August 7, 2008

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

Public Utilities Commission Docking Division 180 E. Broad Street, 13th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

2008 AUG 1 | PM 2: 41

PUCO

Re: Case #07-1112-WWW-AIR

Gentlemen,

I attended the August 3rd meeting in Marion regarding the proposed Ohio American Water Company rate increase. Regretfully I was not prepared to make a statement.

My wife and I moved to Marion in September of 1959. The water at that time smelled and tasted bad, so much so that my friend from my hometown in Pennsylvania would bring us water for drinking. The water now is somewhat better but we continue to filter our drinking water. My wife wipes the rim of the washing machine to be sure the red sediment (Whatever it is) doesn't stain the clothes. We also find this stuff collecting in the toilet bowls. We have lived in our newly-built home for 8 years and have had to replace the shower control valve and kitchen sink faucet because of corrosion and build up of lime. To think that we would be taking all this red stuff and lime into our bodies if we drink unfiltered water doesn't say much for our water quality.

The Ohio American Water Company is a subsidiary of the American Water Works Company that in turn is a division RWE in Germany. RWE purchased the American Water Works Company in 2003. RWE is now planning to make an initial public offering for the company but have held off temporarily because of the poor economic conditions in the U.S. Since our rate increase does not list the reason for the increase, I think it is to make the Ohio American Water Company and all the subsidiaries look good for potential buyers. I don't like the fact that a foreign investor owns our water works and has no interest in our water other than making money.

The PUCO should not grant any increase in our water rates because:

The Company has not provided a reason for the request.

The water quality is very poor.

They have shown little or no interest in up grading the system.

Poor residents on a fixed income cannot afford to pay out additional money on their already taxed income.

Rates at comparable communities are less than ours. Why should we pay more? High priority should be given to repair broken fire hydrants. I've seen 2 that took weeks before repairs were made.

Michael M. Palm Michael M. Palm 1125 Retreat Lane

Marion, Ohio 43302-6792

Ph: 740-389-3178