



11-346-EL-SSO  
11-348-EL-SSO

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## Gallia County Local Schools

230 Shawnee Lane • Gallipolis, Ohio 45631

Phone (740) 446-7917 • Fax (740) 446-3187

www.gallialocal.org

June 8, 2011

Mr. Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman  
c/o Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ref: AEP Ohio ESP – Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO and 11-348-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

I am writing to offer support for AEP Ohio's Electric Security Plan. AEP's James Gavin Power Plant is located in the Gallia County Local School District and provides a considerable tax base which translates to a major source of revenue for school district operations. Many of our students' parents are employees of the power plant, and their families enjoy a middle class standard of living as a result of these jobs. In a school district that has 60% of students participating in the free and reduced breakfast and lunch program, this job source is critically important.

AEP Ohio's involvement in workforce development is important to our population. Their participation in developing a two-year associate degree program at the University of Rio Grande to prepare future power plant operators represents a "win-win" piece of this effort. In some cases participants have been new high school graduates and in others they have been individuals locked into low-paying, dead-end jobs because they did not have advanced education and training. A number of our graduates have successfully completed the program; some have gained employment with AEP, while others are employed at other industrial settings.

The AEP Ohio James Gavin Plant provides more than tax revenue to our school district. The staff of the plant have partnered with our schools to support curriculum and student activities. I feel that it is important to cite a few of the activities and programs; plant employees have

- provided science curriculum when it was needed
- served as guides for students pursuing various technical and engineering related studies
- provided extern experiences for district teachers
- allowed fund raisers during plant outages to support school projects
- provided expert advice on various safety-related projects in the school district
- supported and participated in the district's annual Academic Festival.

In addition district teachers have participated in various AEP sponsored professional development focused on science curriculum. These experiences have served to scaffold the learning of both the teacher and his/her students. The return to the community in terms of student growth over a period of years is priceless.

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AEP's Teacher Vision Grant program provides incentives for teachers who want to try something new in their classrooms and just need a small amount of money to support the idea. While \$500 may not seem to be a lot of money, it can make the difference for teachers who often spend many hundreds of dollars from their paychecks on their classrooms every year. In an economically challenging time for school districts, these grants can also support what school district budgets cannot. I believe that this kind of opportunity fosters a creativity and innovation that is critical to good education.

Finally, like every other school district superintendent in our state, I face the challenge of operating a school district on a shrinking budget. My mission is still the same, "To support ALL students to achieve more," but we are more dependent than ever on a steady supply of electric energy to run the business of school. Our schools have more technology than we thought possible; each piece uses electric energy to operate. To safeguard this investment in technology we are dependent on electric energy delivered in a measured, secure manner. To date AEP Ohio has met their obligation to us by doing just that. When there has been a failure in their system, they have been good partners and worked to remedy the problem whether it was the consequence of storm damage or a blown transformer. I know that this service comes at a cost, and I also know that there is no "free lunch." We are willing to partner with AEP Ohio, as they have partnered with us.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this information for your review. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charla C. Evans".

Charla C. Evans, Ed.D.  
Superintendent