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CITY OF NORTH CANTON

MAYOR DAVID J. HELD

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PUCO

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attention: Docketing Division

RE: Docket Numbers – Case No 08-917-EL-SSO/Case Number 08-918-EL-SSO

Dear Sirs:

As Mayor of the City of North Canton, Ohio, I have reviewed the July 31, 2008 application to PUCO by American Electric Power to establish an Electric Security Plan (ESP) to comply with Senate Bill 221. Further, I understand that under the new law a system will be established where electric rates would be set by the PUCO beginning January 1, 2009 and the new law also outlines a path for electric utilities like American Electric Power to implement market-based pricing.


After a review of American Electric Power's Electric Security Plan I applaud their proposal to invest in capital improvements for the electric delivery system. In addition, their commitment to assist low income customers, bolster economic development/job retention efforts, and ramp up energy efficiency and advanced technology development and deployment efforts is very commendable as well.

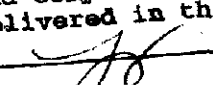
Unfortunately, the proposed minimum rate impacts of American Electric Power's Electric Security Plan would increase prices for electricity for the residents of North Canton by forty-five percent (45%). This increase would be difficult for our residents and could be devastating for our senior citizens and low to moderate income households that are on fixed incomes. Also, inasmuch as we may be entering into a significant economic downturn, the proposed minimum rate increases could significantly hurt our business community as well.

To that end, I do not oppose the overall goals of American Electric Power's Electric Security Plan. However, **I do strongly oppose the minimum rate impacts of at least forty-five percent (45%) for the period of 2009 through 2011 and would recommend that this request be eliminated or reduced significantly.**

Should you have any questions regarding my stance on this matter, please call me at (330) 499-5081.

Thank you,


David J. Held
Mayor, City of North Canton

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