

FILE



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

11-340-EL-SSO
10-2929-EL-UNC 1

Patricia Frost-Brooks, President
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Tim Myers, Secretary-Treasurer
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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve

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October 16, 2012

Chairman Todd A. Snitchler
Commissioner Cheryl Roberto
Commissioner Steven D. Lesser
Commissioner Andre T. Porter
Commissioner Lynn Slaby
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Ohio Education Association's Opposition to American Electric Power Company's Electric Security Plan and Capacity Costs; PUCO Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO and 10-2929-EL-UNC.

Dear Chairman Snitchler and Commissioners:

A petition filed by the United Steelworkers on September 21, 2012, in Case No. 10-2929-EL-UNC ("Capacity Cost" case) opposed the recent rate increases approved in AEP Ohio's Capacity Cost case and the companion electric security plan ("ESP") case, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO. The petition stated that the increases, particularly as they affect Ormet Corporation, would have a significant detrimental impact on Ormet's employees, families, local businesses and area schools. The Ohio Education Association does not dispute Ormet's claims and, in fact, wishes to reinforce those claims as they pertain not only to schools in Ormet's immediate vicinity, but to all public schools throughout AEP Ohio's extensive service area.

As you are aware from testimony submitted in this case, Ohio's public primary and secondary schools have undergone devastating funding cuts at the state and federal levels for the current budget biennium. These funding cuts have caused school districts throughout AEP's Ohio service territory to reduce staffing levels for teaching and non-teaching positions alike. Many school districts have been required to resort to ballot initiatives asking taxpayers for additional funds in order to continue to provide a quality education to Ohio's schoolchildren. It is our concern that, in instances in which the ballot initiatives are not approved (which is foreseeable in these uncertain economic times), the additional electric increases will lead to more staffing reductions, causing additional economic hardship to all local schools, the students, their families, and staff and, in turn, local businesses. For those school districts in which the initiatives are successful, the taxpayer money unfortunately may be required to fund increased electric bills, rather than used in the classroom where they belong.

We urge the Commission to carefully reconsider approving these rate increases or, alternatively, exempting Ohio's public primary and secondary schools from them.

Sincerely,

Patricia Frost-Brooks
President

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