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Douglas F. Bowling
147 Wise Avenue NE
North Canton, OH
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PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attention: Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Oh 43215
(Case Number 08-918-EL-SSO)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the rate increase sought by American Electric Power (AEP) in their electric security plan (ESP). Three consecutive years of 15% rate hikes makes a total 52 percent increase over that period.

Yes, everyone's costs have risen from energy and environmental considerations, and AEP should receive a smaller, more reasonable rate hike to cover those costs. I do NOT agree that all customers should bear the cost of some customers who return to AEP from another supplier. Those customers should bear the direct cost of those actions themselves.

Besides the serious impact on residential consumers of a 52%, three year hike, consider the impact of this request on industry. I work in a 102 year old manufacturing plant that is barely getting by as it is. We are taking the steps we can afford to upgrade our old infrastructure for energy savings, environmental compliance, etc. The annual electric bill at my company is currently \$480,000 per year. I do not see how my company can absorb a rate hike of this magnitude and remain competitive.

Of particular concern to me is AEP's request to defer costs that would result in bill increases of more than 15 percent. Such deferrals would mask the true impact of AEP's request and allow it to collect those costs outside of the three year period.

AEP says they will improve reliability if they are granted this increase. How will that be measured? In my last meeting with AEP they told me that spikes in their supplied power from resulting from AEP switching capacitor banks in and out were the problem of my company, and we would have to pay to add filtering where that was a problem. Can I anticipate that AEP would take full responsibility for the overall quality of their supplied power if they get this massive increase?

Thank you for your consideration of my views and I urge you to approve a much smaller increase than AEP is requesting.


Douglas F. Bowling

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