 3:12 forth 1:13 8:5 found 27:23 fourth 9:19 Fromel 13:8,9,14 14:4,5 FROMWELL 13:14 front 6:4 frustrated 32:14 fuel 27:20 full 18:8 30:15 fund 27:12 funnel 16:4 further 42:9,11	going 6:6 8:4,13 8:14,16 9:24 10:18 12:4,22,23 16:23 17:23 18:18 21:20 22:24 28:3 30:4 31:11 36:7,16,19 36:21,22 37:9,10 39:7 40:1,4,8 good 3:1 33:23 38:12 gradual 28:17 gradually 28:25 great 39:17 greater 36:22 Greg 11:5 Gregory 2:3,7 3:14 grow 20:24 21:5,7 growth 22:3 guess 12:5 13:4 guys 8:21 32:15	helps 21:17 hereinafter 4:18 11:14 12:12 13:11 16:11 18:5 19:9 23:7 29:9 32:5 34:20 37:18 38:20 hereunto 42:16 hey 39:6,10 high 15:19 him/her 42:6,7 hit 25:8 hits 15:11 28:9,12 home 18:17 20:22 21:14 22:13 30:4 30:9 36:14 homeowners 34:2 homes 8:21 17:18 Homestead 39:2 Honor 11:5 hope 18:23 35:7 35:15,18 39:23 40:17 Hott 16:8,9,13 hour 30:6,15 house 5:2 13:2 18:19 21:16,18 30:14 Hubbard 37:24 huge 28:18	incomes 31:19 incorrect 8:2 increase 7:7,17,18 10:11 15:10,14 18:13,25 21:21 24:23,24 25:12 25:13,18,21,23 27:13 28:18,18 29:1 30:20,21 32:19 36:8,16,20 increased 14:22 24:13 increases 5:6,8,11 21:22 28:7 35:24 36:1 increasing 8:18 31:8 Indiana 29:19 input 10:8 inspect 30:8 inspector 30:7 installed 30:9 instance 26:25 interested 42:13 42:15 interrupt 6:17 interveners 4:3 11:3 invited 33:12 involvement 30:19 Irene 11:11,12,18 12:18 issue 6:12 31:14 issues 19:16	John 13:7,9,14 14:4 Johnson 4:15,16 4:22,23 5:22 6:1 6:15,24 7:12,15 7:25 8:6 9:4,17 10:5,15 join 26:7 judge 6:18,20 Judy 18:2,3,10 J-E-N-K-I-N 39:1
G gas 17:2 22:8,11 35:20,25 general 36:7 generation 24:24 25:13,19,21 getting 16:19 17:3 39:15 give 4:8,9 9:20 10:1,9,19 13:4 18:25 23:1,19 25:2 27:14,16 29:4,21 40:2 given 42:5,7 glad 19:15 go 9:10,15 12:5 15:3 16:3 24:21 26:16 31:11 40:1	H hacked 20:1,8,17 half 8:6,9 19:22 halfway 10:9 hand 42:16 happening 35:22 hard 15:11 28:13 Harrington 38:11 hear 10:7,8 13:3 heard 31:7,18 38:10 hearing 1:2,7 3:2 3:3,17 4:7 22:25 40:23,24 41:2 heat 17:19 help 8:16 17:3 21:14 22:4,15 31:21,21 34:1,2 38:15 40:18 helpful 13:23 14:16 24:9	I idea 25:2 38:12 Ike 22:10 Illuminating 3:7 3:23 implement 33:18 important 31:20 improved 30:3 included 23:3 including 29:18 30:12 income 6:25 7:2 8:12 12:25 16:17	J J 2:7 23:3,5,11 Jane 12:9,10,16 Janine 11:6 January 25:25 Jenkin 38:18,25 39:1 40:14 Jerry 34:18,24 Jodi 32:2,3,9	K K 32:2,3 keep 17:6 21:14,17 22:4,12 26:3 36:4,4 37:2 39:20 keeping 13:23 14:16 24:9 kind 9:17,18 16:14 Kirk 18:11 knew 22:5 know 5:6 6:15 7:6 7:9,15 8:6 26:2 37:2 39:4,11 40:6 Kurm 29:6,7,13 29:13
				L lady 39:14 Lane 13:15 14:6 Larry 19:4,7,13 learning 14:23 16:5 24:14 LEDs 32:24 33:10 33:22 34:7 Lee 38:10 legislature 26:23 Leisure 1:9 42:3 42:21 Leon 29:6,7,13 letting 40:16

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 4

<p>let's 3:18 4:13 5:15 9:10,15 36:11,11 36:12,23,24 levels 28:6 levies 26:6 Liberty 32:24 33:3 33:11 light 17:21 lighting 33:5,7 lights 32:24 33:3 33:21 34:4,8 limb 20:2 21:7 limbs 20:8,24 21:5 limited 12:25 Linda 16:8,9 line 30:23 lines 20:4 30:8 listen 9:24 listening 39:25 little 7:19 32:13 33:22 live 6:25 12:25 14:5 16:16 17:11 33:6 lived 29:16 local 1:7 14:8 15:13 33:12 Logan 32:10 look 22:18 34:7 39:12 looked 20:23 looking 6:11 31:5 35:7,9,11 40:4 lose 17:18 loses 21:7 losing 5:10 loss 15:5 25:15 28:1,14 lot 21:17 33:9 lower 6:5,7 36:3 LTRO 20:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>magnitude 32:20</p>	<p>Mahoning 28:11 Main 2:13 3:25 maintenance 33:23 major 29:16 making 8:11 mandate 27:5,7,10 mandates 26:24 mark 22:24 market 36:9 matter 3:5 39:9 matters 24:16 McFall 11:11,12 11:18,18,22,24 12:1 mean 13:2 21:25 means 25:3 meant 24:12 medical 21:6 middle 1:10 6:22 Migden 11:6 Mill 35:1 Miller 2:12 3:21 3:21 million 15:9 25:9 25:15 minutes 30:11,14 moment 37:25 money 7:3 8:11 15:17 23:21 26:6 26:20 27:3,6,23 31:10 34:3 motion 22:23 M-C-F-A-L-L 11:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name 3:14 4:12,21 11:16 12:15 14:4 18:8 19:12 23:10 29:12 32:8 34:23 37:21,22 38:23 38:25 name's 4:22</p>	<p>natural 35:25 nature 28:7 need 16:17 27:4 31:20,21,25 37:1 needs 38:8 negative 30:2 neighbor's 20:5 new 24:22 25:10 nonsense 10:22 non-existent 19:18 north 20:2 Notary 1:9 42:3,21 note 4:6 29:22 notes 40:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>oath 4:9 OCC 35:9 37:5 October 1:4 20:22 40:25 42:17 offer 3:10 15:23 28:21 offered 13:19 14:12 office 2:8 42:16 OH 2:4,9,14 Ohio 1:1,10,11 2:6 2:8 3:6,24 4:1,24 6:8 11:5 12:18 13:19 15:8,23 18:11 19:15,18 19:22 20:15,19 21:11,24 22:5,13 23:13 24:1 25:16 26:22 28:22 29:14,25 34:9 35:18 39:2 42:1 42:3,16,22 okay 5:7 10:8 21:17,20 22:12 40:7,14 old 21:19 older 8:7,10 16:21 ones 16:21,21,22</p>	<p>operating 30:22 opportunities 14:23 16:5 24:14 opportunity 4:9 5:16,24 23:19 29:3 32:12,16 35:2 order 15:22 27:12 28:21 organization 35:13 Ostrander 11:7 ought 38:2 outrageous 36:8 owner 26:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>paper 6:3 26:9 Pardon 11:22 part 23:24 24:1 34:6 participating 13:19 15:8,24 28:23 particular 27:8 parties 3:19 42:11 42:12 parts 29:17 pass 19:3 26:17 36:19 pay 12:6 17:21 33:7 34:3 35:17 paying 33:1 35:19 36:22 pays 27:2 Pennsylvania 33:20 pensions 16:20 people 6:10 8:7,9 8:16,22 16:15 31:25 39:24 40:8 percent 15:4 24:22 25:1,24 permitted 7:22</p>	<p>person 9:8 18:14 21:25 petitions 40:2 phase 36:8 Phoenix 29:18 pictures 22:17,24 place 3:4 25:22 42:9 places 17:19 plan 1:7 3:13 12:19 please 4:11,20 10:20 11:21,23 12:14 13:13 18:7 19:11 23:9 29:11 32:7 34:22 37:20 38:22 podium 9:8 Politics 7:25 position 23:14 positive 29:22 possible 22:13 possibly 38:8 Poulos 2:7 11:4,5 power 7:4,8 10:11 30:10 powered 22:11 presence 42:6 present 4:3 preside 3:16 president 14:7 presiding 6:17 7:23 pressure 32:21 price 2:3 3:1,14 4:2,20 5:15,23 6:13,16 7:10,14 7:21 8:3 9:2,10 9:15 10:14,25 11:10,16,21,23 11:25 12:9,9,10 12:14,16,16 13:7 13:13 14:3 16:7 18:1,7 19:1,4,11</p>
---	--	--	--	--

22:20,23 23:9 26:8 29:5,11 32:1,7 34:12,22 37:12,20 38:9,17 38:22 40:11,21 prices 17:6,23 36:5 38:15 pricing 36:9 prior 21:3 probably 8:11 problem 6:9 27:8 problems 9:23 proceed 11:21,23 11:24 13:13 produced 31:10 products 23:23 26:9 program 14:25 15:6,14 16:1 24:18 25:8 28:2 28:16,25 programs 13:18 13:22 14:11,15 14:21 24:7 pronunciation 19:6 property 26:3,4,18 36:23 proposal 5:18,20 5:21 propose 5:7 proposed 25:19 proposing 5:5 Prosen 18:2,3,10 18:10 providing 23:18 public 1:1,2,7,9 3:2 5:19 16:24 17:3 28:23 42:3 42:21 PUCO 1:7 2:2 5:21 15:22 19:25 20:10,18 21:10 24:25 25:12	28:21 32:21 34:6 35:7,10,11 39:5 purchased 18:19 pursuant 3:10 put 22:21 36:24 p.m 1:12 41:2 Q qualified 42:4 question 8:14,15 9:7 10:17 questions 6:19 7:19,22 9:22 R Raccoon 1:11 raise 6:8 39:7,23 Range 14:8 15:13 23:25 rate 6:5 21:22 24:23 25:12,18 25:21 29:1 rates 13:24 14:17 15:3 24:10,20 25:19 26:16 28:3 37:7 39:7,23 reading 6:3 realized 14:21 really 12:18 33:14 34:9 36:14 37:8 39:24,25 40:17 reason 5:1 reasonable 17:7 record 4:13,21 9:11,13,16 11:17 12:15 14:1 18:9 19:12 22:21 23:10 29:12 32:8 34:23 37:21 38:24 reduced 37:7 42:6 reduces 33:24 reducing 27:24 34:3	reductions 27:25 reference 20:12 region 28:10 relative 42:11,12 relief 16:18 remember 40:5 remembering 40:9 renewed 15:7,15 replace 22:7 reporter 23:2 40:12 reporting 42:14 represent 11:7 representation 17:14 representative 33:13 represented 17:5 research 33:9,15 33:16,17 Reserve 4:24 residential 11:8 residents 26:5 40:19 respect 34:10 respond 21:10 response 20:20 21:23 rest 21:12 result 25:18 29:2 resume 30:10 retired 5:3 return 20:16 review 10:21 Revised 3:11 26:22 re-adjust 7:2 right 4:25 5:3,4 6:4,5 7:5,12 8:1 8:8,9,12,19 22:10,17 33:10 Road 1:11 4:24 12:17 18:11 29:14 39:2	Rodney 4:14,16,23 RPR 1:9 42:3 rude 6:14 Rule 42:14 run 23:12 39:3 running 17:22 S Sandra 38:18 39:1 save 23:21 26:8 savings 14:20 16:2 16:4 24:10 saw 22:9 Sawmill 23:12 saying 9:3,6 10:7 29:15 40:10 scheduled 15:1 school 1:10 13:20 14:8,12 15:8,19 15:24 23:20,25 24:2,11 27:18 28:2,4,5,22,23 36:17 schools 14:17 15:11,13,23 23:15,15 24:1 25:4,16 26:2 27:15 28:9,12 29:1 31:19 34:1 science 15:18 scrutiny 37:1 seal 42:16 second 5:23 section 3:11 security 1:7 3:12 see 16:2,18 18:22 21:2,20 22:16 30:18 31:2,24 seeing 4:5 35:21 40:22 seen 4:4 17:1 18:13,15 31:7 send 20:19 seniors 12:24	September 19:19 19:25 service 3:10 19:16 29:25 30:4 services 29:24 30:16 31:2 serving 38:7 set 1:13 3:3 17:19 42:16 Shadow 13:15 Shadowood 14:5 SHANA 2:3 shaved 19:22 20:6 side 20:2 30:2 sign 40:16 signed 34:13,15 significantly 33:25 simple 7:19 sir 6:16 34:17 40:20 site 22:19 sitting 6:17 40:3 situation 31:23 somebody 9:18,20 10:1 20:16 21:6 39:13,15 sorry 10:23 South 1:11 2:13 3:25 14:7 15:13 23:24 29:19 south-facing 20:7 speak 12:2 13:16 32:12,15 35:3 40:17 speaking 12:19 special 28:2 specifically 15:12 specified 42:10 spent 15:17 27:19 spoke 13:1 squeeze 8:22 SS 42:1 standard 3:10 start 14:3 29:15
--	---	---	--	---

Dearborn Reporting Services

Page 6

<p>starting 29:17 state 1:10 4:12,20 11:16 12:14 18:7 19:11 23:9 27:3 28:10 29:11 32:7 34:9,22 37:20 38:22 42:1,3,22 statement 34:16 statements 6:21 stenotypy 42:6 Stoyak 32:2,3,9,9 Stratford 12:17 street 2:4,8,13 3:25 20:3 32:23 33:3,6,21 34:4,8 37:24 streets 33:5 stretched 35:6,23 struck 36:14 struggling 39:20 students 24:15 27:1 suffered 27:16 summer 21:15,18 superintendent 23:14 supported 27:3 supposed 36:3 37:4 supposedly 18:20 sure 19:19 23:2 28:8 survive 16:23 39:11 sworn 4:7,17 11:13 12:11 13:10 16:10 18:4 19:8 23:6 29:8 32:4 34:19 37:17 38:19 42:4 systems 36:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>take 10:25 16:3</p>	<p>taken 1:8 42:9 talk 14:9 talking 16:20 tax 26:3,4,18 taxes 33:8 34:5 36:23 teaching 15:16 technology 24:15 tell 5:17,24 7:1 12:2 23:16 ten 13:20 14:13 24:8 Tennessee 29:20 term 22:6 testified 4:18 11:14 12:12 13:11 16:11 18:5 19:9 23:7 29:9 32:5 34:20 37:18 38:20 testify 37:13 42:4 testimony 4:6,8,11 23:19 29:4 42:5 42:7,9 textbooks 15:18 24:16 thank 11:4,9,10 13:7 16:6,7 19:4 23:17 29:3,5 31:25 32:1,11 34:11 35:2 37:10 37:12 38:15,17 40:14,20,21,25 thin 35:6,23 thing 15:22 17:2 things 16:25 26:21 31:20 think 5:25 6:2 10:2,15 13:2 thoroughly 18:24 thought 30:16 time 3:3 11:3 26:15,16 27:25 30:7,13 33:16,18</p>	<p>40:15 42:9 times 34:10 today 31:23 told 9:23 25:22 27:4 Toledo 3:8,23 tonight 5:1 12:19 14:10 15:21 35:3 tonight's 3:17 top 20:7 24:25 towns 38:3 township 4:25 32:25 33:4 townships 34:1 transcribed 42:6 transcript 42:7 travel 30:13 tree 21:13,13 trees 19:21,25 20:6,9,17 21:2 21:16,19 22:3 trial 6:22 trimmed 21:4 Troppe 19:5,7,13 19:13 22:22 true 42:7 trustee 32:25 truth 12:3 42:4,5,5 try 26:6,7 34:6 37:6 trying 6:14,24 7:1 8:24 9:1 10:9 22:12 26:3 32:14 39:20 turn 17:16 turning 33:20 twenty 20:4 two 13:17,21 14:10,14,21 15:15 20:14 24:6 type 21:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>undersigned 1:8</p>	<p>understand 7:10 9:2,5 10:14 17:8 unfunded 26:24 27:9 urge 34:5 usage 16:3 use 22:6 26:6 utilities 1:1 17:4,9 utility 5:19 8:18 8:23 12:22 36:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>vacation 18:15 villagers 38:4 visited 33:19 volume 26:10,13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>waiting 21:9 want 5:6,7 6:2,7 7:3,6,6,9,16,17 8:21 10:3,6,6,8 10:10 22:2 29:15 wanting 39:22 wasn't 20:14 30:13 watch 35:13,14,14 water 17:22 way 12:20 20:6 27:7 ways 23:21,22 26:11 31:5 went 27:21 West 2:8 Western 4:23 we'll 39:12 we're 10:7 15:21 17:2,4,15 22:24 27:8 31:23 35:5 35:23 36:16 39:7 we've 14:18,20 19:21 24:6,12 31:18 WHEREOF 42:16</p>	<p>widow 16:16 18:12 39:19 wish 9:18,19 10:1 within-named 42:4 witness 4:14 11:1 11:11 16:8 18:1 19:1 23:3 29:6 32:2 42:6,16 witnesses 34:13 40:22 42:4 wonderful 26:13 wondering 12:3 Wood 13:15 word 36:14 40:12 40:13 work 5:21 32:22 worked 25:5 working 31:2 36:10 works 17:1 worth 30:7 wouldn't 22:2 wrong 9:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>YABLONKAI 34:18,24 Yablunkia 34:25 yard 20:5 year 15:10 25:9 27:17,18,20 30:25 33:2 years 13:21 14:14 21:1,19 24:8 33:24 Yep 5:22 younger 16:21 Youngstown 39:2 Y-A-B-L-O-N-... 34:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <p>Zambrini 23:4,5</p>
---	--	---	---	---

23:11,12	25th 19:25	9		
\$	2650 39:1	95 36:21		
\$161,000 27:19	28(D) 42:14			
\$221,000 27:22	3			
\$50,000 33:2	3 16:1 28:25			
0	30 25:23			
06 27:18	31st 15:2 24:19			
07 27:17,18,18,21	319 37:23			
08 27:20,21	330-384-5849 2:14			
08-935-EL-SSO	3634 18:11			
1:3 3:4	4			
092508 20:13	40 25:23			
1	4096 12:17			
1 22:25	43215 2:4,9			
1st 20:22	44308 2:14 4:1			
10 2:8	44406 11:20 13:16			
10900 13:15 14:5	14:6			
11.7 15:9 25:9,14	4449 29:13			
12 42:22	44505 39:3			
13.4 15:4 24:22	44515 1:12 29:15			
25:1	4582 19:14			
14 1:4	4928.143 3:11			
16th 40:25	5			
18th 2:9	55 8:8			
180 2:4	5631 34:25			
2	5690 4:23			
2 14:25 24:18 28:1	5750 32:10			
28:15	581 23:12			
200 21:19	6			
200-foot 20:5	6:30 1:12			
2008 1:4 15:2	614-466-8574 2:10			
24:19 42:17	614-752-9410/61...			
2009 25:25	2:5			
2012 42:22	6295 11:19			
22nd 42:17	7			
24th 19:19 20:1	7:28 41:2			
249 13:19 14:12	76 2:13 3:25			
15:7,24 24:2	8			
25:4 28:4,23	800 1:11			
25 21:1 33:23				

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