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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 E. Broad Street  
13th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215



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RE: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO HEARING OF DUKE  
ENERGY OHIO, INC.  
Date: FEBRUARY 25, 2008 & MARCH 11, 2008

Dear Ms. Tidd:

Enclosed you will find the original transcripts of the hearings taken on February 25, 2008 and March 11, 2008 in the above-captioned case.

When we may be of further assistance, please call our office at 513-621-7723.

Sincerely,

  
Kay Patton

Enclosure: (3) original transcripts

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Docketing Division

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO HEARING

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. of )  
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. )  
for an Increase in Gas Rates. ) Case No. 07-589-GA-AIR

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for )  
Approval of an Alternative Rate )  
Plan for its Gas Distribution )  
Service. ) Case No. 07-590-GA-ALT

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for )  
Approval to Change Accounting )  
Methods. ) Case No. 07-591-GA-AAM

\* \* \* \* \*

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

6:30 P.M.

TAKEN BY: JENNIFER WHITTAKER (DAVIS), CPR

 ORIGINAL

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO HEARING

In the Matter of the Application )  
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Approval of an Alternative Rate )  
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Service. ) Case No. 07-590-GA-ALT

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for )  
Approval to Change Accounting )  
Methods. ) Case No. 07-591-GA-AAM

PLACE: Cincinnati City Hall, 801 Plum Street, Conference  
Room 300, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

DATE: February 25, 2008

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the Public Utilities Commission  
3 of Ohio,

4 Greta Neeley-See, Esq.  
5 Attorney Examiner  
6 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
7 Legal Department  
8 180 East Broad Street  
9 Columbus, Ohio 43215  
10 (614) 728-2849

11 \* \* \* \* \*

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION HEARING

CONDUCTED BY MS. NEELEY-SEE:

MS. NEELEY-SEE: Evening. Can you hear me okay without the  
microphone?

THE GALLERY: It'S coming through okay.

MS. NEELEY-SEE: Can you?

THE GALLERY: Can you just speak up?

MS. NEELEY-SEE: Okay. Is that better?

THE GALLERY: Yes.

MS. NEELEY-SEE: Okay. First, I'd like to thank you all for  
coming, taking out of your evening to come  
over to offer testimony. In case you're  
wondering if you're in the right place,  
this is testimony for the Duke rate case  
increase. Okay. I understand there were  
some other things going on in this room  
this afternoon. The Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio has assigned for public  
hearing at this place in time case numbers  
07589-GA-AIR, 07590-GA-ALT, and  
07591-GA-AAM being the applications of Duke  
Energy Ohio, Incorporated for increase in  
gas rates and approval of an alternative  
rate plan for its gas distribution services

1 and to change accounting methods  
2 respectively. My name is Greta C. I'm an  
3 attorney examiner with the Public Utilities  
4 Commission. I've been assigned to conduct  
5 this hearing. There are some  
6 representatives of the Commission's Service  
7 Monitoring and Enforcement Division here.  
8 You were likely met by those, two of those  
9 individuals, or at least one of them  
10 outside the room at the table to the left,  
11 to my left. If you have some questions of  
12 the Commission about your service, not  
13 about the rate increase, you can speak with  
14 one of them. You should also note that  
15 there are representatives here today with  
16 the Ohio Consumers Council, the Ohio  
17 Consumers Council is the representative for  
18 all residential utility customers. Could  
19 the customer service reps with OCC please  
20 raise their hand? You can ask service  
21 related questions of them as well. Also  
22 note that Duke Energy has some customer  
23 service reps here today, and they can also  
24 assist you with any service related

1 questions you have, questions, concerns  
2 about your bill or other services issues.  
3 Could the Duke representatives please raise  
4 their hands?

5 (DUKE REPRESENTATIVES RAISED HANDS.)

6 MS. NEELEY-SEE: You should also note that the Ohio  
7 Consumers Council is a party to this  
8 proceeding. And they are, along with  
9 several other interveners that represent  
10 various clients of the company. Just a  
11 little bit of background about this rate  
12 application. On July 18, 2007, Duke Energy  
13 filed an application for a rate increase  
14 which would generate approximately 34  
15 million of additional revenue. It  
16 represents an increase of 5.7 percent over  
17 current revenues for the company. As part  
18 of the rate case proceeding, the staff of  
19 the Commission inspected portions of the  
20 company's plants, equipment, and  
21 interviewed company personnel, and  
22 government officials, reviewed company  
23 records and analyzed financial audit  
24 reports and other information collected.

1 from the company. Staff then prepared and  
2 filed its staff report of investigation on  
3 December 20th, which among other things,  
4 recommends an increase in revenue of  
5 between 14.2 and 20 million. That increase  
6 would be approximately 2.4 percent to  
7 3.4 percent over Duke's current revenues.  
8 The major issues in the case include the  
9 appropriate revenue requirement and rate  
10 base including evaluation of its assets and  
11 analysis of plant and working capital  
12 components. Determination of operating  
13 income includes revenues and expenses, rate  
14 of return, including the appropriate return  
15 on equity. Rates and tariffs including  
16 rate design, allocation of cost, trackers,  
17 customer charges, and customer classes. In  
18 addition the other matters to be addressed  
19 as part of this case include, audit  
20 recommendations, customer service, and  
21 customer assistance, weatherization,  
22 payment stations, riser replacement,  
23 decoupling, and the accelerated main  
24 program and various advanced meter reading



1 services. According to Ohio Law public  
2 utilities are entitled to recover from  
3 their customers the expenses associated  
4 with operating the public utility as well  
5 as a reasonable rate of return on the plant  
6 investment. The Commission, however, is  
7 not bound by the company's application, the  
8 recommendations of the staff report, or any  
9 intervening party. Instead, the Commission  
10 will make its decision based on the record  
11 of these proceedings, including the sworn  
12 public testimony offered here tonight. You  
13 should note that in addition to this  
14 evening's hearing the Commission has, will  
15 be rescheduling the hearing to be held in  
16 Mason, Ohio. It was cancelled last  
17 Thursday due to weather. You'll see the  
18 exact date and time of the hearing in a  
19 future publication. You can also find out  
20 when that hearing is going to be held and  
21 the time by checking the Commission's  
22 website. If you go to  
23 [www.PUCO.Ohio.state.oh.us](http://www.PUCO.Ohio.state.oh.us), and go to the  
24 docketing information system and put in

1 this case number, which is 07-589 you can  
2 access anything that has been filed in this  
3 case. An entry should be issued shortly  
4 designating the place and time for the  
5 Mason hearing. I'll remind you all that  
6 the purpose of the public hearing tonight  
7 is to receive comments on the Duke's rate  
8 increase. This is your opportunity. We  
9 will not be taking comments from the  
10 company, the staff, or any intervener. If  
11 you want to testify you are offered that  
12 opportunity tonight as you came into the  
13 door over at the Commission's table. If  
14 for some reason you didn't sign up, if  
15 you'll wait until the six witnesses have  
16 offered their testimony I'll offer up the  
17 floor to anyone who wants to offer  
18 testimony and did not sign up, or you can  
19 go out into the hall now and get on the  
20 next list. We'll take the witnesses in the  
21 order that they signed up. When you come  
22 to offer testimony I'll need you to raise  
23 your right hand, swear that what you're  
24 saying is true, and state and spell your

1 name for the record. If you'll look to my  
2 right, you'll notice that someone is  
3 transcribing everything that is being said  
4 here tonight, so that it can be a part of  
5 the Commission's record. So I'll need you  
6 to speak slowly and clearly. Okay. Are  
7 there any questions about the process?  
8 Yes?

9 THE GALLERY: When do you expect a decision will be made?

10 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Given that we can not schedule the Mason  
11 hearing for approximately another two to  
12 three weeks, it would take some time after  
13 we received that record, which is generally  
14 two weeks and probably about eight weeks  
15 after that. Okay?

16 THE GALLERY: And how will we --

17 MS. NEELEY-SEE: And that's a guess. That's not a firm  
18 date.

19 THE GALLERY: And how will we be informed of that?

20 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Anytime a decision involving a rate  
21 increase is issued by the Commission  
22 there's usually a press release from our  
23 Communications Department, as well, if you  
24 want to get more detail or to see the

1 actual opinion and order issued by the  
2 Commission, if you go into the Commission's  
3 website, the docketing information system  
4 and put in the case number. You'll be able  
5 the pull up a copy of the opinion and  
6 order.

7 THE GALLERY: Okay.

8 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Okay. Are there any other questions about  
9 the process before we start taking  
10 testimony? Charles Wiedenmann? Oh, that  
11 was not good, was it?

12 MR. WIEDENMANN: It was good.

13 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Pronounce your last name?

14 MR. WIEDENMANN: Wiedenmann.

15 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Mr. Wiedenmann, can you raise your right  
16 hand? Do you swear the information you're  
17 about to give is true?

18 MR. WIEDENMANN: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Please state and spell your name for the  
20 record.

21 MR. WIEDENMANN: Charles Wiedenmann, W-I-E-D-E-N-M-A-N-N.

22 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Go ahead with your statement.

23 MR. WIEDENMANN: Sit or stand?

24 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Either one. However you're comfortable.

1 The microphone should be on in front of  
2 you.

3 MR. WIEDENMANN: First of all, I'd like to thank you for  
4 cancelling the Mason hearing last week when  
5 I wanted to come testify, because it was  
6 very dangerous out there. My name is  
7 Charles Wiedenmann, and I'm here today to  
8 speak in support of the Duke Energy Ohio  
9 Gas Distribution Rate Case proposal. In my  
10 former role as a school superintendent, my  
11 first and foremost responsibility was  
12 always the safety of our students. And  
13 while we always try to prepare for the  
14 unexpected one of the things we often  
15 worried about was a natural gas leak. The  
16 last school district I was superintendent  
17 in we had ten buildings and 10,500  
18 students. And we had over 2000 students at  
19 Fairfield High School, and so you could see  
20 that safety was a great issue. There were  
21 times when our service lines would break  
22 and when they did we always called upon  
23 Cinergy, now Duke Energy, to come turn off  
24 the gas and help restore our service. They

1 were always quite helpful. When something  
2 of this nature would happen, it could cause  
3 a great expense for the school district, an  
4 unexpected great expense for the school  
5 district. Many times we had to dig up the  
6 driveways, paved areas around the schools.  
7 And if we could not have school, just take  
8 one building, Fairfield High School, over  
9 2000 students. The cost of the employees,  
10 the salaries, not to say the missed day of  
11 school. We have an expense of over \$40,000  
12 in one day of paying all the employees as  
13 we are required to do by Ohio Law, if we  
14 had to cancel because of some type of  
15 utility problem, and in particular a gas  
16 leak. We also can't put a dollar figure on  
17 the safety of our children, and that's our  
18 biggest concern. Duke's proposal to assume  
19 responsibility for repairing and replacing  
20 customer service lines would have been a  
21 big help when I was with the school system.  
22 And I welcome it now as a home owner.  
23 Customers tend to wait and repair leaks  
24 when they occur rather than take on the

1 added expense of replacing an entire  
2 service line. I hate to admit this but in  
3 22 years as a school superintendent we did  
4 minimal preventative maintenance and the  
5 main reason was we were always on strapped  
6 budgets trying to make our money go as far  
7 as we can. So you really didn't fix things  
8 until they broke. Under Duke's proposal,  
9 the company would be more likely to replace  
10 the lines proactively, and consistent with  
11 best principals then an individual  
12 customer, like I am now or a school  
13 district like I was when I was a  
14 superintendent. In addition, knowing that  
15 all I have to do is call Duke Energy to  
16 repair my service line gives me piece of  
17 mind and eliminates any unexpected expenses  
18 when a repair is needed. Duke Energy Ohio  
19 proposal to continue their accelerated main  
20 replacement and riser replacement programs  
21 also benefits gas customers. Certain types  
22 of gas risers have been more prone to  
23 leaks. And Duke Energy has committed to  
24 replacing the risers by 2012. In addition,

1 some of the main gas lines in our area, I  
2 live in Fairfield Township and that  
3 incorporates Butler County, Hamilton,  
4 Fairfield. Some of our main gas lines in  
5 our area are over 100 years old. Replacing  
6 these lines and the risers will improve  
7 reliability and provide substantial safety  
8 benefits for our community. Let's not  
9 forget about the house explosion in Liberty  
10 Township due to a riser failure. Thank God  
11 the family and children had just pulled out  
12 of the driveway to go to church or they  
13 would be dead as the house was leveled.  
14 They even smelled the odor and didn't have  
15 a clue it was gas from a faulty riser. And  
16 one final comment, I only came here tonight  
17 because I read the announcement from the  
18 Ohio Consumer Council in the Hamilton  
19 Journal Newspaper and I felt compelled to  
20 share my thoughts about safety and  
21 protecting the public. In Ohio there's  
22 over one million students in our public  
23 schools, and I know the rate increase is a  
24 matter of concern to a lot of people. But



1 safety is an issue that as a customer I'm  
2 willing to pay. And also as a former  
3 school superintendent, I spent 22 years as  
4 a school superintendent, and I know first  
5 hand the danger of gas lines, and lack of  
6 knowledge and maintenance on the part of  
7 school districts in terms of preventative  
8 maintenance, prescriptive maintenance, and  
9 taking care of those things. As I said  
10 earlier they wait until they break to fix  
11 them. And I think it's imperative that we  
12 put into place a program where those risers  
13 and gas mains will be accelerated and  
14 completed by 2012. Thank you for  
15 considering my thoughts in this case, and I  
16 appreciate the opportunity to be here.

17 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Dennis Mendleson. Would you raise your  
18 hand? Do you affirm that the information  
19 you're about to give is true?

20 MR. MENDLESON: Yes, I do.

21 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Please state and spell your name for the  
22 record.

23 MR. MENDLESON: I'm Dennis Mendleson, M-E-N-D-L-E-S-O-N.

24 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Go ahead.

1 MR. MENDLESON: Thank you for having this hearing this  
2 evening. I'm here to speak against the  
3 rate increase. I believe that with this  
4 rate increase what will happen is that Duke  
5 Energy will, again, have a reduction in  
6 customers. I think people will move from  
7 the area, because the rate increase makes  
8 the bills too high. I believe that with  
9 these rate increases that it will cause  
10 income problems for people on fixed  
11 incomes. I know while I'm not a fixed  
12 income, I keep my house at 60 degrees,  
13 59 degrees, rates are very high and that  
14 will increase even more. I believe more  
15 people are going to need additional help in  
16 paying their bills as a result. I think,  
17 they are going to create some financial  
18 difficulties in other areas. There's not  
19 anything I could do to keep these rates  
20 lower. They are flat rates. Once they  
21 increase I can't turn my thermostat down to  
22 lower my heating costs. That's pretty much  
23 what I had to say. Thank you.

24 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Marcia Battle. Ms. Battle,

1 please raise your right hand. Do you swear  
2 that everything you're about to say is the  
3 truth, and nothing but the truth?

4 MS. BATTLE: I affirm, yes.

5 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Please state and spell your  
6 name for the record.

7 MS. BATTLE: Marcia, M-A-R-C-I-A, Battle, B-A-T-T-L-E.  
8 Thank you for the opportunity. I am also  
9 speaking against the increase. On behalf  
10 of myself and my family and thousands of  
11 others that cannot come down to speak. We  
12 urge you not to allow the increase in the  
13 electric or gas bill. Although, I do many  
14 things to try to conserve energy by  
15 unplugging anything that is not being used  
16 and turned off everything when we are not  
17 using it, there are many things that you  
18 can't turn off, and our bills are extremely  
19 high. It doesn't seem, up here, that it's  
20 economically sound that people should pay  
21 on their utility bills like credit cards on  
22 payment plans. Yet there are millions of  
23 people that have to be on payment plans  
24 just to pay their utility bill. It also

1 seems that there's that our utilities  
2 should be between one and five percent of  
3 our income. And for many, many people,  
4 Duke alone is 5 percent of that income, and  
5 that is people are starving because they  
6 can't pay those utility bills. People's  
7 utilities are being cut off. And with  
8 weather, and especially the way it is right  
9 now, that is so unhealthy, unfair, and too  
10 many citizens --

11 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Pull the microphone to your mouth. I'm  
12 getting feed back.

13 MS. BATTLE: Okay. Again, it's just that Duke has  
14 already received 5 percent of many people's  
15 income, and our utility bills are extremely  
16 high. So we are just asking that you not  
17 allow the increase. Thank you.

18 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Doug Bell. Mr. Bell, please  
19 raise your right hand. Do you swear that  
20 the information you're about to give is  
21 true?

22 MR. BELL: Yes, I do.

23 MS. NEELEY-SEE: State and spell your name for the record.

24 MR. BELL: My name is Doug Bell, B-E-L-L. So far

1 you've had one speaker in favor of the rate  
2 increase, and two against. I'm going to  
3 offer you a third flavor. I'm not opposed  
4 to the rate increase if Duke Energy needs a  
5 little bit more money to keep the natural  
6 gas going through the lines and keeping the  
7 maintenance up, I'm okay with that. I'm  
8 opposed to the fact that it's being applied  
9 to a base rate. That it's a charge where  
10 every home owner pays the same rate  
11 increase. The reason I oppose that is  
12 because it's a disincentive to the home  
13 owners to enact energy efficiency  
14 improvements to their homes by having the  
15 base rate go up. By making the base rate  
16 go up, the impact to those energy  
17 efficiency improvements is lessened  
18 considerably. For instance, it seems  
19 unfair to me that this increase should be  
20 applied to all home owners whether they  
21 live in a small house in Price Hill or a  
22 colonials in Kenwood or a big mansion out  
23 in Mason. I think there should be some way  
24 for home owners to address the energy bill.

1 Two reasons the first one, obviously is  
2 global warming. Governor Strickland  
3 believes in global warming. I believe in  
4 it. And by applying the increase to the  
5 variable cost instead of the base rate that  
6 will provide an incentive to home owners to  
7 begin addressing that. And secondly, as I  
8 already said before, by applying it to the  
9 base rate any impact of efficiency  
10 improvements would be dramatically  
11 lessened. Thank you.

12 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Noelle Polisso. Do you swear  
13 that the information you're about to give  
14 is true?

15 MS. POLISSO: Yes.

16 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Please state and spell your  
17 name for the record.

18 MS. POLISSO: Okay. My name is Noelle, N-O-E-L-L-E. My  
19 last name is Polisso, P-O-L-I-S-S-O.

20 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Pronounce it for me?

21 MS. POLISSO: Noelle Polisso.

22 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Okay. Go ahead.

23 MS. POLISSO: I'm totally unprepared for this. I saw it  
24 in the paper, and I was interested and

1 wanted to come. I am against, like this --

2 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Yes.

3 MS. POLISSO: -- I am against the rate. When I read it  
4 in the paper I was rather shocked at the  
5 dollar amounts. I live in a small condo.  
6 I keep my condo at 63, I'm not always warm.  
7 I do conserve energy where ever I can. I  
8 have replacement windows. I'm looking  
9 forward to retirement in the next few  
10 years, and I'm afraid of this rate hike. I  
11 also am a critical care nurse. I work in a  
12 hospital. I see how belts could be  
13 tightened at the level. I see how big  
14 business sometimes spend more than they  
15 need to, and that's my opinion about it.  
16 So I am against this rate increase. Thank  
17 you.

18 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Albert Andrews.

19 MR. ANDREWS: I decline to give testimony.

20 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Okay. You're passing. Shirley Colbert.  
21 Please raise your right hand. Do you swear  
22 the information you're about to give is  
23 true?

24 MS. COLBERT: Yes.

1 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you. Please state and spell your  
2 name for the record.

3 MS. COLBERT: Shirley A. Colbert, C-O-L-B-E-R-T.

4 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Go ahead.

5 MS. COLBERT: I'm Shirley Colbert from the westend. I'm  
6 Shirley Colbert, President of the West End  
7 Community Council. I come down here to  
8 represent the residents within the West  
9 End. They are against the rate hike  
10 because we are catching, truly heck trying  
11 to pay those utility bills down in the West  
12 End. We just moved out in public housing.  
13 We didn't pay gas and electric from where  
14 we moved to. Where we are now we all have  
15 to pay gas and electric, and guess what?  
16 That ain't no picnic. So we are against  
17 the rate hike. Thank you.

18 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Thank you, Ms. Colbert. Daniel Key. Do  
19 you swear the information you're about to  
20 give is true, Mr. Key?

21 MR. KEY: Yes.

22 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Please state and spell your name for the  
23 record.

24 MR. KEY: Daniel Key, K-E-Y.



1 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Go ahead.

2 MR. KEY: My name is Daniel Key. I have a wife,  
3 three kids, a home, a dog. I have  
4 everything that is supposed to be the  
5 American dream. You know, we saved up  
6 money. We were renting until like 5 years  
7 ago. And had another child. So we had to  
8 get in a bigger place, and were fortunate  
9 enough to buy a home. Within the past  
10 4 years there have been increases on  
11 insurance, car, and home, property taxes.  
12 Then I believe Duke took over what we  
13 called CG&E, I believe that's 2005. And  
14 then there was an increase, I want to say  
15 the following year there was an increase in  
16 the cost of gas. I know just last year  
17 there was an increase in electricity, maybe  
18 earlier, gas also. But here it comes again  
19 an increase in gas. The problem that I'm  
20 having is, we have had increases in gas at  
21 the pumps, gas in our homes, food at the  
22 stores. From eggs have gone to \$2.09 a  
23 carton now. Tomatoes, I was at one store  
24 they were \$3 a pound. I had one big one

1 and had to put that back and get a couple  
2 small ones. The problem I'm having with  
3 this increase is that our income doesn't  
4 match, you know? And if you're elder and  
5 you get a certain amount of money a month,  
6 when these bills come, I mean, your choice  
7 is to what? To get medications? Get food?  
8 Or keep your lights on? I have a  
9 5-year-old, a 12-year-old, and a  
10 13-year-old at home. I'm fortunate. I got  
11 great kids and they get great grades.  
12 Again, I have to tell them that I will not  
13 be voting for the school level. I can't  
14 afford it even though they broke it down,  
15 it's just \$20 a month, you know, but then  
16 what? I have a child that uses the car, so  
17 that just went up \$15 a month. And when I  
18 think of other charges as they come in,  
19 they are monthly charges, and then the  
20 other charges, it's only about \$20 a month  
21 for a school levy. But no one is saying  
22 where that other \$20 a month is coming  
23 from. Forth percent of what is in my  
24 household is from thrift stores. My kids

1 are accustomed to that. They don't look  
2 for fancy things. We all went to the  
3 thrift store. So you know it's, they are  
4 not put in a pressure to have name brand  
5 things. Actually, we are able to get some  
6 at the thrift store. So we can keep the  
7 cost low. I teach them about saving on gas  
8 in their home. Also I worked at HC to get  
9 free weatherization, heat programs, things  
10 of that nature. But because I make -- my  
11 wife and I work -- because it's not enough  
12 individuals in the household we are a  
13 little over. So we can't have benefits  
14 from some of those services. So everything  
15 I have to do comes out of my pocket. Now,  
16 I was able to get energy saving light  
17 bulbs. I have a hundred year old home. No  
18 insulated walls, can't do that. I can't do  
19 the attics. But, it's just very bothersome  
20 when you try to do everything you can to  
21 achieve that American dream, and individual  
22 companies, because of greed, my opinion,  
23 solely my opinion, but because of greed  
24 they can keep raising the prices of their

1 product. I'm getting the same services,  
2 and I know from the age I've worked, I know  
3 I'm getting the same services when I had,  
4 when it was CG&E. I know Duke is making a  
5 profit. They say some of the things they  
6 want to do is employment and education.  
7 These are the same things that have been  
8 there, I know over 20 years. I've been  
9 paying attention as far as paying gas and  
10 electric bills. I know that they are  
11 making a profit. So they are not taking  
12 that profit and putting it back in the  
13 company. That's the only thing that I can  
14 see that they are not doing. Putting it  
15 back in the company. Putting it over to  
16 the side, and say, we'll raise prices to  
17 get more profit. All I'm asking is those  
18 individuals that are in charge of making  
19 decisions or whether or not this will  
20 happen, they just think for a moment and  
21 try to show a little responsibility on how  
22 these things effect just regular ordinary  
23 people who are struggling trying to make  
24 it. Because like I say everything has gone

1 up. Nothing has gone down. Insurance.  
2 Everything has gone up, and one more rate  
3 hike is one more straw on a camel's back.  
4 That is all I wanted to speak today  
5 regarding that, thank you very much.

6 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Is there anyone else here present that  
7 would like to offer testimony tonight?  
8 It's seven o'clock. We'll take a brief  
9 recess until 7:15 to 7:20 to see if anyone  
10 else wants to show up that wants to offer  
11 testimony.

12 (Brief recess.)

13 MS. NEELEY-SEE: Before the recess I asked was there, was  
14 anyone here that would like to offer  
15 testimony? I'll ask again. Is there  
16 anyone here that would like to offer  
17 testimony? Going once, twice? With that  
18 I'll remind everyone that if you wish to  
19 file correspondence in the Commission's  
20 file you can do that by mailing it to 180  
21 East Broad, Columbus, Ohio and putting the  
22 case number on your letter. With that I  
23 thank everyone for coming out this evening  
24 and offering your comments. And remind you

1 that the Commission's decision will be  
2 issued probably in about the next  
3 eight weeks. Thank you.

4 THE GALLERY: Thank you.

5  
6 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:22 P.M.

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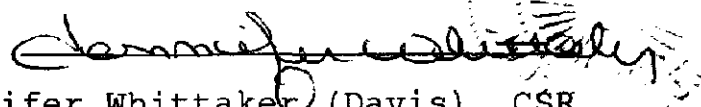
STATE OF OHIO )  
COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

I, Jennifer Whittaker (Davis), the undersigned, a  
duly qualified and commissioned Notary Public within and  
for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the aforesaid  
hearing was given at the said time and place and was taken  
in stenotypy by me and transcribed into typewritten form  
under my supervision; that I am neither relative, attorney,  
nor employee of any party or their counsel and have no  
interest in the result of this pending action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and official seal of office at Cincinnati, Ohio, this  
12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

My commission expires:

JUNE 18, 2012

  
Jennifer Whittaker (Davis), CSR