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RE: Case #07-1112-WS-AIR

PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

To Whom It May Concern:

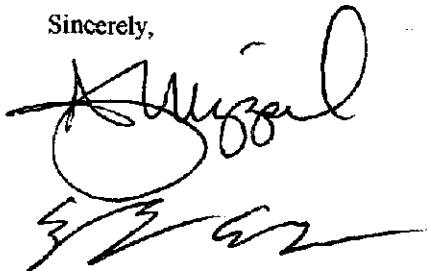
We have recently been informed of the newest water and sewage rate increase, of approximately 30% and 32% respectively, proposed by Ohio American Water (OAW). Unfortunately this news has come from the Ohio Consumer Council (OCC) and not from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) or OAW. OAW has not informed us of the need for such a large rate increase and also has not shown us any reason why we should be paying so much.

Last year OAW requested a rate increase with the promise of improved water quality in Franklin County. Unfortunately we have not seen any improvement in the quality or even the delivery of our water. We have however watched construction work done on a water tower near our home for the past six months. During that entire time we have also seen tanker trailers (portable water pressure trailers is how they are labeled) spread throughout our community piped in through hoses into the fire hydrants in order to keep pressure within the system. I have yet to understand how we should pay for even more for water and sewage when this is the result of last year's rate increase.

My fiancé and I are both public servants which mean we do not make a large amount of money. We are both forced to work two jobs in order to pay for bills as it is. We chose the community that we live in due to the school district. We currently serve an area where families are forced to pay for any of their children's extra-curricular activities and we knew we would not be able to do that, so we chose the area that we did. It is most unfortunate to think though that we may have to move to those types of areas due to increasingly high utility costs.

It is our sincerest belief that OAW has not shown us any viable reason to increase rates except to increase profit. They have yet to deliver on the promise they made last year and have not earned our trust in improvement in current situations. We urge you to deny OAW any requests for rate increases until they do so.

Sincerely,



Matthew Erhard and Angie Wippel
cc: Governor Ted Strickland

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