

FILE

CIN-TEL CORPORATION
Reporting & Video Services

67

Friday, November 07, 2008

Alan R. Schriber
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215



RE: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
APPLICANT: DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.
CASE NUMBER: 08-920-EL-SSO
Date: OCTOBER 15, 2008

Dear Mr. Schriber:

Enclosed you will find the original transcript of the hearing taken on October 15, 2008 in the above-captioned case.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of said transcript.

When we may be of further assistance, please call our office at 513-621-7723.

Sincerely,

Kay Patton
Kay Patton

Enclosure: (1) original transcript
(1) copy of transcript
(1) min-u-script with index

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE:

Alan R. Schriber

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician *[Signature]* Date Processed *11-18-08*

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2008 NOV 18 AM 8:35
PUCO

FILE

Page 1

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

CASE NUMBER: 08-920-EL-SSO

APPLICANT: DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.

DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2008

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: LAKOTA EAST HIGH SCHOOL
6840 LAKOTA LANE
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, OH 45044

Reported by: Kristina L. Pedersen, court reporter,
notary public

PUCO

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2008 NOV 18 AM 8:35

 **ORIGINAL**

1 APPEARANCES:

2
3 ON BEHALF OF THE PUCO:

4
5 ALAN R. SCHRIBER, PH.D., CHAIRMAN
6 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
7 180 East Broad Street
8 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
9 (614) 466-3204
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

1 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. We're on the record. Welcome
2 everyone to this night's public meeting
3 of the Public Utilities Commission of
4 Ohio. We are here to hear your
5 comments with respect to Case No.
6 08-920-EL-SSO. This is with respect to
7 a Duke of Ohio proposed rate
8 stabilization plan.

9 I need to point out to you that
10 it's simply proposed at this point. No
11 decision has been made.

12 This is a hearing. It's a public
13 hearing obviously to hear what you have
14 to say. There are two types of
15 hearings that we have when we go
16 through these cases. One is what we
17 call an evidentiary hearing. This will
18 take place in Columbus where you have
19 all the lawyers, the accountants, all
20 financial types get together and, you
21 know, they get on the stand, present
22 the testimony, get cross-examined. And
23 it's very, very technical. The other
24 is this type of a hearing.

1 The things that we will hear
2 tonight and those of you will hear in
3 Columbus all become part of the record
4 in this case. And as part of the
5 record it will ultimately be reviewed
6 by the commissioners.

7 Now, the PUCO has five
8 commissioners. I'm one of the five and
9 I'm the chairman. And together the
10 five of us will review the record when
11 it's complete and render a decision in
12 this case.

13 So at this point there is no
14 decision as yet. If there are any
15 questions that you may have, I'd be
16 happy to answer them afterwards. What
17 this is all about tonight is to hear
18 what you have to say about this
19 proposed rate increase.

20 And with that, what I would intend
21 to do is call forward you as I have you
22 listed here. The first thing I want to
23 do is acknowledge a couple folks. One
24 is my friend, Senator Gary Cates. The

1 other is another friend, Representative
2 Bill Coley. Bill is over there.

3 Do either one of you want to say
4 anything?

5 REPRESENTATIVE COLEY: I just want to thank you all for
6 being here tonight and showing an
7 interest in what your -- in the rates
8 case.

9 I work on the Public Utilities
10 Committee in the House that sets the
11 guidelines that these things operate
12 under. And -- but the ultimate
13 authority on what the rates are will be
14 determined by the Public Utilities
15 Commission and your participation and
16 explain- -- asking questions if --
17 Chairman Schriber is just great to work
18 with. Ask him any questions you have
19 after the meeting. He's just -- you'll
20 find him to be a very cooperative
21 person, I believe, because that's the
22 way he always is with us.

23 And -- but your participation and
24 explaining your concerns and asking --

1 get the information you need is just
2 vital for this system to work well. So
3 thank you all for being here.

4 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you, Bill. Gary?

5 SENATOR CATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
6 thank everyone for -- is this on right
7 now?

8 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Oh, yeah.

9 SENATOR CATES: Okay. It's on. I'd like to thank you
10 all for being here tonight. And I'd
11 also like to thank Chairman Schriber
12 for putting together this special
13 hearing.

14 Just a little bit of background.
15 We have four major utilities in the
16 state. American Electric Power, which
17 is based in Columbus. And, of course,
18 Cinergy based in the Cleveland/Akron
19 area. Dayton Power & Light is north of
20 us. And Duke Energy, which serves the
21 former Cinergy area.

22 Three of the four companies, I
23 believe, have submitted rate increase
24 requests for which the PUCO goes around

1 and conducts hearings in the regions.
2 Initially there were only two hearings
3 that were scheduled within Duke Energy
4 service area; one in Cincinnati and one
5 in Clermont County. They were both
6 held last week.

7 And I thought that the aftermath
8 of the storm that we had to deal with
9 there, it would be important to allow
10 as many people as possible from Butler
11 and Warren County here tonight to have
12 an opportunity to testify so they don't
13 have to drive a long distance. And I
14 want to thank Chairman Schriber for
15 agreeing to put this hearing together
16 for us tonight to accommodate folks
17 here in Butler County.

18 The delivery of electricity starts
19 with a generation of power. And after
20 that it has to be transmitted and
21 distributed to come to our households.
22 The PUCO is very much concerned with
23 the transmission and distribution of
24 the electricity.

1 And I'm not going to say I'm going
2 to speak to everybody here tonight. I
3 know some people here probably want to
4 talk about the rate increase, what I
5 think based on some constituents I've
6 talked to.

7 Certainly we have here is that if
8 we have another such storm, can we take
9 precautions so that we don't have 90
10 percent of the system go down at one
11 point in time. I think by -- Duke
12 officials are here tonight. And if
13 they want to speak on their behalf,
14 they're sure welcome to. But based on
15 newspaper accounts roughly 90 percent
16 of Duke's power system went down at one
17 time.

18 And in my own case I was out of
19 power for a week as were other people
20 here. And we're certainly very
21 appreciative of the great work done by
22 the service people to get everybody
23 back on line.

24 But this brings the question to

1 mind here is that, Do we have proper
2 safeguards in place to prevent such a
3 massive failure at one time? And as
4 much as we had 90 percent of the power
5 system out for the Duke area, certainly
6 we couldn't have been picked a better
7 sweet spot weather-wise in terms of the
8 temperatures and the conditions.

9 And Mr. Chairman, I will say that
10 that's one of my concerns as a senator
11 and also a constituent is that for all
12 our utilities we're looking for
13 reliability in the system. And so part
14 of the rate increase request has to be
15 focused on making sure that adequate
16 capital investments made in the system
17 to improve reliability in the system.
18 And with that, I'll turn the microphone
19 back to you and, again, thank you for
20 being here.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you, Senator. I will point out I
22 think it's important to understand now
23 that -- you know, talking about the
24 cost of restoration for this outage.

1 None of that cost, none of the dollars
2 associated with that is embedded in
3 this rate case, in this proposed case.
4 Those will come months and months
5 later, if at all. So all those dollars
6 that everybody spent, all the utilities
7 spent on getting everything back
8 together, again, is not a part of this.
9 So that's important to note.

10 The next thing I want to do is
11 take appearances from counsel for the
12 parties that are here. Ann?

13 ATTORNEY HOTZ:

14 My name is Ann Hotz and I work for
15 Janine Migden-Ostrander. She is the
16 Ohio Consumers' Counsel. And we
17 represent residential customers in
18 proceedings in front of the Public
19 Utilities Commission of Ohio. And with
20 me today I have Benjamin Machado and
21 Maria Durban. And if you have any
22 questions or complaints about any of
23 your utility service or rates, please
24 feel free to ask any of us about it or
report anything to us. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. The Company?

2 ATTORNEY D'ASCENZO: My name is Rocco D'Ascenzo. I
3 represent Duke Energy Ohio. As
4 Chairman Schriber said earlier, welcome
5 and thank you all for attending here.

6 The Company has representatives
7 here today to listen to you. We also
8 are available after the conclusion of
9 this hearing to answer specific
10 questions you may have. So feel free
11 to approach us. And we can put you in
12 contact with the right people if we are
13 unable to answer your questions this
14 evening. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you. And I've got a couple of
16 folks with me, Cindi Mack up there
17 and -- I can't see very well. That's
18 not Cindi, no. I thought that was
19 Cindi. I've got lights in my eyes.
20 And we've got Jake Mack. Jake -- or
21 Jake Davis rather.

22 Okay. What I want to do is call
23 forward the witnesses that have been
24 listed here. And if you'll, you know,

1 spell your name and give your address
2 for the court reporter, who is
3 recording everything, that would be
4 desirable and very helpful to us. So
5 let me first call forward Melanie Moon.

6 From a distance under the lights
7 it did look like --

8 CINDI MACK: Sorry.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. I'm going to ask each person as
10 they come forward to affirm that what
11 they are -- the testimony they're about
12 to give is the truth.

13 So will you raise your right hand,
14 please.

15 MS. MOON: (Complies.)

16 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you affirm that the testimony you're
17 about to give is the truth and the
18 whole truth?

19 MS. MOON: Yes, I do.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Thank you. And your name is
21 Melanie Moon. I think we can spell
22 that. And your address, please, for
23 the record.

24 MS. MOON: 4720 Deer Run, Middletown, Ohio.

1 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

2 MS. MOON: 45042.

3 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you.

4 MS. MOON: And I'd first like to say my -- I thank
5 the crews that eventually got to our
6 area and restored power. The men that
7 finally came that afternoon stayed
8 until late in the evening just to
9 restore power to our home.

10 We lost power on Sunday at 1:00.
11 We were out of town at that time. My
12 husband and I have a profoundly
13 handicapped child. She has severe
14 autism. The manifestation of her
15 autism is behavioral. She has severe
16 self-abusive behaviors.

17 Being that we were out of town we
18 had staff at home with her -- 24/7
19 staff at home with her. When they told
20 us that the power had gone out and a
21 storm had come through, we immediately
22 called Duke Energy, which is what we
23 always do when we have a power outage.
24 We always call Duke to pick our houses

1 up; a home with a child with a
2 disability or an adult with a
3 disability. And then Duke Energy has
4 always been very good to restore our
5 power in a timely fashion.

6 We were without power 158 hours.
7 That's 10 hours short of a week. It
8 was really a very long week at our
9 house. We got home on Monday, my
10 husband and I. Our daughter at that
11 time had had several behaviors. She
12 bloodied her face.

13 I called Duke Energy on Monday and
14 told them our situation again. And,
15 you know, just -- I had a very light
16 conversation with them. I did not
17 expect to be the first 50 percent
18 restored. I really didn't. I didn't
19 even expect to be really the first 70
20 percent. But when I was the last 2
21 percent I really got frustrated.

22 On Wednesday I started calling
23 every two hours. They just listened to
24 me. And I guess that is part of my

1 frustration with Duke is if they had
2 told me on Monday, Mrs. Moon, we're not
3 getting to your power for a week,
4 you're way down on the totem pole, I
5 could have made plans. We could have
6 gone to grandma's house. We could have
7 left the area. But I was led to
8 believe that because of my daughter's
9 disability our energy would be
10 restored.

11 On Thursday of that week they
12 worked to within five houses of our
13 house. And we still did not have
14 power. I went down to the crews and I
15 asked, Are you coming up; we have a
16 child with autism, severe autism. And
17 they said they thought they were moving
18 towards us, but they didn't.

19 On that afternoon then I called
20 Representative (sic) Cates' office and
21 Congressman Boehner's office. And they
22 stepped in and helped assist. But it
23 was Saturday night at midnight, 1:00
24 before we got power.

1 It was a long week. There were
2 blessings in that week. It was not
3 terribly hot. Had it been hot she
4 would have never slept. We also have
5 our water heater powered by electric.
6 So we did not have hot water the whole
7 week.

8 So not only did she not get a
9 bath, we didn't have food, we didn't
10 have the CDs, the videos, the music --
11 all the things that help her process
12 all of the stimulation around her to
13 keep her calmed down. We didn't have
14 any of that. It was a really long
15 week.

16 I guess my request of Duke Energy
17 would be, be honest with the people.
18 If you're not going to restore my
19 energy, don't tell me -- don't just
20 listen to me; don't just be an ear on
21 the end of the phone. I need someone
22 to tell me how to deal with that.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you.

24 MS. MOON: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony.

2 MS. MOON: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. That brings us to Mark Haverkos.
4 Good evening, sir.

5 MR. HAVERKOS: Good evening.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: If you'll raise your right hand,
7 please.

8 MR. HAVERKOS: (Complies.)

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you affirm that the testimony you're
10 about to give is the truth and the
11 whole truth?

12 MR. HAVERKOS: Yes, I do.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Do you want to give us your name
14 and spell your last name and then your
15 address for us, please?

16 MR. HAVERKOS: Mr. Haverkos, H-a-v-e-r-k-o-s. I live
17 at 7356 Wethersfield Drive in West
18 Chester, 45069.

19 Chairman Schriber, three areas of
20 concern that I have about the Duke rate
21 request. First, when Duke merged or
22 purchased CG & E, Duke promised lower
23 rates and better service. Since the
24 utilities -- since that merger my

1 utility bills both at home and business
2 have skyrocketed. Regardless of how
3 they calculate the bills, change the
4 riders, my bills have done nothing but
5 go up.

6 My second concern deals with the
7 storm damage and the widespread power
8 outages. My business is located in the
9 middle of West Chester industrial area.
10 Even FedEx was closed. An estimated
11 2,000 employees were out of work for a
12 week in a simple one-mile radius.
13 Without power I had five days to drive
14 around, all around Butler County and
15 never saw a single bucket truck.

16 On the fifth day I spotted a lone
17 truck, followed the crew that spent 10
18 minutes changing three simple fuses. I
19 asked the crew why this simple fix was
20 not done earlier. The answer was, Duke
21 has cut this company to the bone and
22 there simply aren't enough people.

23 My third concern is about the
24 media accounts that Duke is paying off

1 large industrial customers in exchange
2 for them not protesting rate hikes.
3 I've read stories the PUCO not only
4 knew about these payments, but they
5 also failed to alert our legislators.

6 And I'd like to know, Who is
7 looking out for Ohio taxpayers? Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Then that brings us to
10 Virginia -- is it Charles?

11 MS. ANDRES: Andres.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: I'm sorry?

13 MS. ANDRES: I'll give it to you in a minute.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Can I ask you to raise your
15 right hand, please?

16 MS. ANDRES: Can I ask you to raise yours?

17 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: It is. Do you affirm that the
18 testimony you're about to give is the
19 truth and the whole truth?

20 MS. ANDRES: I do. Do you?

21 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Would you give us your name,
22 please, and spell your last name.

23 MS. ANDRES: Virginia E. Andres, A-n-d-r-e-s. 45
24 Backtrail Lane, Monroe, Ohio 45050.

1 Some of my concerns was already
2 addressed by the gentleman who spoke
3 before me. When Duke took over, I was
4 told as he, as everyone, that rates
5 would go down. I am paying higher
6 monthly than I have ever paid in my
7 entire life as a homeowner; that would
8 be 45 years.

9 I have lived in Connecticut. I
10 have lived in St. Louis. And I was
11 born and raised in Ohio. I have -- the
12 home I have now is half the size of the
13 home that I had when I lived in Rolling
14 Knolls, yet I never had a gas bill like
15 I have today.

16 The -- you said that if -- the
17 increase has nothing to do with Ike. I
18 fail to believe completely -- I think
19 you are being honest, sir, and I thank
20 you for your organization. I thank you
21 for the job that you try to do. But I
22 don't think Duke is being completely
23 honest.

24 We were without power for a week.

1 It was rough. But thank goodness we
2 had nice neighbors. We had one that
3 had a generator going. We were lucky
4 to have gas. We had hot water. People
5 helped each other. People that had hot
6 water you said come in and take a
7 shower.

8 It was a time you saw people that
9 you've never seen before. We saw
10 teenagers in the five years we lived
11 there we never seen them. It showed
12 that people pull together.

13 But Duke is also in North
14 Carolina. There's hurricanes in North
15 Carolina. They know what to do there.
16 Why was it stated in the paper that
17 they were so bewildered what to do
18 here? I find that excuse completely
19 inexcusable.

20 For every action there is a
21 reaction. And Duke can put anything
22 they want on paper. My husband is an
23 engineer for 45 years; 27-and-a-half
24 years with Monsanto. You can put

1 anything on paper. But all these
2 riders on the side, too, that they have
3 on the paper they gave out, there is a
4 lot of it hidden. Beware. Thank you.
5 And God bless America.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony. With
7 that I'll call Anne Ohlhauser.

8 MS. OHLHAUSER: Oh. I didn't say I'd testify. I just
9 signed in.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

11 MS. OHLHAUSER: But...

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: You signed in to testify. That's fine.
13 You don't have to testify.

14 MS. OHLHAUSER: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: No problem. Then how about Dan Van
16 Pelt. Oh, did you want to testify?

17 MS. OHLHAUSER: No. But I am of the white-haired set
18 and we're not too thrilled about having
19 a rate increase.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: I'm of the no-hair set, so I'm...

21 MS. OHLHAUSER: All those little fives and tens add up
22 every --

23 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

24 MS. OHLHAUSER: -- at the end of the month. And that

1 money tree is getting a little bare.
2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Are you Mr. Van Pelt? No. Oh, I'm
3 sorry. Okay. So Dan --
4 MR. VAN PELT: Don.
5 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Good evening, Mr. Van Pelt.
6 Would you raise your right hand,
7 please.
8 MR. VAN PELT: (Complies.)
9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: The testimony you're about to give is
10 the truth and the whole truth?
11 MR. VAN PELT: Yes, it is.
12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Thank you. And do you want to
13 give us -- I think we know how to spell
14 Van Pelt. How about your address,
15 please.
16 MR. VAN PELT: Pardon? I didn't get --
17 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Would you give us your address?
18 MR. VAN PELT: Yes. 10497 Woodleigh Lane, Evendale,
19 Ohio. Zip code 45241.
20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you.
21 MR. VAN PELT: I'd like to comment I appreciate you
22 having this open house. And I'm
23 surprised there's not more people here
24 than what there are. Maybe they

1 weren't aware of it. But when I got my
2 last utility bill this month, it kind
3 of shook me a little bit. And I'm on a
4 budget billing, which is \$258 a month.
5 And on this bill it tells me that I
6 should increase my monthly payment \$85.

7 That's quite a jump for someone
8 that wants to raise your rates along
9 with everything else. I'm retired,
10 social security, and about a 2.3
11 percent raise a year. It doesn't go
12 very far right now.

13 And my complaint is that the rate
14 increases and they just keep going up,
15 up, up. So when I got this bill, I
16 called the consumer group, I called
17 Duke Energy, and I called you folks.
18 And I appreciate being able to come
19 here tonight and voice my opinion on
20 this that I think is -- along with
21 everything else that's going on in
22 America today is outrageous.

23 Really what gets me is this
24 increase that was suggested by Duke so

1 I don't have to owe a big bill when
2 it's set up the first of the year. And
3 then I get a paper this Sunday. And
4 all of the stuff that Duke Energy is
5 proposing and to supposedly improve our
6 electric and gas supply. And in this
7 one it talks about the rate increase.

8 And it doesn't compare with my
9 response that -- I called Duke Energy
10 and she verified what the \$85 increase
11 was for. And I asked her is that due
12 to increases that's going up first of
13 the year. She wasn't too clear on it.

14 But then when I got the paper here
15 and they told me that it's only going
16 to go up \$1.31 a month per this article
17 in the Sunday's paper. I somehow can't
18 compute \$1.31 to the person with Duke
19 Energy telling me that -- to have a
20 little cushion for my bill next year,
21 increase my monthly 258, and add \$85 on
22 top of that.

23 And really what gets me aggravated
24 is every time I go to Kentucky or come

1 back into the Cincinnati, Ohio, area,
2 as soon as I get off the bridge and
3 make the curve and you see Cinergy name
4 posted on the convention center. Now,
5 if they've got the money to pour into
6 the name on a building to where we have
7 to pay an increase, that I think is
8 going a little bit too far.

9 I oppose any rate increases at
10 all. And I thank you for your time and
11 letting me speak.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Van
13 Pelt. Looks like we have Lonnie
14 Tucker.

15 We met earlier, Mr. Tucker. Will
16 you raise your right hand, please.

17 MR. TUCKER: (Complies.)

18 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you testify that -- do you swear
19 that the testimony you're about to give
20 is the truth and the whole truth?

21 MR. TUCKER: I do.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Can you give your address also,
23 please?

24 MR. TUCKER: I'm Lonnie Tucker. I live at 5594

1 Heron Drive in West Chester.

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

3 MR. TUCKER: Well, first of all, I'm very, very
4 happy to see our PUC representative
5 here and also our legislators and the
6 individual homeowners who've gone
7 through the same trials and tribulation
8 as myself, as you heard the testimony
9 here this evening.

10 I was part of that 5 percent near
11 the end that got our utilities back on.
12 I think my biggest frustration was
13 getting on the phone -- actually
14 delaying at first because realizing
15 that there was a problem in the
16 beginning -- if you get on the phone,
17 you're only going to get frustrated;
18 but I think I'm going to wait now a day
19 or two before I call. And all I got
20 was a recording over and over and over
21 again, stating that someone will get
22 back to you as soon as possible.

23 In following the news and talking
24 to -- like the earlier gentleman who

1 spoke about coming out and driving, I
2 had to chase down a Duke Energy truck.
3 I asked the gentleman, When will this
4 area where I live and reside at will be
5 back up and running? He said, We will
6 be restoring power first to the
7 businesses and then to the residents.

8 Well, you can imagine how I felt
9 at that point. I'm saying, well, if
10 you're going to open up a place, what
11 good is that going to do us as a
12 resident. It's not going to do us any
13 good. We're going to go buy something
14 and bring it to the house only to
15 spoil?

16 We lost over -- with the produce
17 and everything that we had in the house
18 including food, frozen goods, et
19 cetera, we lost over \$500 of food that
20 we had to throw out. It was nice to
21 know that there was various programs
22 that I qualified for, the EAP program,
23 where they give you \$100 towards the
24 bill. I thought that was wonderful.

1 But it did not address the issue.

2 The other thing that I heard from
3 this gentleman was that we were waiting
4 for crews from outer state to come in
5 with the additional help that we need.

6 Well, like the prior speakers
7 before me, if you follow the news very,
8 very carefully and if you listen to
9 what Duke Energy has said before their
10 takeover, that the rates will be lower
11 for the residents. That has not
12 happened. And there's no way in the
13 world that they can convince me
14 otherwise.

15 I feel at this time during this
16 higher taxation period that we are all
17 experiencing and what we're going
18 through, even with this consumer
19 financial mess that we are going
20 through, as a homeowner like my fellow
21 homeowners we are consumers. We are
22 asking and now asking the PUC on behalf
23 of all the residents here in Ohio to,
24 first of all, look very, very closely

1 at this case that is before you. Deny
2 any rate increase.

3 Because you got to remember these
4 things are affecting senior citizens,
5 like myself, people who are on fixed
6 incomes, residents, disabled, and
7 families in general who are still
8 struggling with the current financial
9 situation.

10 It's like being on the ship of
11 Duke that has completely capsized.
12 Everybody on it has fallen into the
13 water. And Duke comes along now and
14 pour water on drowning people.

15 I am asking again respectfully for
16 the PUC to deny any proposed rates
17 that's before it. And I thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony,
19 Mr. Turner.

20 MR. TUCKER: Tucker.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: I'm sorry. Mr. Tucker. Thank you.
22 Let's see. Mr. Saikaly. Now,
23 Mr. Saikaly, did you bring one wife
24 with you today?

1 MR. SAIKALY: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: This is an inside joke. He testified
3 at the last hearing and we had a little
4 fun with that, so...

5 MR. SAIKALY: The other one is at home.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Once again, Mr. Saikaly, raise
7 your right hand for me, please.

8 MR. SAIKALY: I thought one would be enough.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you swear that the testimony you're
10 about to give is the truth and the
11 whole truth?

12 MR. SAIKALY: I do.

13 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Would you spell your name and
14 give us your address, please, for the
15 record.

16 MR. SAIKALY: S-a-i-k-a-l-y. 12142 Bath Court,
17 Sharonville, Ohio 45241.

18 I -- this, as you said, is the
19 second time I'm here because I'm
20 concerned. My last address, testimony
21 for the board is that I requested that
22 this rate be denied. I have reviewed
23 quite a bit of the request they wanted.
24 Many of the records are ambiguous.

1 Many of them I still do not know what
2 might happen in the future. Nothing
3 really has been certified and made sure
4 that it is, yet I ask for rates without
5 knowing other costs, which is very
6 scary.

7 That -- that concept that they are
8 going to reduce the rates have not come
9 true. Monopoly has never been a good
10 thing for any community, for any
11 nation, for any country. Monopoly is a
12 bad thing.

13 Number one, the great big
14 administrators are not part of the
15 community. That does not make them
16 bad, but does not make them very
17 concerned. When you want to talk to
18 somebody with responsibility, does that
19 mean we can get the man responsible.
20 And the people under them really are
21 not responsible to anything they can
22 answer incorrectly.

23 It is very difficult to talk to
24 somebody and tell them about Duke when

1 the problem is here. Duke was not very
2 responsive in anything the last time.
3 As somebody testified lots of losses
4 were there. Lots of people were
5 inconvenienced.

6 I'm not saying that Duke is a
7 magic wand -- they have magic wand.
8 But still they see a reason and the
9 reason is from out of the state they
10 cannot bring enough people for
11 something so big that they can't really
12 make a justice for something in Ohio.

13 I don't think they have the right
14 people. I don't think they have enough
15 people. They have never thought about
16 it. They have not managed it well.
17 And I don't think they are going to
18 manage it well in the future either.

19 Now, one of the things that I was
20 reading about the smart system they
21 have. The smart system they have I
22 have limited understanding for the
23 system. It's not a system that I've
24 had before. I know how they operate.

1 They have a lot of things they are
2 not doing and they are asking for rate
3 increase that they think they are going
4 to have more rate increases. And
5 before we know what the costs are going
6 to be, I think that the whole thing
7 should be denied unless with everything
8 of the cost is really fixed and know
9 what they are to make -- defend for the
10 people that they will know what the
11 costs are going to be. They can then
12 ask for rate increases or they can ask
13 for justification of any rate. But
14 before that I don't think they are
15 justified to ask for any rate increase.

16 I thank you for hearing us. And I
17 thank you for coming. I know it's a
18 difficult situation. And I appreciate
19 you a lot and a lot for coming and
20 visiting. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for coming back. I'm going
22 to call on Mr. Fleenor.

23 MR. FLEENOR: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Right hand, sir.

1 MR. FLEENOR: (Complies.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you swear that the testimony you're
3 about to give is the truth and the
4 whole truth?

5 MR. FLEENOR: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Do you want to give us your name
7 and you might spell your last name for
8 us and then your address, please?

9 MR. FLEENOR: Allen, A-l-l-e-n. Last name, Fleenor,
10 F-l-e-e-n-o-r. 7339 Dixon Drive,
11 Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Go ahead, please.

13 MR. FLEENOR: Okay. I've got a couple issues. I
14 don't have anything written down. This
15 is just off the top of my head, just a
16 couple concerns.

17 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Good.

18 MR. FLEENOR: The first one is I agree with the
19 gentleman there, monopolies can't be a
20 good thing. I'm really concerned with,
21 you know, one utility company. I mean,
22 there's no competition. Of course, all
23 the rates are going to do is go up,
24 they can't go down. Nobody is fighting

1 for you.

2 And then you try to go to another
3 company to supply it. Then Duke is --
4 Duke has the lines that are -- that the
5 power is coming from. And I don't
6 believe that's the way to go either to
7 an alternative company. My parents
8 used to do that.

9 Something that concerns me is my
10 mom. She's 82 years old on a fixed
11 income. She's living on social
12 security. Her budget billing on her
13 home which is 44 years old is \$10 less
14 than mine. Mine is \$176, hers is \$167.
15 Constantly going up.

16 It seems like one time a year gas
17 rates are going up. The next time of
18 year the electric is going up. Gas,
19 electric; it's always one or the other
20 -- or, you know, simultaneously it's
21 one or the other.

22 I spoke with a meter reader that
23 comes around. I work in Cincinnati. I
24 spoke to a meter reader shortly after

1 Duke purchased Cincinnati Gas &
2 Electric. He was really concerned. I
3 see his concerns now.

4 Duke is blanketing the Cincinnati
5 area replacing all new meters, all the
6 electric meters with -- I guess the
7 meters what it does is they can read it
8 remotely.

9 And my question is, How many
10 people does this -- how many meter
11 readers is this going to put out of
12 work? They're saving money, of course,
13 by laying people off and letting them
14 go.

15 And so I -- and also he had
16 mentioned that they can actually turn
17 your utilities off for nonpayment.
18 Rather than try to get into your home
19 if your meter is inside, they can just
20 turn it off remotely. So I don't know
21 how that's going to affect things.

22 And with this recent power outage,
23 fortunately we were -- we were one of
24 the fortunate ones, I should say. We

1 were only out for about 24 hours. And
2 then it came back on for about 15
3 hours, back off again for about 8.
4 Then it was back on again without any
5 interruptions.

6 But since Duke has taken over --
7 we've lived in the home now about nine
8 years. And we've had five lengthy
9 power interruptions. And with CG & E,
10 I had absolutely none. I mean, we
11 lived there for probably seven years
12 without one power outage.

13 Since Duke took over there's been
14 at least five that I know of. And, of
15 course, you call and you get the
16 recording and they say you're going to
17 be out for maybe an hour or two or
18 three or four or whatever.

19 But I guess that's pretty much all
20 I have. I just hate to see for the
21 fixed income folks -- you know, the
22 rate increases all the time whether
23 it's gas or electric. And I know my
24 wife and I, we're -- we're now -- we've

1 never been in this situation. And this
2 is just one facet of the gas prices and
3 everything else.

4 We are virtually living from
5 paycheck to paycheck. And it's almost
6 like just about to dip into the savings
7 account. And that really scares me.
8 You know, working for 30 years and then
9 you got to dip in your savings just to
10 make it month to month. Thanks for
11 having us.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Sure. Thank you for your testimony.
13 I'd like to call Pete Bryant. Raise
14 your right hand please, sir.

15 MR. BRYANT: Could I affirm; is that okay?

16 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Oh, yeah. I'm asking if you want to
17 affirm.

18 MR. BRYANT: Okay. I'd like to affirm.

19 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Good. Do you want to give us
20 your name and address, please, for the
21 court reporter?

22 MR. BRYANT: Okay. It's Pete Bryant. 3890 Shank
23 Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

24 Now, Duke came out Tuesday. And

1 we had our electricity restored. And
2 I'm thankful for that. But down the
3 street there's a lady next door to me,
4 she was out about a week. And the
5 power line fuse was hanging down on the
6 pole. I took a look and saw that. And
7 she says, Why can't they come by; they
8 drove by three or four times. She
9 said, It wouldn't take very long.

10 And I knew some people that worked
11 for the City and they had a hot stick
12 and they changed the fuse link. Then
13 they take that and put it on the end of
14 the hot stick and then slam that shut
15 and the lights come back on. I said,
16 Why did it take Duke so long? I mean,
17 I thought isn't that kind of strange
18 for something so simple?

19 And Dad's been having trouble.
20 One week -- one month his bill was real
21 high and the other month it wasn't as
22 high; it seesawed and went down.

23 And I called Duke and I was real
24 nice to them. I didn't get upset. And

1 I said, This estimated meter reading,
2 something's wrong. If you use so many
3 kilowatt hours, shouldn't it be the
4 same every month? If the load is
5 pretty much the same, shouldn't it be
6 the same every month?

7 And I'm just wondering. And I'm
8 not complaining about anything. And I
9 thank you for your time. I'm just
10 wondering about those things. That's
11 all.

12 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you. We can hook up afterward,
13 okay?

14 MR. BRYANT: Thanks so much.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Sure. Thank you.

16 Now let me call Joe Wuennemann. Raise
17 your right hand, sir.

18 MR. WUENNEMANN: (Complies.)

19 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you swear that the testimony you're
20 about to give is the truth and the
21 whole truth?

22 MR. WUENNEMANN: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Can you give us your name and
24 spell it, please, and your address?

1 MR. WUENNEMANN: My name is Joe Wuennemann,
2 W-u-e-n-n-e-m-a-n-n. 5791 Weeping
3 Cherry Court, Liberty Township, Ohio
4 45044.

5 My wife and I came tonight to
6 voice our opinion about the rate
7 increase as to what this does to us
8 just as middle Americans. We keep
9 paying for more debts that the country
10 is instituting to us as well as Duke
11 Energy.

12 They are asking for roughly a 5.7
13 percent increase. I guess I take back
14 to them as to what type of increase are
15 they giving their employees? Are they
16 giving them as equal of an increase in
17 rate of pay when other companies are
18 giving increases? How does that
19 substantiate to the rest of the public
20 paying for their bonuses?

21 So I guess -- we were fortunate.
22 We got our power back on Tuesday
23 evening. It never went back out again.
24 So we were fortunate. And we were also

1 fortunate to have neighbors that were
2 able to hook us up to a generator and
3 we didn't lose any food.

4 By that I -- I -- we disagree with
5 any rate increases from here on out as
6 well as when Ike comes along, that's
7 the cost of doing business, that they
8 had to pay people overtime when --
9 where I work when we have an issue, we
10 pay for overtime. We eat those costs.
11 We don't pass them onto the consumers.

12 So I guess how can they pass their
13 issues onto us? That's it. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony, sir.

15 So far that is all that I have who have
16 signed up. Is there anyone who wishes
17 to testify who has not signed?

18 Yes, sir.

19 MR. SOMMER: I actually did sign up.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: I'm sorry.

21 MR. SOMMER: But you might not have received that
22 sheet.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: No. Okay. I did not. Okay. Do you
24 want to raise your right hand for us?

1 MR. SOMMER: (Complies.)

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you swear the testimony you're about
3 to give will be the truth and the whole
4 truth?

5 MR. SOMMER: Yes, I do.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

7 MR. SOMMER: My name is Kris Sommer. I'll spell my
8 last name, S-o-m-m-e-r. It's actually
9 Kris, K-r-i-s. Kris Sommer. I live in
10 Cincinnati. Price Hill. 2395 Wilder
11 Avenue. The zip is 45204.

12 I saw an article in the newspaper
13 about this and the opportunities of
14 talking to the panel, talking with you
15 guys in Clifton.

16 I'm also a property manager in
17 downtown where we've got about 40
18 buildings, serving 250 tenants. Plus
19 we're developing properties
20 (inaudible). We're adding new
21 customers every day to Duke Energy, you
22 know, condos from 90 to \$400,000.

23 I have a few issues with Duke. I
24 have it on good authority that at one

1 of their power plants, they're not
2 using the right coal. And that's
3 caused one of their furnaces to melt
4 down completely.

5 We're America. We have the Saudi
6 Arabia of coal. Coal is from West
7 Virginia -- West Virginia, Tennessee.
8 It's going across the state border and
9 not the ocean. No reason for it to
10 keep going up in price.

11 And they're using cheaper and
12 cheaper blends of coal, which are not
13 right for the furnaces. And they lost
14 one out of the three. And I have it on
15 good authority. It's hearsay now
16 because I'm not the expert on it.

17 But Duke Energy is not offering
18 very good incentives for people to use
19 alternate sources to -- you know, like
20 solar, wind, et cetera, even green
21 roofs -- they're not even offering good
22 information on green roofs -- so we can
23 lower our -- our energy costs. If we
24 do solar, they don't have a real good

1 incentive for adding energy back to the
2 grid. That's not helping our public
3 good at all.

4 I also have concerns on how they
5 do their business. Again, we have over
6 40 buildings that are active buildings
7 in downtown. If some of the tenants --
8 a tenant leaves, leaves the bill, they
9 will try to put that on my house meter.

10 They put bills on one meter at one
11 building that -- on -- they'll take
12 that nonpayment and put it on a whole
13 other building maybe seven, eight
14 blocks away, just sneak it on there. I
15 really find that offensive. I called
16 them out a few times on their ethics.
17 They say, oh, that's ethical. Somehow
18 I don't believe it.

19 And this rate increase that passes
20 is going to add to Duke's coffers each
21 year. They're -- and according to the
22 article they are mitigating the costs
23 and impact priorities. Duke is
24 proposing a new program to provide

1 lower income assistance over three
2 years, \$500,000 or half a million
3 dollars to low income.

4 That's less than one-half of
5 one percent back to people who are
6 truly living on nothing. And that's
7 important. It's important to me. It's
8 important to my morals. I mean, hey, I
9 give more to charity than one half of
10 one percent of my income to charity.
11 That's me as a middle income
12 individual.

13 Duke Energy, I don't feel that
14 they are doing a great job. And I know
15 a lot of the technicians that serve my
16 neighborhoods. Some are -- some are
17 piss-poor. And some of them are
18 outstanding. And a lot of these
19 workers don't have very much good to
20 say about the company that's, in their
21 words, greedy. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Thank you. Let's see. We have
23 Paul, looks like Folmer.

24 MR. FOLMER: Pass.

1 MR. FOLMER'S SON: Wait, I would like to -- wait.

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you want me to come back to you?

3 MR. FOLMER'S SON: I'd like to -- it's really important.
4 I have ideas for the future. And that
5 instead of coal we should be able to
6 use lightning as an energy source. And
7 it will be able to grant us enough
8 electricity to supply so we can
9 actually have robots to help fix power
10 lines. And we can also have -- and I
11 have ideas. And I know how in certain
12 ways we can actually harness the power
13 of lightning.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Well, that's a good idea. See these
15 fellows here from Duke? I bet they
16 would like to hear about this when this
17 is over. Is that okay?

18 MR. FOLMER'S SON: The power outage actually happened on
19 my birthday.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Not a good birthday present. Okay.
21 We'll talk -- I want to hear more about
22 the lightning, okay?

23 Mr. -- or I -- not Mr. -- I better
24 not -- I don't know whether you signed

1 in or people signed in to testify. But
2 I think...

3 (Whereupon, Chairman Schriber was
4 handed a list.)

5 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: I've got Faye Miller. Okay. Do you
6 swear that the testimony you're about
7 to give is the truth and the whole
8 truth?

9 MS. MILLER: I do.

10 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Ms. Miller, do you want to give
11 us your address, please?

12 MS. MILLER: My address is 7075 (inaudible) Road,
13 Hamilton, Ohio 45041.

14 We've been out of the area for
15 almost 20 years. And when we came
16 back, we started looking at some homes.
17 So we decided on this one. It was all
18 electric. And before we purchased it I
19 called Duke Energy to get the budget
20 and all that to see -- you know, just
21 to see how electric was running. And
22 they gave me a price of 128, you know,
23 pretty much a month. 128.

24 So we've been here just a little

1 over a year. And now our bill is 274 a
2 month. And we're kind of in arrears
3 like most of the people here saying the
4 price has gone up, up, up. And when
5 you're on a fixed income, you don't get
6 any more money a month.

7 And just about every time you open
8 the newspaper something about Duke
9 Energy wanting to raise the price or
10 add a rider. And usually -- I dread to
11 get this bill anymore because you open
12 it up and all you see is the whole list
13 of riders, words and riders, and this
14 and that, and this and that, you know.
15 And then you look down there to see
16 your final bill.

17 And it's just getting disgusting
18 because where is it going to stop; and
19 what can you do about it; and what can
20 we do about it? And it's just not what
21 I expected when I came back to Ohio.
22 And that's what -- it was my opinion.

23 We are -- we are retired. We have
24 one check coming in a month. And, you

1 know, you just kind of -- and I'm real
2 conservative. It's not like, you know,
3 I'm not conservative about my utilities
4 and things.

5 And I think that the Duke
6 Energy -- and I've read a lot of stuff
7 just since I've been home about how
8 they're donating, you know, that these
9 big companies have this sacrifice and
10 then it's going to pass along to the
11 people and the homeowners, which I
12 think that's very wrong. And I'm sure
13 a lot of other people agree with me.
14 And that's what I want to say. Thank
15 you for listening.

16 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you. That brings me to Mary
17 Rucich. Right hand, please.

18 MS. RUCICH: (Complies.)

19 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you affirm that the testimony you're
20 about to give is the truth and the
21 whole truth?

22 MS. RUCICH: Yes, I do.

23 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you. Would you spell your last
24 name for us, Mary, and give us your

1 address.

2 MS. RUCICH: R-u-c-i-c-h. I live at 9680 Newcastle
3 Court, Mason, Ohio.

4 Thank you for this opportunity.
5 My husband and I are originally from
6 Illinois. And this last Wednesday we
7 had -- we were back home. We got the
8 rain from the hurricane. You got the
9 winds here.

10 And we were without energy for
11 four days. Thank God we were not here
12 that we had to go through everything
13 that a lot of the other people did.

14 And as we were coming home I said
15 to my husband, I said, you know what, I
16 said, give it a few weeks and Duke
17 Energy is going to look for some more
18 money. And he says, No, you're just
19 kidding. I said, No, I'm not.

20 The way I feel about this is, you
21 know, my husband and I have worked all
22 of our life for everything that we ever
23 had. How much more are we expected to
24 cut back?

1 Right now we're expected to freeze
2 in the winter and sweat in the summer.
3 I don't know how much more we can do.
4 I mean, we have been people that have
5 really lived to the lowest of our
6 means. I mean, we do not leave lights
7 on all the time. We do not abuse the
8 situation. But it's getting tiring.
9 It really is.

10 And it's like, Where's the break?
11 You know, if we don't have the income
12 in our family coming in, we can't just
13 go to somebody and say, hey, let's
14 raise you 5 percent; let's raise you 10
15 percent. Nobody helps us.

16 But it feels like that we have to
17 keep helping everybody else. Companies
18 are not expected to cut back. We are.
19 Why don't they look at what they're
20 doing and say, all right, well, let's
21 cut back here or, you know, let's do
22 this.

23 We have to for everybody else, but
24 nobody gives us a break at all. It

1 seems like if you are out working in
2 the world today, getting yourself up
3 every morning, raising your family
4 doing the best you can, we're the ones
5 that are paying for it.

6 And it's like give us a break
7 somewhere. You know, a break
8 somewhere. So we don't have to freeze
9 in the winter and we don't have to
10 sweat in the summer.

11 I thank God that I don't have
12 allergies that when the summertime
13 comes, that I am forced to keep on the
14 air-conditioning all day. I thank God
15 for that. And in the summer- -- in the
16 wintertime when it's so cold these
17 families that have little babies, that
18 are raising children, that they have to
19 keep their house so cold because you're
20 afraid of that bill coming in.

21 We just got our last bill this
22 past week. Okay. We were gone for
23 four days. No electricity whatsoever.
24 Plus I was back home and my husband was

1 traveling. When we got our bill, I
2 could not believe it.

3 What are we paying for when half
4 the time this past month we weren't
5 even home? Plus the four days the
6 electric was down. I mean, you're
7 actually afraid of the bills. You're
8 actually afraid to open it up. And if
9 you put it one degree higher up, you're
10 scared to death.

11 This last bill that we got for the
12 winter, when the winter was going on, I
13 called Duke Energy and I said, Why is
14 this bill so high? And she says, Well,
15 you may have to put your thermostat at
16 65.

17 Okay. I kept going down and down.
18 And then she says, Well, the lower you
19 go, the more it has to keep going on
20 and off and on and off. Oh, my God. I
21 mean, why don't we just freeze to
22 death? Why don't you just come take
23 our houses? Just get rid of it. Let's
24 go back to the old ways, you know, with

1 fire and wood. Maybe we'd be better
2 off.

3 But I called it. I told my
4 husband, I said, I guarantee you within
5 the next couple of weeks you're going
6 to see an article that Duke Energy
7 wants to raise us again. And lo and
8 behold what came about.

9 You know, lower us for once. I'm
10 just tired of paying for everybody else
11 that doesn't get up and work and just
12 sits back. You know, just they take --
13 they just take the system, they use it
14 for all they can. And as I said, the
15 people that get out and work every day,
16 do what they need to do, we're the one
17 that's being penalized for everything.

18 If -- for some reason our word
19 does not go along, I don't know why.
20 But, please, give us a break for once
21 so we don't have to freeze this winter
22 and sweat in the summer.

23 Again, it's the -- it's the people
24 that are not able to get out, like the

1 people that are retired and can't get
2 out and hold extra jobs. The ones with
3 the families, the little ones, that the
4 mother can't get out and work. Have
5 your kids running around with colds all
6 winter long, go to the doctor, having
7 more bills.

8 Come on. You know, we're here.
9 We're America. We're out there
10 working. And we're paying your bills.
11 Why don't you cut back once in a while
12 and see how awful it is? Thank you. I
13 appreciate your time.

14 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you for your testimony. It looks
15 like Judi Dodson is next.

16 Ms. Dodson, good evening. Do you
17 swear that the testimony you're about
18 to give is the truth and the whole
19 truth?

20 MS. DODSON: I do.

21 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Good. Thanks. Will you give us --
22 spell your name -- your last name for
23 us and your address.

24 MS. DODSON: My last name is spelled D-o-d-s-o-n.

1 My address is 9672 Waterford Place,
2 Loveland, Ohio 45140.

3 I am a disabled teacher. I
4 couldn't -- I have not worked for 20
5 years. I live on a very fixed income.
6 And I am tired of my bill going up
7 every single month.

8 I have asthma and allergies,
9 severe asthma and allergies. I do need
10 air-conditioning in the summer. And I
11 have high bills. My electric bills are
12 higher in the summer than in the
13 winter. I wear long underwear in the
14 winter to keep my bill down lower. I
15 haven't done that, sir, since I skied
16 in Wisconsin where I'm from.

17 This is ridiculous. People
18 shouldn't -- in America should not have
19 to live like this. This should be in a
20 Third World country, not in America.

21 And Duke Energy, I'm sure you
22 people get your raises. My income does
23 not increase. If you saw what my
24 social security check raise is, you

1 would laugh at it.

2 And I only taught in Cincinnati
3 for a very few years so that my
4 disability check from Cincinnati Public
5 Schools is very, very meager. It isn't
6 three hundred-and-some dollars a month.
7 That's nothing. Nothing.

8 And I'm just, you know -- I am --
9 I am afraid to open my bill like all
10 these other people. Because it's very,
11 very frightening. I don't know where
12 else I can cut back.

13 I don't drive my car when I don't
14 have to. I walk most of the places
15 that I can. I -- I just -- you know, I
16 change doctors so I don't go into
17 Cincinnati to doctors. So I go to
18 doctors out here now.

19 Because you people have the
20 largest bill I get. I have cut out
21 everything, entertainment --
22 everything -- because of Duke Energy.
23 Because you just keep going up and up
24 and up. And I don't know what else to

1 do.

2 I need air-conditioning in my car,
3 yes, because of my health. And that
4 isn't your problem, I know that. But
5 on the other hand, the price of -- of
6 your energy you people could -- you
7 could consider the common person.
8 Thank you very much for your time.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you, Ms. Dodson.

10 Okay. That is all I have listed
11 here. Again, is there anyone who has
12 not -- yes, sir? Come on.

13 Welcome. Raise your right hand,
14 sir.

15 MR. SHIELDS: (Complies.)

16 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you swear that the testimony you're
17 about to give is the truth and the
18 whole truth?

19 MR. SHIELDS: I do.

20 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Do you want to give us your name,
21 please, and address for the record?

22 MR. SHIELDS: My name is Robert Shields. 7240 Jerry
23 Drive, West Chester, Ohio.

24 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay, sir, go ahead.

1 MR. SHIELDS: I did the same. The list coming in.
2 But after reading this paper here that
3 they give me out there, Duke Energy
4 Electric Security Plan, I just would
5 like for the PUCO to keep a watch on
6 this here.

7 It says according to Duke, the
8 average total electric bill to
9 resident- -- to residential customers
10 would increase at least 5.7. But then
11 it goes down here and says in addition
12 numerous costs added to the bill to
13 separate riders would be collected from
14 the customers.

15 The bills we get today have riders
16 on it. I would like to ask the PUCO if
17 they would to have some way of
18 controlling what riders and stuff they
19 can put on there. They're asking you
20 for an increase today. If they don't
21 get that increase, they just go bypass
22 it and put riders on it.

23 And if there's no kind of control
24 over it, they can just keep on adding

1 costs to it. And I do hope that the
2 PUCO will do something for the
3 residential customers to keep the bills
4 down. I thank you very much for the
5 opportunity.

6 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Thank you, Mr. Shields. Okay. Is
7 there anyone else?

8 MS. SAIKALY: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Ms. Saikaly.

10 MS. SAIKALY: Regina Saikaly.

11 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: And do you affirm the testimony you're
12 about to give is the truth and the
13 whole truth?

14 MS. SAIKALY: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay, Mrs. Saikaly. And I know your
16 address happens to be the same as
17 Mr. Saikaly.

18 MS. SAIKALY: Yes, it is.

19 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay.

20 MS. SAIKALY: As you've alluded to and my husband
21 did, we did come to some of the other
22 meetings. And I really wasn't going to
23 speak tonight.

24 But after being to some of the

1 other meetings and reading the
2 literature a little more carefully and
3 talking to some of the people from the
4 PUCO and from the OCC, there's one
5 thing that concerns me particularly.
6 There's so many issues, but there's one
7 particular one.

8 My husband and I, we're very
9 blessed. We're fortunate. We have a
10 fairly good income. But we are retired
11 and on a fixed income. We don't have
12 cable. We don't use a cell phone.

13 In the winter we try to keep it at
14 a reasonable place because
15 environmentally I'm conscious of using
16 energy. In the summer we don't use our
17 air-conditioning when we don't have to
18 because I'm thinking about the energy
19 that we're using and trying to be
20 environmentally conscious.

21 But one thing that's been brought
22 to my attention, if I have not
23 misunderstood it, for instance, even
24 though we're trying to save, if enough

1 Duke people try to save and next year
2 the company is not making as much money
3 as they thought, even we will be
4 increased because we tried to save.

5 Now, in this kind of ecologically
6 disturbed environment we live in
7 anyway -- I mean, we can't even be a
8 good citizen and try to save energy
9 because we'll be penalized. And I
10 don't think that's fair.

11 And I think that the PUCO, they're
12 trying to use good judgment. But as
13 you can hear from so many people here
14 tonight this is bread and butter for
15 some people. It's not a luxury. It's
16 something they have to have.

17 This lady is ill. I mean, she's
18 got to have it. And I know that the
19 PUCO doesn't want on their conscience
20 people who are dying because of the
21 cold and the heat.

22 So I would just ask that you very,
23 very carefully look at this increase.
24 And if at all possible, deny them this

1 increase. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN SCHRIBER: Okay. Thank you, Mrs. Saikaly.

3 Anybody else?

4 Well, I'm not seeing any other
5 hands. Again, I thank you all very
6 much for coming. Again, note that
7 everything you have said has been
8 transcribed. It's on the record and
9 will be reviewed as part of the record
10 in this case and very carefully, I
11 promise you, considered with respect to
12 the outcome by the Public Utilities
13 Commission. So with that I would
14 adjourn this meeting. Thank you.

15 (PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:40 P.M.)
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

I, Kristina L. Pedersen, the undersigned, a duly
qualified and commissioned Notary Public within and for
the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing
public hearing held at the said time and place was taken
in stenotype and transcribed into typewritten form by me;
that I am neither relative, attorney, nor employee of any
party or their counsel and have no interest in the result
of the pending action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and official seal of office at Cincinnati, Ohio, this
6th day of November, 2008.

My commission expires:
September 8, 2013

Kristina L. Pedersen
Kristina L. Pedersen
Notary Public