

FILE

January 24, 2013

Mr. Todd A. Snitchler
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: PUCO Case #12-1682-EL-AIR
PUCO Case #12-1685-GA-AIR

Dear Mr. Snitchler:

I'm writing to you today not only as a resident of Ohio but also as a business owner and ratepayer for Duke Energy to voice my support for the rate requests that are part of the PUCO cases as referenced above. My support comes from the fact that I and the company that I work for have worked with Duke Energy as part of their Site Readiness Program that they undertake on an annual basis in southwest Ohio. This program is going in to its fourth year in 2013.

During the recession that the country found itself in and especially the tri-state area, Duke was very supportive of economic development activities in southwest Ohio and supported that with a commitment of time, energy and resources, including financial to encourage economic development and to remove or reduce hurdles that potential developers or companies would encounter in developing sites and locating or expanding businesses in the area. Part of these efforts included their Site Readiness Program. I believe that their efforts in this area are important in continuing to expand the local economy and, as such, helping to lead a higher quality of life for all residents of the area.

Let me illustrate how one of their programs, the Site Readiness Program, worked as I saw it. Duke Energy would request submission of potential sites from the local economic development agencies around the region on an annual basis. An internal group from Duke would evaluate and select up to six sites in the Greater Cincinnati area from those submissions. These were both Greenfield and Brownfield sites. They then assembled a team of consultants that included a nationally recognized site selection consultant from South Carolina and a local planning / civil engineering consultant from the Cincinnati area to prepare complete site evaluation assessments and supporting base mapping information. The local economic development agencies and the property owners were also involved in providing information and background on the existing conditions as well as input on potential uses for the sites. The site selection consultant, after evaluating the sites would provide a set of recommendations as to the best types of uses for each site. The planning / engineering consultant would generate conceptual plans for the 'vision' of what these sites could be. All of this information was then assembled in to a final documents including the site selection analysis, recommendations and conceptual plans and highlighted in a presentation to not only the economic development professionals in the area but also the property owners, local decision makers and elected officials. In addition, Duke provides a one for one matching grant of up to \$10,000 to the property owners to be

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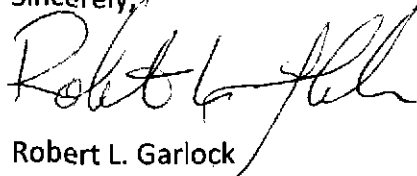
used for remediating any deficiencies in the information available for prospective buyers. For example, if a geotechnical study or environmental assessment had never been completed on the property, the grant can be used towards the preparation of those studies.

All of this is done in an attempt to equip the economic development agencies and the property owner with the necessary information and awareness to successfully sell or develop their sites. In my mind, this is an invaluable resource being provided for these sites and seems to be leading to successful development, and consequently job creation, for many of these sites. We're aware of interest and activity now at the Trenton Industrial Park, Fox Hill Industrial Park, North Mason Business Park and Clough Point Industrial Park. All of this is being done through grants at Duke's sole expense. For this program to continue, however, Duke must be treated fairly with regard to its investments to provide safe and reliable infrastructure to these developments and other customers.

In closing, I will point out that no one likes rate increases. However, in my judgment Duke Energy invests wisely in their gas and electric system that is a critical part of attracting and retaining businesses in Southwest Ohio. I am convinced that I would rather have rate increases versus a system that is outdated and puts public safety at risk with power outages and gas leaks.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Garlock", written in a cursive style.

Robert L. Garlock
1631 Hawk Ridge Drive
Maineville, Ohio 45039