

FILE

GARY S. WACHS
TWO GARFIELD PLACE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2012 MAR 13 AM 9:12
PUCO

March 5, 2012

The Honorable Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

11-3549-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

By way of introduction, I am the owner and General Manager of Garfield Suites Hotel, downtown Cincinnati.

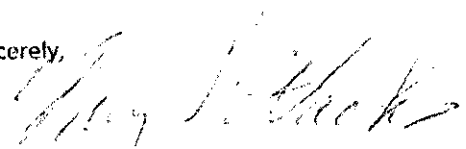
I am writing to you and requesting your assistance in the review of the recent rate increase authorized Duke Energy. I was appalled when we received our February electric bill that fully reflected the rates that became effective January 1, 2012. Look at the comparison and tell me it is reasonable:

	February 2011	February 2012	Change
kWh Consumption	319,052	252,775	(21%)
Charges	\$6,790	\$8,150	20%

How could our all-electric facility decrease its load by twenty percent and yet our charges increase by twenty percent? The charges on the bill, which represent the entire increase, are referred to as "Generation Charges" but we utilize an alternative supplier for generation services. My investigation also indicates that the generation charges are really the rate increase and the impact of the load factor adjustment rider. I am really concerned about other customers, like schools and churches, who have a lower load factor than our facility, which is normally above fifty percent. I also noticed a letter filed by Duke indicating that there would not be an adjustment to the load factor charges for the second quarter. You mean this rider will increase?

I thought the Commission was required to cost-justify generation rate increases and the best I can tell the entire proceeding was settled and the impact of these charges were not legally noticed. Second, if they are generation charges, I believe they should be avoidable by customers utilizing an alternative supplier. While my request is not to set aside the entire settlement as was done in a recent AEP case, I am respectfully requesting a thorough review of the impact of the rate increase and the load factor adjustment and the negative impact they have on customers and the economy of southwestern Ohio. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary Wachs

Cc: Ms. Julie Janson, President, Duke Energy Ohio

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 LOH Date Processed MAR 13 2012