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POET

4615 N. Lewis Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
poet.com

605.965 2200  
605.965 2203

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PUCO

December 12, 2011

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: AEP Open Market Settlement – Case # 11-0346-EL-SSO

To whom it may concern:

POET Biorefining represents three large ethanol plants in Ohio and may face unprecedented operational constraints if not allowed to opt out of the AEP energy increases and buy power on the open market should this case be approved.

POET represents the following ethanol companies in Ohio:

POET Biorefining – Fostoria, LLC (AEP)

POET Biorefining – Leipsic, LLC (AEP)

POET biorefining – Marion, LLC (Ohio Edison)

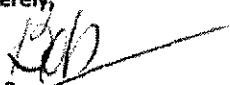
These three ethanol plants combined produce about 200,000,000 gallons of ethanol each year, employee over 125 employees and generate about \$750,000,000 in revenue each year. This is a great industry for Ohio and helps thousands of farmers who sell corn to these plants.

The ethanol industry has been hurt greatly in the last few years because of poor economic conditions and poor gasoline demand, thus causing many ethanol plants to close. Any additional burden or costs can be devastating to the existing plants in operation. These three plants have been able to remain open through these difficult times but the proposed rate increase from AEP will cost each plant in the AEP territory an estimated \$500,000 each year. This will be difficult for the plants to take on this additional burden and still stay in business.

The current rate case has a provision for customers to opt out and buy energy on the market if they are on the "list" and are part of the 21% of AEP's load as proposed in the settlement offer. We understand that this is just an offer and it has not been approved by the PUCO however we also understand that it will be discussed this Wednesday at the meeting. The plants are on the "list" however it is very likely that the 21% is already subscribed in which case POET may not be able to opt out until possible 2013.

We respectfully requests that the Commission consider allowing everyone on the list to be eligible for the "opt out" clause to help them keep costs down and be able to continue with business.  
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Berens  
Director of Site development  
POET, LLC

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