



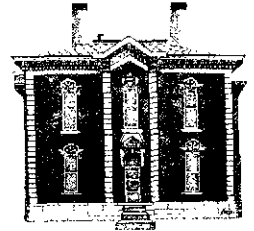
# HOLMES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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FILE

February 14, 2012

11-346-EL-SSO  
11-351-EL-SSO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793  
RE: Holmes County Agricultural Society

Dear PUCO,

Recently, we were informed of the situation confronting the Holmes County Agricultural Society and the Holmes County Fair. As explained, the organization was unexpectedly provided with a monthly statement indicating a rate increase of over 200 percent; representing an additional annual expense of more than \$12,000. Not only do we see this as extreme and unjustified, we also do not approve of the way in which the substantial increase was imposed; that is without notice or forewarning.

The Holmes County Commissioners are aware of some of the challenges confronting AEP and other electric providers in the US including deregulation, rising environmental demands, and forced green generation investment. While we certainly understand this has had a tremendous affect on the company's financial performance, necessitating action be taken, our concern is the extent of the rate increases, especially for customers like the Agricultural Society with extenuating circumstances and small businesses vulnerable to major changes in operational expenses. Thus we respectfully ask for your reexamination of the Agricultural Society's situation as well as the newly enacted cost structure in its entirety.

In closing the Commissioners find great value in the essential services your institution provides to the local community. After all, without AEP the lights of much of the county would not turn on. Please do not hesitate to call or write should you require any additional information or comment.

Sincerely,

Rob Ault  
Commissioner

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PUCO

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