

THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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October 8, 2008

Mr. Alan R. Schriber, Chairman
PUCO
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: 08-935-EL-SSP

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OCT 10 2008

Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

PUCO

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Dear Mr. Schriber:

This proposed increase in rates process is like the ripples in a lake when someone skips a stone. As the stone picks up momentum from each skip, the ripples get bigger and bigger and many times overtake those that preceded in size, and as the stone moves to smaller skips, and co-mingling in a way that appears disruptive to the surface of the lake. One might extrapolate from this that there might be disruption below the surface for which we are not aware, cannot see or feel.

To me this relates to a plan to raise utility rates for one year or stratified over a number of years. In this economy in particular, with the growing numbers of unemployed, underemployed, uninsured or underinsured for healthcare, or individuals and families dependent upon public support to meet their basic needs.

If a family receives a small stipend to care for their children's children, and receives food stamps while living on a pension, what happens if money must now be diverted to cover a new expense or an increased expense? Where will the funds come from to meet the new expense while sustaining the ongoing costs of daily living? How much income is discretionary enough to cover an increase in utilities, and increase in automobile fuel prices, and increase in groceries, plus cover the incidentals in a family's living expenses? What impact might this have on the families that have children that require utilities to support equipment in the home that helps with their breathing if they have asthma, or other health related issues?

So if a family has \$1800 in pension, receives \$545 for food from food stamps, they basically have \$2345 to live on monthly). If utility bills are \$400/month, child care expenses of \$500 per month, already pays \$500 for rent, plus has extra medical, dental, miscellaneous living expenses, must provide transportation payments for travel to school, etc, where does the money come for an increase in utility costs? Where is there discretionary income to help cover an increase in utility costs? As the stone skips across a lake, so does the money a family has to live on. Where will these new ripples disrupt the family's daily living? Please place this letter as documentation in the case file. Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Tom A. F. Mendelsohn
Executive Director

EnergyESP&MROApp93008ARS

CC.: Joseph Meissner

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