

FILE

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 Subject: 62246
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 Message:
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Related Case Number:

TYPE: comment

NAME: Ms. Susan Linden

CONTACT SENDER ? Yes

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- USA

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INDUSTRY:Electric

ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

- Company: AEP
- Name on account: Susan Linden
- Service address: 904 Norris Drive
- Service phone: 614-262-3104
- (no account number provided?)

COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

I just attended a PUCO hearing re. AEP's request for a rate increase. I was not prepared to testify at the meeting, but was assured that online comments to the PUCO would be honored in a similar way. So here is my comment re. AEP's request for yet another rate increase:

I observed two older women formally testify at this hearing. Both were neighbors on a street where I used to live. (Strange coincidence in this large city.) Both said they literally could not absorb more electric charges.

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As a person of 65 receiving very little Social Security and only now eligible for Medicare, I'm trying to continue to operate a full-time single-person service business. This business is 20 years old and has barely supported me in that time, but it's my professional choice and a valuable adjunct to traditional medical care. My business is in my home to cut costs.

It's a work-intensive profession, and I knew I'd never get rich even in the best of times. And now, as a medically licensed neuromuscular therapist considered skilled in my field, I still must experience what other single-person entrepreneurial businesses are experiencing in this recession. Our clients are loyal, but don't come as often. New business is practically nonexistent. Certainly not an environment for a price increase!

I'm barely holding on to a frugal life-style already: \$10/mo. dial-up internet (not conducive to business enhancement); NO television service (my choice anyway, but obviously no luxury here); \$ 10/mo. for emergency and long-distance cell phone service only; no vacations in a decade; up until a month ago, a \$5000 deductible health insurance policy that literally bankrupted me when I had a bike accident (my only form of recreation). I eat out about once a month at the local fish-and-chips, fix most of my own food, and conserve on groceries. I've wrangled a comparatively cheap land-line phone plan which is no longer available. My natural gas bill is unpredictable. I try to limit my automobile excursions because of outrageous gasoline prices. If I have to start working away from home, this would be an added expense.

I have NO retirement, except a very small Social Security payment, taken early because of the recession. I will work until I drop.

Last year, after an excruciatingly laborious process, I obtained what masquerades as a "mortgage modification." It actually did nothing to reduce my monthly mortgage rates, and because Wells Fargo illegally told me I had to go 3 months into arrears to even be eligible for a modification, I've been running to catch up ever since. I have not been "upside down" in my mortgage until now, when you factor in reduced home prices. The inevitable home maintenance needs are postponed, and I pray that nothing breaks down.

My story is a typical one these days. That's the critical fact to point out here.

Long story short: How can people like me accommodate an electric rate increase in this recession? AEP has continued to show record profits, and it would be unconscionable to allow them to charge even more for their product in this economic environment.

The PUCO must step in and deny AEP's request for this rate increase. To do otherwise, would be enormously detrimental and perhaps the proverbial "tipping point" for many Ohio citizens.

Thank you!

Susan Linden 904 Norris Drive Columbus, OH 43224

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