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744 Decatur Court
Forest Park, OH 45240
February 29, 2008

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attn: Docketing Department
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 45315

Re: Case Number 07-589-GA-AIR

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing with concerns about Duke Energy's request for a rate hike.

First, I represent no organization. I speak for myself as a citizen.

I do not oppose modest rate increases which track inflation, but there are elements of the Duke Energy proposed plan that disturb me.

As an environmentalist, I am really concerned about the flat-rate element of the Duke Energy proposal. There is no incentive for a customer like me to conserve my energy usage. Since the 1970's energy crisis I have maintained my thermostat at a low temperature to conserve energy. I am switching my lights to energy efficient light bulbs. Over the years I've upgraded my windows, furnace, and water heater to more energy efficient models. Duke Energy likes to reap good publicity by promoting that customers switch to energy efficient light bulbs. This proposed measure treats customers like me the same as other customers who make no effort to conserve energy. I really oppose this part of the Duke Energy proposal.

Another part of the Duke Energy proposal that seriously concerns me is the proposed increase in the customer charge. Nearly tripling the charge is just excessive. Again this increase does nothing to incentivize customers to conserve energy.

Likewise, the increase in the base rate, allowing the rate to increase by as much as 33% also seems excessive to me, especially when compared to increases in the cost of living.

I am also concerned about the portion of the Duke Energy proposed plan that involves the proposed increase in the accelerated main replacement charge. From information that I have read it appears that customer contributions have outpaced savings in maintenance costs by over 1600%. That's a horrible return on customer contributions.

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PUCO

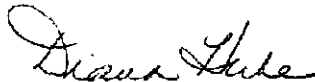
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There are elements of this proposed rate hike request that simply do not make sensible fiscal sense.

I strongly urge you to send Duke Energy back to the drawing board to come to PUCO with a more sensible, reasonable, fiscally responsible request.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Herbe".

Diana Herbe