

**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

614.878.3317

23 MAPLE DR., COLUMBUS OH 43228

December 6, 2006

PUCO  
Attn: Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2006 DEC - 8 PM 12: 34  
PUCO

**RE: CASE NUMBER 06-0433-WW-AIR**

Dear Madams / Sirs:

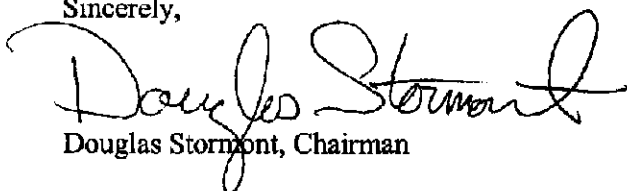
I am writing on behalf of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees to urge the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to deny Ohio American Water's request for a rate increase that would affect the Franklin County District. The PUCO analysis states that the proposed rate would raise the average cost of monthly water service by \$5.92 to \$30.67, a 23.9% increase. Ohio American Water has also requested that the average wastewater collection and treatment fees be increased by \$2.00 to \$36.25 per month, a 5.8% increase.

The members of the Prairie Township Board of Trustees have attended several public meetings arranged by the PUCO and Ohio American Water for residents served by the Lake Darby facility. We have also had numerous opportunities to talk to customers of this facility when out in the community and at our Board meetings. These opportunities to hear from our constituents in the Lake Darby area have left us with the impression that Ohio American customers are extremely dissatisfied with the quality of water delivered by the system. We have heard of water tanks that need to be replaced after two or three years; faucets that last a year or so; and water softeners that don't fare much better. Residents are outraged that they are paying as much for water as they are for electricity in their all-electric houses. You can imagine how residents feel about a 23.9% increase to these rates, especially given the poor service and product that they receive.

In reviewing the PUCO analysis, we see that your staff has noted several shortcomings in Ohio American's Franklin County operations. We feel that what we are hearing from our constituents is a reflection of the flaws that your staff has noted. Please use this opportunity to ensure that Ohio American Water's customers get an acceptable product before considering any rate increase.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas Stormont, Chairman

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