

FILE

3

From: webmaster@puc.state.oh.us  
 To: ContactThePUCO  
 Subject: 59873  
 Received: 6/13/2011 6:19:35 PM  
 Message:  
 WEB ID: 59873 AT:06-13-2011 at 06:19 PM

Related Case Number:

TYPE: comment

NAME: Mr. Terry Tamburini

CONTACT SENDER ? Yes

MAILING ADDRESS:

- Southeastern Ohio Port Authority
- 710 Colegate Drive
- Marietta , Ohio 45750
- USA

PHONE INFORMATION:

- Home: *(no home phone provided?)*
- Alternative: (740)568-1958
- Fax: *(no fax number provided?)*

E-MAIL: terry@pioneerspirit.us

INDUSTRY:Electric

ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

- Company: Columbus Southern
- Name on account: Washington County Consumers
- *(no service address provided?)*
- *(no service phone number provided?)*
- Account Number: various

COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
 Technician Shu Date Processed JUN 15 2011

Written comments from Terry Tamburini, Executive Director, Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, Marietta, Ohio

There is in economics a term which has come into frequent use of late – unintended consequences.

There is another term popularized in film, but borrowed by the political economy, – the perfect storm.

We, in southeastern Ohio, seem to always be in a state of economic transition and almost always we are dependent on the decisions of others. We are burdened by a lack of critical (demographic) mass hence we have little market appeal or influence. We are on the periphery of several large metro areas so we inherit the lower wage jobs which support more vigorous economies. And, with our lack of political clout and income to generate and sustain economic development, we are faced with competition from states which have realized that there is a link between resource allocation and economic development.

Columbus Southern Power has a mission to protect both its investment and its future responsibilities. It generates, transmits and distributes power. Much of the power is created in southeastern Ohio. We appreciate the company's contribution to Washington County. It is a good corporate neighbor and a traditional industry. We take pride in generating power.

Our nation lacks a national energy policy. The various states and utilities operate in an unpredictable network which can foster confusion and conflict. Guidance, at present, seems to emanate from a combination of wistful and wishful thinking and aggressive environmental regulations. Impatience rather than prudence and good sense seem to dominate the landscape.

Trying to evaluate the Electronic Security Plan proposed by Columbus Southern is very difficult for customer organizations, large and small. It is complex and, at present, power users are for the most part unsure of its impacts.

Ohio is a strange place to do business. The State regulates things which are not necessary like liquor licenses and allows the price of essentials like power to be determined by the market. This anomaly creates uncertainty. Businesses and families appreciate certainty and they like to operate and live in places where there is a degree of cost certainty.

While the feds lack an energy policy, Ohio is devoid of an economic policy. The two have become inextricably related. Failure to integrate economic and energy issues demonstrates a woeful naiveté' that can have dire consequences in terms of economic sustainability; environmental justice; and equity.

This entire scenario reminds me of the bob and weave boxing style of one of our greatest pugilists, Mohammed Ali.

Columbus Southern must continually react to the regulatory zealotry of the federal EPA which seems to assume that our energy and environmental issues are a zero sum game. Meanwhile our large energy users are forced to divert time from the production of needed goods and services to combat the uncertainty of the Columbus Southern reaction to the feds and the drama and conflict continues, each parry and thrust costing the public energy user and commodity buyer and endangering the economic vitality of one of southeastern Ohio's more competitive economies.

In Washington County the large energy users have options. They can explore co-generation with its attendant costs. This will divert and delay other investment and force smaller users to absorb additional rate increases. More subjectively, conflicts between energy producers and users which were absent previously have hampered communication and coordination and industrial enterprises which formerly worked together have become distrustful and the economy less fluid.

We are not asking that you take sides although inevitably you must. We are asking for a process that is consistent, transparent and mindful of the competitive economic realities which exist in our part of the

State.

A free market system should not be fertile ground for unintended consequences nor should southeastern Ohio be the site of a perfect storm of unreasonably priced power, both chronic and cyclical joblessness without prospects for positive change and environmental degradation without recourse to appropriate mitigation. Economic and energy policy need to be integrated.

Washington County is fortunate to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Ohio. We would ask that you help maintain a process which enhances and encourages moderation and allow us to progress in a measured yet constant manner.

Good luck with your analysis and deliberation and thanks for the opportunity.