

FILE

AEP 13-2385-FLSSD

Attention: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio –

My husband and I are writing today to protest the potential bailout of electric utilities such as American Electric Power (AEP) and First Energy. My understanding is that AEP had a profit of close to two billion dollars last year. While collecting that profit, they are apparently failing to make upgrades to or phase out their older, obsolete coal powered electric plants. It seems to me that they are failing to do due diligence in investing in their infrastructure while expecting their ratepayers to make up the difference. I fail to see how this should be rewarded.

First Energy is not much better. They were responsible for a multi-state power outage in 2003 that narrowly missed the central Ohio area. I have yet to hear that they have improved their own infrastructure in the decade or more since.

AEP never fails to amaze us Ohioans, considering that their lack of maintenance to electric lines in the Worthington and Gahanna areas led to widespread outages in these regions during the windstorm of Hurricane Ike. A few years later in 2012 it became apparent that they had improved NOTHING when many old, rotted wooden electric poles snapped and felled electric lines during the derecho winds of June, 2012. Clearly they need to bury some of these lines so that windstorms and mature trees do not continue to disrupt service to their customers. Last I heard they tried to get all of us to pay the extra cost for all of that deferred maintenance! This is disgusting.

I think is time that those of you on the PUCO stop and think about who you serve. We, the taxpayers that pay your salary, and pay these always increasing energy bills, are the customer. There are also businesses who, like your residential customers, have seen their electricity rates go up up AFTER deregulation, which was supposed to raise levels of service while lowering costs. As far as I can see, decisions are NOT being made by you, the commissioners to require this of these providers. Both of these companies need to start transitioning over to more renewables for energy generation. Enabling them to keep belching out greenhouse gases from old coal plants while we pay more money for polluted air is hardly acting in the public interest.

If you are a PUCO commissioner, please remember, your job is to protect the customer, not the utility! If you are the Governor, you have overseen a stalling of investment in renewables, which is inexplicable. Today renewables are more affordable than they have been in years, it is time to require their use, not back off from the standards set by an earlier administration. If you are one of my Ohio representatives or Senators, the same thing applies. It is shortsighted and looks suspicious to have made decisions against renewables standards, to continue the thought by rewarding AEP and First Energy for not doing their required investments and phasing out or retrofitting old power plants is poor representation of your constituents.

It is high time these companies make better investments into cleaner ways to create energy with renewables; these will save money over time and are a better use of resources. Allowing any of these companies to keep passing the costs of their irresponsible and shortsighted behavior onto their customers is costly for all Ohioans and should not be allowed. I hope that you will agree with me and reflect this in your decision.

Respectfully,

Clarissa A. Brower
Clarissa A. Brower

Mark T. Brower
Mark T. Brower

2016 MAR 29 PM 1:28

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

This is to certify that the images appearing are accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician Am Date Processed 3/29/16

