

November 13, 2012

Chairman Todd Snitchler  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 E Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio

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RE: Duke Energy Distribution Rate Case 12-1682-EL-AIR

**Dear Chairman Snitchler:**

I am writing you on behalf of the thousands of Ohio members and Duke Energy ratepayers of our organization interested in Duke Energy's distribution rate increase hearings. Our members will be directly impacted by the outcome of the potential rate increases, as will all Duke Energy Ohio customers throughout Southwest Ohio. Duke failed to modernize their company and has lost business in SW Ohio as a result. Their proposal to take out their own losses on ratepayers is a serious question that has already incited the opposition of thousands of our neighbors. In order to give Duke's ratepayers ample opportunity to testify and participate we have a few requests of the upcoming public hearing process:

1. The upcoming public hearings dates are set by November 28, 2012 to provide ample time for ratepayers to make time in their schedules to attend.
2. The first public hearing is held at the earliest mid January 2013. Given that the holidays are right around the corner, hearings after the New Year will provide ample access and availability for ratepayers.

Thank for you taking the time to consider these requests. We do not have a choice on the company that distributes electricity to our homes, businesses and communities. What we have is the opportunity to hold our utility accountable to our interests through proceedings like the upcoming distribution rate increase hearings.

As the agency charged with regulating rates throughout the state, we look to you to protect the interest of the public and ensure reasonable and just rates. To that end, ensuring equal and ample access for all Ohioans is our goal.

I look forward to hearing back from you and will follow up by November 20th.

Sincerely,

**Kate Melges**

Greenpeace, USA  
Ohio Organizer  
2330 Victory Parkway, Ste 100  
Cincinnati, OH 45206

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Technician JK Date Processed NOV 13 2017