

FILE

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
 Docketing Division
 180 East Broad Street
 Columbus OH 43215-3783

RECEIVED - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

2017 OCT -5 PM 2:46

PUCO

Re: Case No. 16-2281-EL-CSS

Dear PUCO,

It was my understanding that I needed to make a final statement regarding my case against AEP. I hope you will accept this as one.

I understand the burden of proof is on me that AEP did not trim the trees in my area. With all the photos I have submitted of the trees in the power lines I believe it is obvious there was no trimming done on the section being discussed. I also believe AEP should have to prove that they trimmed as they claimed they did. Their information provided is very vague and does not specifically show trimming in the area where the damage occurred. Furthermore, they had the chance to bring their Forrester to both the field visit and the hearing but chose not to do so. They also were not able to provide any pictures showing any trees where the alleged trimming had been done. None of my many pictures show any evidence of trimming. None. They clearly show normal growth in every picture with no trimming done. Those that went on the field visit will have to admit the vegetation under the power lines was so thick we were not able to walk to the site where the tree grew into the lines without trespassing on another person's property. Yet pictures I provided of other areas along the same circuit where the vegetation was trimmed in 2014 clearly show a right of way that can easily be walked. The AEP internal emails mention a problem in this area and that the area couldn't go another growing cycle without trimming. Here it is, the fall of 2017 and that trimming didn't occur. AEP stated the transmission lines were to be trimmed in 2017 and again, that hasn't happened. There is a tree I see every day that has branches growing in the transmission lines and the distribution lines. It's been reported to AEP but still not trimmed. What really upsets me is this tree is right next to a house with small children. I spoke with the mother about keeping her children away from the tree but she seemed to think that if it was a problem AEP would have already addressed it. In a way she is right to believe that. The residents of Ohio expect their utility companies to follow rules and regulations set forth by the PUCO. Considering when an Asplundh employee sent to my home to investigate the complaints I'd made about the trees growing in the wires in front of my property told me to not go anywhere near the trees until they were cut back away from the wires, this is very bad.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
 Technician ke Date Processed 10/5/17

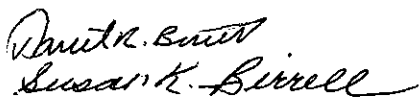
Again, AEP knows of the problem yet continues to ignore the fact that due to their negligence, they have created a very dangerous situation in my community.

Now I feel that since I made the complaint I am being punished for doing so. I sent pictures of the trees on my property and AEP sent a tree trimming company to trim or remove trees as far back as 50 feet from the center line of the right of way and left me with a brush pile 500 feet long to clean up. All this while they claim they can only trim back 20 feet. If AEP is in fact allowed to trim back 50 feet than why didn't they address the growth issues in other areas. If AEP is only allowed to trim back 20 feet, why did they trim back 50 feet in front of my property and leave me with such a mess to clean up.

I fully expect to get nothing from hundreds of hours of work I have done here. "You can't beat City Hall" as they say. What I do expect is that the parties involved learn something from all this and others don't have to go through what we did. What I have accomplished is to let those involved understand that there are people that have more than average knowledge on the subject and are willing to take the time to hold AEP to the regulations set forth by the PUCO. I believe that if I spent enough time I could find were AEP attorney costs are indirectly billed back to the consumer. Why else would AEP sent three attorneys to a location an hour and a half away to walk in the woods for two hours then drive back

to their office? That's 15 hours. Add to that Walter Sherry's time and we are at 20 man/hours. I'd venture to say that the settlement on my claim would be much less than what AEP spent just on that day alone. And they didn't even bring the Forrester; the one person at AEP that knows trees. There is something seriously wrong with a system that forces a person to pay the cost to defend and prosecute himself on the same case.

Daniel R. and Susan K. Birrell

Handwritten signatures of Daniel R. Birrell and Susan K. Birrell in cursive script.

22000 Emerson St.

West Lafayette OH 43845