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08-917-EL-SSO

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OCT 16 2008

INVESTIGATION AND ADJUT DIVISION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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Consumer Services Dept 7th

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2008 OCT 17 PM 1:17
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I understand American Electric Power (AEP) intends to raise Electricity rates by 15% this year and also for the two following. Nothing could be more frightening to seniors like myself who will face, not only Elec service raises but also water rates by double digits in Nov. My small pension raise this year is about 3%. The financial situation should strike alarm in all, including large utility companies who could use this warning to streamline operations, cut costs and renegotiate new contracts. Salaries should also be frozen for a time until finances stabilize. Hearing that AEP Chief Exec. Officer received a salary of \$19.5 mil. was a stunning blow to me. Surely this is way out of reason. AEP must have planned the anticipated raise some time ago when times were much different. No one should be raising rates now. That is what caused the financial breakdown along with greed at the top.

I strongly urge you to curtail the increase. ^{COUNCIL AEP TO} evaluate ~~your~~ business and do

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urge them to do
their ~~part~~ part to stabilize finances.
Raising rates is not the answer and
citizens should not be the ones to
^{consumers} carry the whole burden.

I would like to be a speaker at the
next meeting in October. Please
call me at 614-235-9965 with
requirements.

Thank you.

Rosemary Applegate