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WALSH AT
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

PUCO

180 E. Broad St

Columbus, Ohio 43215

DOMINION EAST OHIO 070829 BA-AIR

Gentlemen:

The proposed rate changes for natural gas are coming at a very bad time for us. We are barely able to make our monthly payments as is.

My wife and I are in our mid-late 80's, on a fixed income (social security, and small pensions) and cannot afford to pay more for heat and electricity this winter. The cost of food and gasoline as you know is also way up. In the past 12 months I have used about 120 MCF of gas which cost me \$1580.00 (year \$9.99 MCF).

The cost of gas at the new rate of \$13.99 per MCF plus customer service charge and sales tax would average \$168.59 per month compared to \$131.66 last year. This is more than a 23.4% increase for same usage. It will probably be higher. AEP Electric is also asking for at least 15% increase of rates this year.

If these rates happen there are going to be a lot of cold, hungry elderly people in Ohio this winter. There has to be a better plan to get these high rates than from our older people. We need to get a break in some way, shape, or form.

Sincerely,

Marvin L. Etzler, Etzler
3000 INWOOD DR
LIMA, OH 45806

PUCO

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