

3111 Hilton Street N.W.
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Phone: (330) 833-2141
Fax: (330) 833-2153

www.perrytwp.com
office@perrytwp.com

FILE



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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215

RE: AEP Ohio proposed rate increase.

Dear Members of the Commission:

The Perry Township Board of Trustees, Stark County, joins the Stark County Commissioners, and other Stark County local political subdivisions in requesting close scrutiny of the proposed fifteen per-cent (15%) annual rate increase over the next three (3) years as requested by American Electric Power Ohio in its Electric Security Plan.

Ohio has recently lost more than 250,000 manufacturing jobs and these direct job losses continue. Perry Township, Stark County and all of Northeast Ohio have suffered significant economic hardship from the loss of manufacturing jobs and the ripple effect through related and supply chain businesses.

It is the opinion shared by many of our constituents that the increase requested by AEP Ohio may compound the economic hardship of our community; particularly at a time when Perry Township and all of Northeast Ohio are in a continuing struggle to preserve jobs and prevent further economic loss to our community. This increase may impact our ability to compete for new jobs, may affect job growth and could further contract an already restricted economy. This increase may further burden existing business while also increasing the likelihood of additional job loss that will create even greater financial hardship on families within our community.

In the realities of today's economic tightening every step should be taken and every action implemented to aggressively preserve and create jobs while reducing the financial burdens on individuals and their families. Ohio, Stark County and Perry Township need to be more attractive to business and job creation and not creating artificial hurdles that will cause more job loss, lay-offs and home foreclosures.

The Perry Township Board of Trustees requests your thoughtful and judicious consideration of the probable financial impact that this proposed rate increase will have on the already challenged economic climate.

Very truly yours,

Anna M. Capaldi
President

Craig E. Chessler
Vice-president

Lee C. Laubacher
Trustee

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