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FILE



September 18, 2008

Mr. Alan Schriber, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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**Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.**

Re: Docket Numbers
Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO
Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO

Dear Mr. Schriber:

Though no one likes rate increases or to having to pay more for essential utilities, I am writing advocating your thoughtful and favorable consideration of American Electric Power's Electric Security Plan filing because of its increased focus on Ohio's economic competitiveness.

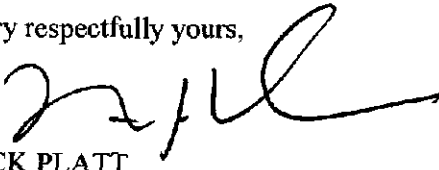
As you know, AEP's Ohio Power territory is currently the lowest cost provider among large utilities in Ohio. It's my understanding that this status will be retained as in-state and national providers have proposed comparable or larger increases. Further, though our Port Authority has never been a recipient of AEP's grants to economic development organizations, I see the wisdom of increased investment in economic development.

Our Port Authority and companies we work with daily include some of AEP's largest Ohio customers. Two subtransmission and one primary electric service customer are located at the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center which we own. Not surprisingly, electric service, its competitiveness and its reliability, are critical to our current and prospective customers. AEP's ESP plan appears to keep them competitive without compromising on the utility's ability to retain and improve reliability.

I'm especially encouraged that AEP has proposed to increase efforts to partner in economic development despite having to absorb higher fuel costs into their three-year plan. It's my experience, from over 20 years of working in development, that the increased development efforts will, indeed, help to buffer against the rate increases.


The ability to bring AEP back to the table in negotiating to bring expanded and new facilities of large, industrial electric users is a huge plus. Ohio never enjoyed a more robust economic development environment than when AEP and Ohio's electric providers were deploying tools to help Ohio win deals in the highly-competitive, cost-driven effort to attract corporate capital investment and jobs.

Very respectfully yours,


RICK PLATT
President and CEO

cc: Hon. Ted Strickland, Governor

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