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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE:)
)
PUCO LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING)
)
CASE NO.: 10-0388-EL-SSO)

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

DATE: April 19, 2010 at 6:04 p.m.

PLACE: One Government Center
640 Jackson
Toledo, Ohio 43604

HEARING OFFICER: Katie L. Stenman

REPORTER: Angela F. Ellis
Notary Public

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Technician AK Date Processed 4-29-20

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the OCC:

3 OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL:

4 Jody Kyler

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

5 (614) 466-8574

6 On behalf of FirstEnergy:

7 Mark A. Hayden

8 76 South Main Street

Akron, Ohio 44308

9 (330) 761-7735

10 - - -

I N D E X

EXAMINATION

Witness Name	Page
George Sarantou	
Direct By Mr. Hayden	16
Josephine McIntire	
Robert Mettler	
Jimmy Gaines	
Jay Leeming	

1 HEARING OFFICER: This is the
2 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
3 public hearing, at this time and place,
4 case number 10-0388-EL-SSO being copied
5 in the matter of the application of the
6 Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland
7 Electric Company and the Toledo Edison
8 Company who are authorities that
9 establish a standard of service offer
10 pursuant to section 49.28.143 of the Ohio
11 Revised Code in the form of an electric
12 security plan.

13 As I previously stated, my name
14 is Katie Stenman and I am the hearing
15 officer that has been assigned by the
16 Commission to preside over this
17 proceeding. At this time in the hearing,
18 we will hear from the parties, starting
19 with the company.

20 MR. HAYDEN: Thank you, Your
21 Honor. On behalf of the company is Mark
22 A. Hayden.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Did you have
24 any type of a presentation --

1 MR. HAYDEN: No, I do not, Your
2 Honor.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. On
4 behalf of the OCC?

5 MS. KYLER: Thank you, Your
6 Honor. On behalf of the residential
7 consumers of FirstEnergy, Janine
8 Migden-Ostrander, consumers counsel, Jody
9 Kyler, assistant consumers counsel. Also
10 with me are Greg Fuller, Jim Carlo, Mark
11 Mullins from my office if you have any
12 questions. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Are there any
14 other interviewers present tonight?
15 Okay. At the hearing tonight there are
16 representatives from the Commission's
17 service monitoring and the enforcing
18 department, also from FirstEnergy and the
19 OCC. If you have any questions
20 concerning a utility matter that is not
21 related to the electric security plan
22 proceeding, which is the focus of
23 tonight's hearing, please see a company
24 representative, admissions personnel or

1 OCC personnel tonight.

2 On March 23, 2010, FirstEnergy
3 filed with the Public Utilities
4 Commission an application along with a
5 signed agreement among several parties to
6 establish its next electric security
7 plan, commonly referred to as an ESP.
8 This ESP is for the supply and pricing of
9 electric service from June 1st, 2011
10 through May 31st, 2014. Electric rates
11 under the new plan would again be
12 determined through a competitive bid
13 process conducted by an independent bid
14 manager, as they were in the company's
15 first electric security plan.

16 Under the proposed ESP,
17 FirstEnergy's distribution rates would
18 remain frozen through May 31st, 2014.
19 The company also would establish a
20 mechanism in 2012 to recover improvements
21 to the company's distribution system.
22 This cost recovery would be subject to
23 quarterly filings and annual audits by
24 the Public Utilities Commission.

1 FirstEnergy would also continue to
2 promote economic development, job
3 retention, energy efficiency,
4 conservation, and low income programs.

5 The eight local public hearings
6 scheduled in this case are only one
7 aspect of the process. The evidentiary
8 hearings in this case are scheduled to
9 begin on April 20, 2010 at the
10 Commission's office in Columbus. The
11 purpose of that hearing is to allow the
12 company staff and engineers to present
13 witnesses and evidence in support of
14 their positions in the case. The purpose
15 of tonight's public hearing is to receive
16 comments from the public regarding
17 FirstEnergy's proposed application for an
18 electric security plan.

19 We will not be hearing from the
20 company, the staff, or any interviewers
21 tonight. This is your opportunity, the
22 public, to let the Commission know what
23 you think about the company's request to
24 establish a new ESP. When you arrived

1 you were given the opportunity to sign up
2 and testify. If you missed that
3 opportunity, it is still available,
4 outside of these doors, and I will also
5 give anyone who hasn't signed up the one
6 last opportunity to speak at the close of
7 our hearing.

8 I will take the witnesses in the
9 order in which they signed in. Before
10 you begin your statement, I will swear
11 you in and I will ask that you give your
12 name and address. Your testimony will be
13 considered part of the official record of
14 the case and will be reviewed by the
15 Commission before they make their final
16 decision. All testimony will be under
17 oath and attorneys for the company and
18 other parties will be allowed to ask you
19 question about your statement while you
20 are under oath.

21 Should you decide you do not
22 want to testify when I call your name,
23 you can simply pass. Tonight's hearing
24 is being transcribed by a court reporter,

1 so it's important that you speak clearly
2 and loudly so that she can accurately
3 record your statements. Also, if you
4 have a written statement, would you place
5 those on the table beside her, that would
6 be helpful.

7 As I am presiding over the
8 proceeding tonight, I am unable to answer
9 any substantive questions about the case,
10 please refer those questions to others as
11 I previously discussed. Before we get
12 started, are there any questions about
13 tonight's process? Hearing none at this
14 time, we will begin calling witnesses
15 forward. When I call you forward, like I
16 said before, I will swear you in and I
17 ask that you state your name, address,
18 spelling your last name for the record.

19 And I will butcher your names,
20 George --

21 MR. SARANTOU: George Sarantou.

22 HEARING OFFICER: You are
23 welcome to use the podium, if you would
24 like.

1 MR. SARANTOU: Yes, I would like
2 to.

3 GEORGE SARANTOU,
4 being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
5 nothing but the truth, testified and said as follows:

6 MR. SARANTOU: Thank you very
7 much. I'm George Sarantou. I'm a Toledo
8 City Councilman.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Can I have you
10 spell your last name and give your
11 address for the record?

12 MR. SARANTOU: Yes,
13 S-a-r-a-n-t-o-u. I'm a Toledo City
14 Councilman at large, and I represent
15 about 300,000 people in the city of
16 Toledo. I appreciate the opportunity to
17 be here this evening. I have some
18 concerns on the proposed electric
19 security plan by FirstEnergy. First of
20 all, my understanding is that FirstEnergy
21 has requested the Public Utilities
22 Commission of Ohio to waive its normal
23 and legal 275-day review process
24 regarding this proposal, and what they

1 would like is a decision by May 5th.

2 This a an extraordinarily large
3 proposal, very complex, and involves the
4 potential of rate increases of \$390
5 million. It is my belief that the Public
6 Utilities Commission should absolutely
7 use the legal requirement of the full 275
8 days to totally review and verify all of
9 the data that has been submitted by
10 FirstEnergy. I believe this is what you
11 owe the rate payers and consumers of
12 Ohio.

13 To have a decision made by the
14 Public Utilities Commission by May 5th is
15 simply wrong. A full 275 days is
16 absolutely needed, when you talk about a
17 huge rate increase of \$390 million.
18 Those rates could increase quarterly over
19 the next two-and-a-half years.
20 Obviously, they would begin 2011. \$390
21 million primarily on the residential
22 consumers could be very, very painful.

23 My understanding is from the
24 proposal that primarily this affects

1 residential consumers, not so much the
2 commercial customers. My question to the
3 Public Utilities Commission is why do we
4 need to have distribution rates raised
5 for FirstEnergy. In 2007 FirstEnergy
6 sought from the Public Utilities
7 Commission a \$340 million increase in
8 rates. Fortunately the Public Utilities
9 Commission granted the rate increase of
10 \$137 million. This was for distribution
11 costs.

12 In looking at the financials of
13 FirstEnergy, I must tell you I'm a
14 financial advisor with Brennan Financial
15 here in Toledo. I notice that for quite
16 some time, many, many years, FirstEnergy
17 has not lowered its dividends. The
18 company is doing very, very well as a
19 company. And they're doing very
20 profitable work. It's interesting to me
21 that when you look at the net income of
22 FirstEnergy Solutions and FirstEnergy
23 Corporation, let's talk about FirstEnergy
24 Solutions, first of all. This is from

1 the Securities and Exchange filing. The
2 net income of FirstEnergy Solutions,
3 which is strictly the electric company,
4 the provider of electric services, in
5 2007 FirstEnergy Solutions had net income
6 of \$520,864,000.

7 In 2008, they had net income of
8 \$506,410,000 and in 2009, this past year,
9 FirstEnergy Solutions had a net income of
10 \$577,804,000. No dividends were ever cut
11 by FirstEnergy. It would appear to me,
12 from my perspective, that they are doing
13 very, very well as a company.

14 Let's talk about FirstEnergy
15 Corporation, the parent company of
16 FirstEnergy Solutions. Their net profit
17 in -- their net income in 2007, according
18 to the Securities and Exchange Commission
19 filings, net income was one billion,
20 that's with a B, \$1,312,000,000. For
21 2008, firstEnergy Corporation's net
22 income was \$1,339,000,000, and I'm
23 pleased to say that the net income of
24 FirstEnergy for 2009 was \$990,000,000.

1 So to the Public Utilities
2 Commission of Ohio, how can you justify a
3 decision to raise rates this high when
4 this company is making, essentially, last
5 year made a billion dollars overall and
6 FirstEnergy Solutions made \$577,000,000?
7 That just doesn't seem right, and once
8 again, never, never have dividends been
9 reduced by this company. So they're
10 doing very, very well. This is after
11 their expenses.

12 So my final question is to the
13 Public Utilities Commission, as a
14 councilman representing over 300,000
15 people, people that have been stuck with
16 some of the highest electric rates in the
17 nation for quite some time, and even with
18 Davis-Besse, and we know they're having
19 additional problems at Davis-Besse, why
20 the rush. Why the rush? Why must the
21 Public Utilities Commission make a
22 decision by May 5th? That just doesn't
23 make sense, when you're talking about an
24 enormous rate increase, and they just got

1 one back in 2007.

2 We all remember what happened
3 recently, not last year. FirstEnergy
4 embarked to provide energy efficient
5 light bulbs. They rushed into it and the
6 rate payers said, wait a minute. We
7 don't want to pay for these light bulbs.
8 We don't want to have to pay these
9 extraordinary prices for light bulbs,
10 when we can go to the Andersons or we can
11 go to Home Depot or Lowe's and get these
12 bulbs much cheaper.

13 In the final analysis, in my
14 humble opinion, I think the Public
15 Utilities Commission needs to do what
16 they are paid good money to do, and that
17 is to evaluate this rate request very
18 carefully over a 275-day period. You owe
19 it to the citizens of this community,
20 this region, you owe it also to all
21 citizens throughout the state of Ohio.
22 That is why we have an independent Public
23 Utilities Commission. If you so choose
24 to approve this rate increase by their

1 deadline of May 5th, rather than honor
2 the State law, which calls for 275 days,
3 then we might as well shut down the
4 Commission and have FirstEnergy make all
5 the decisions for all the rate payers of
6 Ohio. Thank you, very much.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Any questions?

8 MR. HAYDEN: Yes, I do, Your
9 Honor. Let me address from the -- do you
10 want me to address from the microphone?

11 HEARING OFFICER: If you can
12 speak loud enough, you don't have to.
13 It's up to you.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Mr.
15 Sarantou, you can stay there. We have a
16 few questions for you.

17 MR. SARANTOU: Okay.

18 HEARING OFFICER: As I
19 previously stated, the company and any of
20 the other parties are allowed to ask
21 questions of the witnesses tonight.

22 - - -

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HAYDEN:

1 Q. Sir, my name is Mark Hayden. I am
2 attorney for FirstEnergy. I have just a couple
3 questions for you, based on your testimony. Are you
4 aware that the application that the company has filed
5 in this case is not an application to increase rates?

6 A. I'm going by the media reports that it
7 could be up to a \$390 million rate increase.

8 Q. But this is not an application to
9 increase rates.

10 A. Then what it is?

11 Q. It's an application for an electric
12 security plan.

13 (Discussion had off the record.)

14 HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead.

15 Thank you.

16 Q. Sir, are you aware that this application
17 is not an application to increase rates?

18 A. I am aware that this an application for a
19 proposed rate increase.

20 Q. Are you aware that the proposal includes
21 a base distribution rate freeze through May of 2014?

22 A. Once the -- my understanding is that once
23 the increase was approved, yes, the rates will be
24 frozen, but it would be increased. Are you saying

1 we're not going to have a rate increase in
2 distribution?

3 Q. I'm sorry, sir. This is a public forum.
4 As an attorney for the company I can ask you questions
5 but you can not ask me questions.

6 A. All right.

7 Q. Sir, were you aware that the proposal
8 includes several million dollars to support jobs,
9 economic development and distribution of liability?

10 A. I'm aware of the \$25 million in this
11 proposal.

12 Q. Sir, are you aware that FirstEnergy
13 Solutions is not a party to this application?

14 A. Who is a party to it?

15 Q. I'm sorry, sir. I can't answer your
16 question?

17 A. I believe it is FirstEnergy. I don't
18 think it's another company. Is it?

19 Q. My question was, are you aware that
20 FirstEnergy Solutions is not a party to this
21 application?

22 A. I'm not sure I understand the question.

23 Q. Okay. Are you aware at this time that
24 FirstEnergy Corporation is not a party to this

1 application?

2 A. No, I was not.

3 Q. Were you aware that the FirstEnergy Ohio
4 utilities are a party to this application?

5 A. You just told me that.

6 MR. HAYDEN: Your Honor, I have
7 no further questions.

8 HEARING OFFICER: You can stay
9 there.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Kyler, do
11 you have any questions for the witness?

12 MS. KYLER: No, I wondered,
13 would it be all right with you if I
14 marked your exhibit as evidence, the SEC
15 filing?

16 THE WITNESS: Sure.

17 MR. HAYDEN: And moved it into
18 evidence.

19 HEARING OFFICER: We are not
20 going to admit formal evidence. Anything
21 that Mr. Sarantou brought with him we
22 certainly can get a copy of, a statement
23 or anything that he wishes.

24 MS. KYLER: That's all I have.

1 If I could have them marked, please.

2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.
4 Sarantou. You're excused. Josephine A.
5 McIntire.

6 - - -

7 JOSEPHINE MCINTIRE,
8 being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
9 nothing but the truth, testified and said as follows:

10 HEARING OFFICER: Please state
11 your name and address for the record.

12 MS. MCINTIRE: My name is
13 Josephine McIntire. My address is 9211
14 Schadel Road, Waterville.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
16 Please go ahead.

17 MS. MCINTIRE: Okay. What Mr.
18 Sarantou was saying about the \$300
19 million, I had called the consumer place
20 in Columbus and talked to them because my
21 bill, like, in December my bill was \$107
22 and FirstEnergy put \$420 onto it. It
23 made it \$523, and I had put that on a
24 credit card, because we live on a fixed

1 income, like a lot of other people live,
2 on unemployment, and how are we supposed
3 to pay a \$523 light bill.

4 And this last month, my
5 electricity from Edison was \$56.02 and
6 they added \$185 onto it. And now I got a
7 \$300-and-some bill. And I don't
8 understand why we really need FirstEnergy
9 to begin with. When they never come out
10 and fix anything. Edison is the one that
11 comes out.

12 And why do we have to pay for
13 the Cleveland Clinic and the auto
14 companies that you want to give the big
15 breaks to so they can use more
16 electricity this year than they did last
17 year and then put it on the consumers'
18 bill? Why did we have to pay it?
19 Because at the bottom of the letter that
20 I got back from them, they said it would
21 not be good for the consumers. I don't
22 understand what your company is doing and
23 why they're cheating the public and
24 people of Ohio.

1 I thought we lived in a free
2 country. That we could choose. Now,
3 answer my questions, because I get the
4 same information he did in the second
5 letter that I got back from them, from
6 Columbus. What do we have to do with the
7 Cleveland Clinic or the big car dealers?
8 Why do we have to pick up the slack for
9 FirstEnergy, and I guess that is all I
10 have to really say.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms.
12 McIntire. Do you have any questions, Mr.
13 Hayden?

14 MR. HAYDEN: I do not, Your
15 Honor.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Kyler?

17 MS. KYLER: No.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
19 Robert Mettler.

20 - - -

21 ROBERT METTLER,
22 being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
23 nothing but the truth, testified and said as follows:

24 MR. METTLER: Robert Mettler,

1 M-e-t-t-l-e-r, 1121 Colton Street,
2 Toledo, Ohio. I speak as a private
3 citizen and also a member of the board of
4 trustees at the area office in northwest
5 Ohio. Our concerns are our senior
6 citizens, over the nine-county area that
7 we serve in northwest Ohio. The woman
8 here was mentioning the fact that if
9 you're on a fixed income and you suddenly
10 get a bill for \$300 more than your normal
11 bill, you know, unless you have some cans
12 in the backyard, you're out of luck. And
13 it always ends up being the residential
14 consumer customers that bear the brunt of
15 this.

16 Our utility rates are the worst
17 in the nation. It affects our ability to
18 bring new business into the area, because
19 what they can see is what is being paid
20 in for utility bills. And again, as
21 George pointed out, as much money as is
22 involved, as complex as all of this is,
23 there certainly should be a total of 275
24 days spent, if not more, looking at all

1 the details, because before this happens,
2 I think the citizens and especially our
3 seniors -- I mean, they are extremely
4 vulnerable. They live on a very moderate
5 fixed income and, you know, they're doing
6 without a lot of things right now because
7 of the economy. They are doing without
8 medications.

9 So we are deeply concerned in
10 the area office that something is going
11 to go on that is going to adversely
12 affect them because they deserve better.
13 That is all I got to say.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Any questions
15 for Mr. Mettler?

16 MR. HAYDEN: I do not, Your
17 Honor.

18 MS. KYLER: No, Your Honor.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.
20 Mettler. Next is Jimmy Gaines.

21 - - -

22 JIMMY GAINES,
23 being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
24 nothing but the truth, testified and said as follows:

1 HEARING OFFICER: Please state
2 and spell your last name for the record
3 and give your address.

4 MR. GAINES: My name is Jimmy
5 Gaines. It is spelled G-a-i-n-e-s, Sr.
6 I'm the executive director of Onyx,
7 Incorporated. We are a CDC in central
8 city of Toledo, Ohio.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead.

10 MR. GAINES: The reason I'm here
11 is to represent the central city
12 residents. We have 86 housing units. In
13 those housing units are three- or
14 four-bedroom houses. They are designed
15 for the residents that have income below
16 50 percent of poverty level. So
17 consequently, we're talking about people
18 who have -- who normally live in
19 apartments, have an opportunity to live
20 in a home and learn about home ownership
21 and about keeping home property.

22 I also want to mention that the
23 president of the NAACP wanted to be here
24 to testify this evening, but because of

1 her attendance at the Benjamin Hooks
2 funeral, the wake this evening in
3 Detroit, she will not be present. She
4 asked for me to notify you of that, also
5 that the statements I will be making will
6 also represent the local chapter of the
7 NAACP.

8 Employment, obviously, is a
9 burden on our entire state of the union
10 and specifically here in Toledo with the
11 low employment rate. And what happens
12 from a practical standpoint to the
13 residents who live in our housing units
14 is that they have less overtime. They
15 have less hours at their jobs. Their
16 children are, as they get older, require
17 more expenses feeding and clothing.

18 Not only the utility bills, that
19 we are talking about here, specifically,
20 but there are the water bills, anything
21 that has an increase can affect our
22 residents. The consequence is that the
23 water bills have been recycling and
24 recycling the sewage, if you had an

1 increase with the utility bill, the
2 consequences will affect them.

3 What we have experienced is that
4 those home owners, because they are not
5 able to pay those increased costs, in
6 some cases, are leaving our homes, not
7 able to sustain the rental cost and
8 utility cost they leave our homes. Our
9 homes became vacant and although we
10 prepare the homes as fast as we can,
11 vandalism can come in and take over the
12 property, squatters, people staying in
13 some of our units. You will notice that
14 when we would go in and clean them up,
15 you might see some squatters that have
16 been in there, with McDonald's bags and
17 food and then also there's drug activity
18 around the units. In one unit we even
19 saw some dead animals. Unfortunately,
20 they use the units as a base for dog
21 fights.

22 Our tree maintenance cost
23 requires a burden on us, not only for
24 maintaining units but just for trimming

1 trees and those around the property. To
2 date, and the consequence is that those
3 costs that we normally use for cleaning
4 up the property have to go for additional
5 things. I want to just testify to the
6 fact that we would like for you to
7 consider maybe some alternatives to these
8 increases. Here is what happens, because
9 of the board-ups that require a nuisance
10 abatement to board up our units, those
11 who would, again, are familiar, those
12 vandals go around and the board-ups
13 often -- we experience the cost of \$125
14 to \$250 to simply replace -- because we
15 would be fined if the boards are off the
16 property.

17 And so what I'm bringing to you
18 this evening is that we just experienced
19 an increase in taxes. We experienced an
20 increase in taxes to the recycling
21 program. We experienced an increase in
22 taxes to pay for inspectors and we
23 experienced an increase in taxes with the
24 utility situation. Obviously, we can not

1 have our residents living in these
2 properties without the utilities, water
3 or gas. And so consequently when they
4 leave those properties we are required to
5 turn the property, which means that we
6 are required to fix them up for the next
7 resident. We have experienced theft, and
8 we have experienced the increased cost to
9 get those units occupied.

10 Our waiting list, we don't have
11 a lack of people looking for places to
12 live, but we do have a lack of money to
13 sustain ourselves, not only us as a CDC
14 to sustain our units, but also those who
15 live in our units, to have a place to
16 live and to have a nice place to stay.
17 So we're recommending a decrease. We are
18 saying that you should lower the rate.
19 We're saying that you should also provide
20 some very reasonable payment programs.

21 We've experienced payment
22 arrangements that have been made with
23 some people, and although -- they are not
24 looking at the fact that they have other

1 costs. Payment arrangements are not
2 practical. We are recommending that you
3 provide some kind of grants that we might
4 be able to use to rehab other homes or
5 provide some kind of security for our
6 homes if we do experience the things that
7 I'm talking about to help us keep the
8 vandals out.

9 We are recommending that you
10 provide a basis, and on that,
11 specifically, on that rehab component, we
12 receive dollars to build new homes, and
13 this year, we will build -- the number of
14 homes that we have built 12 years ago
15 were 86 homes. We're going to build this
16 year another 16 homes for people of lower
17 income. What I'm saying is this, we've
18 been provided funds through grants to
19 build homes, but we can not obtain those
20 same grant dollars in -- probably, a
21 10-year period would be a practical time
22 frame to rehab those homes, so we can
23 make those homes available to purchase.

24 These are the kinds of items I

1 would like to see that you consider to
2 help us, not only keep those houses so
3 that people can live in them, but also
4 address the needs of the residents who
5 stay there presently.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Anything?

7 MS. KYLER: No.

8 MR. HAYDEN: No.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.
10 Gaines.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Jay Leeming.

12 - - -

13 JAY LEEMING,
14 being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
15 nothing but the truth, testified and said as follows:

16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

17 Please state and spell your last name and
18 give your address.

19 MR. LEEMING: Jay Leeming,
20 L-e-e-m-i-n-g, 6111 Chaney Drive. I am
21 coming out not only as a private citizen
22 but also for Goodwill Industries of
23 Northwest Ohio, so I'm coming to
24 represent the individuals who utilize the

1 services of northwest Ohio and the
2 employees of Goodwill Industries of
3 Northwest Ohio.

4 My statements are pretty much
5 the same as the other people who have
6 testified here, just really, just a high
7 concern over the amazing increase that is
8 proposed by FirstEnergy. Most of the
9 individuals who we work with are
10 under-employed. They can barely pay the
11 rates for all utilities now because of
12 what they are making. These are not
13 necessarily people who are uneducated or
14 who are not trained. The rate of
15 underemployment in the -- not only the
16 Toledo area, but also the Ohio area, is
17 very high.

18 If you look at the employment,
19 at underemployment rates, within the
20 area, these are some of the highest in
21 the country. So therefore to propose a
22 rate increase on families, while
23 unemployment is soaring within this area,
24 is -- it's unfathomable to me how a

1 company can continue doing such,
2 especially a company that, as has been
3 pointed out, is already making so much
4 money.

5 I think looking, again, at
6 alternative ways of not only creating
7 electricity, but also alternative ways of
8 assisting individuals paying those rates,
9 such as was pointed out by the last
10 person who testified, rather than raising
11 the rates is imperative. You're just
12 putting people at risk again of losing
13 their homes or their apartments, because
14 of also facing huge collections, simply
15 because they're unable to afford these
16 rates.

17 So I ask what alternative have
18 you considered to the rate increase, and
19 also just again, why are you trying to
20 push this through so quickly in the time
21 that you have requested, rather than
22 going through the means that have already
23 been set up, the 275 days.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Anything?

1 MS. KYLER: No.

2 MR. HAYDEN: No.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.
4 Leeming. That is the end of the list
5 that I have been provided with. Is there
6 anyone coming in that would like to sign
7 up to testify that has not yet had an
8 opportunity to do so or who just didn't
9 sign up but would like to testify?
10 Anyone else?

11 If you would like to amend your
12 statement, go ahead to the podium so we
13 can hear you. You have to come up here,
14 so she can record your statements.

15 MS. McINTIRE: We got a letter
16 telling us that we could opt out of the
17 FirstEnergy with no consequence to us,
18 but they keep putting it on my bill. If
19 we had that choice to opt out, which we
20 did, why do we still have to have that on
21 our bill? I have the letter. I brought
22 the letter with me. I don't understand
23 the way your company works. That is what
24 I said up there, we all have a choice. I

1 thought we lived in a free country, so.

2 HEARING OFFICER: I just want to
3 remind you that you are still under oath.
4 Do you have any?

5 MR. HAYDEN: I do not have any
6 questions.

7 MS. MCINTIRE: That's all I have
8 to say. I hope you understand and listen
9 to what people are saying.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms.
11 McIntire. Anyone else like to give
12 statements? All right. Then we are
13 going to conclude for the evening. I
14 want to thank all of you for being here.
15 I appreciate your attendance and taking
16 the time to share your points of view
17 with us. The hearing is adjourned.
18 Thank you.

19 (Proceedings concluded at 6:36
20 p.m.)

21 - - -

22

23

24

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Angela F. Ellis, a Notary Public in and
for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the
above and foregoing is a true and accurate
transcription of the aforementioned matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand and affixed my seal of office at Toledo, Ohio
this ____ day of April, 2010.

ANGELA F. ELLIS
Notary Public
in and for the State of Ohio

My Commission expires January 4, 2011.

- - -

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COLLINS REPORTING SERVICE, INC.

405 N. Huron St.

Toledo, Ohio

419-255-1010

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COLLINS REPORTING SERVICE, INC.

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419-255-1010



Public Utilities
Commission

Public Hearing Witness
Sign-in Sheet

COMPANY: First Energy

CASE NO.: 10-0388-EL-SSO

DATE: April 19, 2018

LOCATION: Toledo, OH

If you would like to provide testimony,
please PRINT your name and address below.

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