

10-176-EL-ATA

November 2, 2010

The Public Utilities of Ohio
Attention: Alan R. Schriber, Chairman
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

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Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

Subject: Case Number 10-176

Mr. Schriber,

It was a pleasure meeting you on, Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at Strongsville High School during public hearing about FirstEnergy rates. At this meeting you indicated "it wasn't necessary to speak at this hearing, it would be okay to send a letter to your attention and, that letter would become part of the permanent record relative to the hearing". Noted below is my input to the public hearing, please enter this information into the permanent record and testimony.

First, I'd like to say I'm a former employee of the Illuminating Company, Centerior Energy and FirstEnergy. As an employee of the Illuminating Company and Centerior Energy we enjoyed a 35% discount on our electric usage, this discount was over and above the discount for our "all electric service" with CEI (the all electric discount was promised, by CEI, as long as the house we purchase remained all electric). Shortly after Ohio Edison acquired (1997) Centerior Energy and created FirstEnergy, FirstEnergy terminated the 35% employee discount but retained the all electric discount for its customers and employees, a discount "because your usage warrants it".

We owned our all electric house at 20269 White Bark Drive (Strongsville) from December, 1983 until August, 2008. We decided that we wanted to downsize; so we purchased a second all electric home at 10794 Meadow Trail (Strongsville) in May, 2006, prior to purchasing we called FirstEnergy customer service and were told on four separate occasions, by four different customer service personnel, that the "all electric discount would always be in place as long as the property remained all electric". We feel deceived by FirstEnergy and the PUCO for letting this happen to what we consider a valid verbal contract for electric services at a discounted all electric rate!

Since this rate issue developed, the selling prices of homes in our neighborhood have fallen by over 20 to 25%. These reductions have had significant negative impacts on our schools and public services!

What is happening today is a prime example of corporate greed and a desire, by FirstEnergy, to continue record growth, profits and expansion of their corporate empires at the cost of those customers who depend on them as their primary electric service/utility provider. This is a utility that wants to be number one and doesn't care who it negatively impacts.

Mr. Schriber, we look to you and your staff to restore and permanently modify the rate structure to what it used to be, as promised by FirstEnergy and its subsidiaries during the last 25 to 30 years. It's time for the PUCO and the Ohio Consumers Council to step up and become "watch dogs" and advocates for all Ohio residents.

Sincerely,


Jay and Beverly DeFord
10794 Meadow Trail
Strongsville, Ohio 44149

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