

**FILE**

PUCO  
ATTN: Docketing Division  
180 E Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

2008 OCT 27 PM 2: 04

Re: Case Number 08-917-EL-SSO

**PUCO**

Dear Sirs;

**Concerning the proposed rate hikes from AEP - I believe the rate hikes are excessive and that the company as a private corporation will not provide materially better service to Ohio electric energy consumers in its supply area.**

The corporation is in business first and foremost to provide a return to its stockholders. The commission should first look at the public utilities serving Ohio and review the growth of their stocks for the last several years. You will see fairly consistent growth and rather high stock prices. This reflects the market's belief in a strong company that will consistently turn in high dividends and will grow to produce greater revenue. How does this serve Ohio's consumers, most of whom are not major holders of the utilities stocks. (Yes, their 401K plans, if they have one, probably are).

Is this rate hike necessary? AEP has been providing above average wages and salaries as well as high dividends and stock growth. What does this say about the amount of money being reinvested in the company? How does this serve the consumer?

What is the status of AEP's compliance with environmental laws? How many old plants have been cleaned up vs. using loop holes such as repair work to increase capacity. What does this say about AEP's commitment to the consumer?

**I cannot support the roughly 15% per year rate hikes asked for by AEP. This is likely to be 3 to 5 times the inflation rate and I don't see evidence that consumers will gain by this hike.**

**I urge you to deny these rate hikes and instead look to a more gradual hike that will allow a well run company, focused on serving its customers, not its share holders and officers, to continue to maintain its system.**

If the PUCO wants to stimulate AEP to advance renewable energy then this provision should be written into the rate hike and this should directly benefit consumers by reduced or stabilized rates.

If PUCO wants to stimulate the building of more coal fired generating plants - it should think again - and instead stimulate residential solar photovoltaic use. This will directly benefit the consumer as well as the environment. AEP can be a force in this maturing market - if a double digit return on investment is not expected.

**If the PUCO wants to undermine the economy of OHIO by forcing business and residential consumers alike to cut other spending to absorb unprecedented rate increases, then the rate hikes should be implemented as proposed.**

Respectfully, William Rudinsky

197 Woodlawn Ave.  
Belpre, Ohio

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