

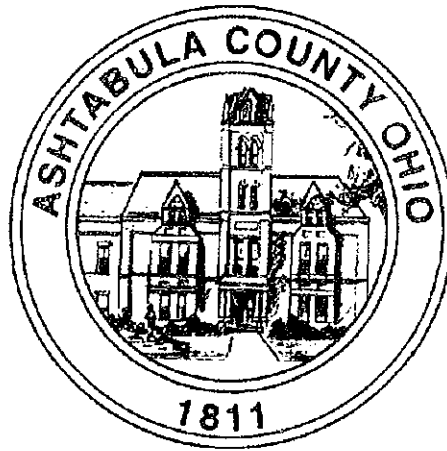
FILE

Ashtabula County Commissioners

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February 19, 2008

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Case #07-1112-WS-AIR
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2008 FEB 26 AM 8:48
PUCO

RE: Docketing Case Number 07-1112-WS-AIR Ohio American Water Company

Dear Committee Chairperson and Members:

It has been brought to the attention of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners that our County Water System and its customers are facing another rate increase from the Ohio American Water Company. The Board wants to go on record that Ashtabula County strongly opposes that rate increase. This water increase would cause undue financial hardship to our current customers and make it more challenging to bring future development to Ashtabula County.

The County currently purchases bulk water from Ohio American to provide service to appropriately 5,300 accounts plus an additional 2,600+ bulk accounts in the City of Geneva and the Village of Rock Creek. If this current rate increase is approved, this would be our third water increase from Ohio American since May 2005. Over this short time period, the County has experienced approximately 24% in higher rates, not included is the pending 12.58% increase under review by the PUCO.

The two earlier Ohio American rate increases were not opposed by the County with the understanding that major capital improvements would be made to the local system. It is our understanding this Ohio American increase is a state wide measure. In Ashtabula County, we do not believe the level of capital improvement/customer service over the past three years from Ohio American can justify a collective 36+% increase in water rates.

We would ask that your agency closely review Ohio American's most recent rate request and find it excessive and not justified. If there are any questions regarding this letter and our request, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DANIEL R. CLAYPOOL
President

DEBORAH A. NEWCOMB
Commissioner

JOE MOROSKI
Commissioner

Copy: Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor
Lou Kreider, Aqua Ohio
James Pearson, City of Geneva
Beverly Martin, Village of Rock Creek
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