

FILE

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March 21, 2009

PUCO

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180 E. Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 45215

Re: 08-0709-EL-AIR

Gentlemen:

We senior citizens plead with you not to allow Duke Energy another increase this year. My Duke bill has increased \$100.00 each year over the past three years. The "fees" alone are enormous.

We seniors live on fixed incomes that are decreasing. I have budgeted all my life toward retirement. We were raised to budget. I have stopped the newspapers, switched to basic cable, closed off 4 of my 6 room house and purchased 2 small electric heaters, keeping my furnace set at 50° to save on my Duke bill. I'm so looking for spring.

My widowed neighbors with 2-floor homes average \$200 to \$600 Duke bills with furnaces set at 68°. My social security check is \$548.00 per month. What will I do in August when my C.D. has to be renewed? I'm 81 years old. I can't sell my home. I can't find a job to add to my retirement. I speak for my class of 1946 - all on fixed and depreciating incomes and many more seniors. If we have to go onto our capital, we will soon be on Medicaid. HEAP ~~dictates~~ dictates you can have only \$4000 to qualify for help. Can't the state or Duke Energy give the seniors a little break? We have done and are doing all we can to stay independent. Young people have the time to save more, we don't have that luxury any longer + we've worked hard in our youth to save.

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Technician SUR Date Processed MAR 23 2009

Thank you for any help,  
Connie Burns