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Attention PUCO:

PUCO

RE: Senate Bill 221

FIRST ENERGY:

CASE # 08-935-EL-ss0

CASE # 08-936-EL-ss0

CASE # 08-917-EL-ss0

First Energy rate increase request: 5.32% = 2009
4.01% = 2010
5.99% = 2011

According to PUCO survey a current monthly average Toledo residential customer is approximately \$102. This is much higher than:

Canton, O. \$64

Columbus, O. \$81

Cincinnati, O. \$84

This is an outrageous amount coming from senior citizens on fixed incomes and struggling hard working families. We are to eliminate food and medical in order to pay these rates for electric and gas (which is next in asking for a rate increase)????????? These are the highest rates in the U.S., WHY???????

In addition to the above plan, First Energy is also asking smaller users, including residential customers, pay the difference between full rates and discounted rates for larger customers received from special contracts First Energy receives. THINK NOT!!!!!! Along with this proposal, First Energy also is looking at a deferment cost of fuel and other items well past ESP in effect. These masked true impacts would add nearly \$2 billion to be paid by consumers over the next 25 years.

They have already filed for an increase in distribution rates, currently waiting for PUCO'S decision, First Energy justifying \$55 million of the \$325 million request. The remaining of the \$325 = \$270 million is?????? (Someone's pockets??? Not ours!!) If you approve, rates would increase \$150 million.

First Energy beginning in 1999 made many promises to customers for deregulation—bill passed—promise = lower rates—never happened!! In 2000 cost increase will end in 2005 for state regulatory charge and consumers bill will drop 1/4-1/2 —it's 2008— RATES NOT DECREASING!!! on the contrary, skyrocketing!!! Promises never kept, however, OUTCOME First Energy's profits soar at our expense as years go on apparently with PUCO GIVING A "HIGH 5"!! Past several years:

Profits: 2003 = \$440 million
2004 = \$907 million
2005 = \$879 million
2006 = \$1,258 billion

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2007 = \$1,309 billion

Where does this go at our expense??? We are NOT receiving any profit to pay for this. Your commission has approved all requests in the past. Where's accountability?????!! With executives exuberant salaries and bonuses at consumers expense??? This MUST STOP!!!

It's past time the PUCO needs to look at the average residential consumers, who are cutting usage as they cannot afford these unbearable rates, and address the consumers needs. We have no HIGH END SALARIES OR PADDED BONUSES!!!

Hear the customers' plea and put an end to this. With PUCO backing utilities unrealistic rates you are forcing residents and businesses to relocate. It's bad enough there is a monopoly owned by the utility companies and customers are at their mercy!!!!

Accountability is needed in these requests and seems to be applicable for PUCO. Is there gain in \$\$\$ for the PUCO when increases are continually approved??? Investigation seems to be needed and terms possibly shortened on this commission. PUCO "PUBLIC" also is a reference to us as customers!!! Please keep this in mind.

Very concerned citizen,

Marlene Coop