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January 4, 2002

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Docketing Division 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

02-66-26-55

RE: Tomlin, et al. vs. American Electric Power Company, Inc., et al. Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Case No. 01 CVC-07-06999

To Whom It May Concern:

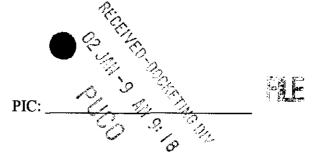
Enclosed are the original and ten copies of the formal complaint form filed on behalf of Connie Tomlin. If you need any additional information, please give us a call.

Sincerely, Jill S. Levison, Esq.

JSL/jsd Enclosures

Cc: Connie Tomlin Brett Spencer, Esq. Don Moore, Esq. RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIA 02 JAH-9 AM 9: 18 PUCO

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<u>CONNIE TOMLIN</u>, individually, 93 Hale Drive West Union, Ohio 45693

and

<u>CONNIE TOMLIN</u>, as the Administratrix of the Estate of Gary Tomlin, deceased 93 Hale Drive West Union, Ohio 45693

VS.

COLUMBUS SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY 1 Riverside Plaza Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373

02-66-26655

and

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC. 1 Riverside Plaza Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373

## My Complaint is:

Connie Tomlin, individually, and as Administratrix of the Estate of Gary Tomlin, deceased, by and through counsel, hereby files this formal complaint with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §§ 4928.16 and 4905.26. Connie Tomlin is a customer of Columbus Southern Power Company ("Columbus Southern") and American Electric Power Company, Inc. ("AEP").

On October 7, 1999, Gary L. Tomlin was traveling in an agricultural combine machine on the property located at or near 5130 Decatur Road in Adams County, Ohio. Said combine was being operated in a safe and non-negligent manner at all times. As the combine went under a section of the electrical distribution line, an electrical power line came detached from a deteriorated crossarm and contacted the above said farm equipment in which Gary Tomlin was riding, causing him to be electrocuted, burned and ultimately killed.

Prior to October 7, 1999, Columbus Southern and AEP owned the utility poles, crossarms, supports, insulators, electrical circuit interruption devices and electrical power lines on the property located at or near 5130 Decatur Road in Adams County, Ohio. Further, prior to October 7, 1999, Columbus Southern and AEP had the responsibility to inspect, maintain, and repair the utility poles, crossarms, supports, insulators, electrical circuit interruption devices and electrical power lines on the property located at or near 5130 Decatur Road in Adams County, Ohio.

Columbus Southern and AEP failed to comply with the 1997 edition of the National Electric Safety Code ("NESC"), applicable on October 7, 1999, as mandated in § 4901:1-10-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code, authorized by Ohio Revised Code §§ 4905.04, 4905.22, 4908.28 and 4928.06. As a direct and proximate result of Columbus Southern and AEP's failure to comply with Rule 232 of the NESC regarding the Vertical Clearances of Wires, Conductors, Cables, and Equipment Above Ground, Roadway and, Rail, or Water Surfaces, the required strength factors stated in Table 261-1A of the NESC; and the mandatory replacement based on crossarm deterioration stated in Table 261-1A footnotes 2 and 3 of the NESC, Gary Tomlin sustained fatal injuries.

Further, Columbus Southern and AEP's failure to adequately inspect, maintain and repair their utility poles, crossarms, supports, insulators, electrical circuit interruption devices and electrical power lines on the property located at or near 5130 Decatur Road in Adams County, Ohio, caused the foreseeable and preventable accident which took Gary Tomlin's life.

Columbus Southern and AEP also failed to retain adequate and mandated records as required in §§ 4901:1-9-06, Appendix A and 4901:1-10-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, both of which were authorized by Revised Code §§ 4905.04, 4905.22, 4905.28, and 4928.06, regarding the records for the pole, tower, structure, equipment and other history records and maintenance work orders and job orders.

## **Relief Sought:**

Connie Tomlin, by and through counsel, respectfully requests an order from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") stating that Columbus Southern Power Company and American Electric Power Company, Inc. have failed to comply with the National Electric Safety Code; failed to inspect, maintain, and repair their equipment in a manner that protected the public's health, safety and welfare; and failed to maintain and retain adequate records.

Further, Mrs. Tomlin requests any and all other relief that the PUCO believes she is entitled to based on the evidence; including but not limited to, damages, costs, and attorney fees.

Respectfully submitted, DONALD C. MOORE, JR. & CO., L.P.A.

BY: Donald C. Moore, Jr. (0003945) R. Craig McLaughlin (0068765) Jill S. Levison (0073381) Donald C. Moore, Jr. & Co., L.P.A. 4355 Ferguson Drive, Suite 200 Cincinnati, OH 45245 Phone: (513) 752-2111 Fax: (513) 753-2354