1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
2	
3	In the Matter of the :
4	Application of Columbus : Southern Power Company for:
5	Approval of its Electric : Security Plan; an : Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO
6	Amendment to its Corporate: Separation Plan; and the : Sale or Transfer of :
7	Certain Generating Assets.:
8	In the Matter of the : Application of Ohio Power :
9	Company for Approval of : its Electric Security : Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO
10	Plan; and an Amendment to :
11	its Corporate Separation :
11	Plan. :
12	
13	PUBLIC HEARING
14	before Ms. Greta See and Ms. Kimberly Bojko, Hearing
15	Examiners, at the Park of Roses Shelter House, 3901
16	North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, called at 6:00
17	p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008.
18	
19	
20	

21	ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
	185 South Fifth Street, Suite 101
22	Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
	(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
23	Fax - (614) 224-5724
24	

1 APPEARANCES:

2	American Electric Power
	By Mr. Stephen Nourse
3	One Riverside Plaza
	Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373
4	
	On behalf of Columbus Southern Power
5	and Ohio Power Company.
6	Janine L. Migden-Ostrander
	Ohio Consumers' Counsel
7	By Ms. Jacqueline Roberts
	Assistant Consumers' Counsel
8	Ten West Broad Street, Suite 1800
	Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
9	
	On behalf of the Residential
10	Ratepayers of Columbus Southern Power
	and Ohio Power Company.
11	
12	Ohio State Legal Services
	By Joseph V. Maskovyak
13	555 Buttles Avenue
	Columbus, Ohio 43215
14	
	On behalf of the Appalachian People's
15	Action Coalition
10	
16	ALSO PRESENT:
10	
17	Commissioner Ronda Hartman Fergus
1,	
18	
10	
19	

20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

1	INDEX	
2		
3 WITNESS	S	PAGE
-	Applegate	11
Direct Test 5	timony	11
Matt Vaca		
6 Direct Tes	stimony	16
7 David R.		
Direct Test	timony	22
Eugene Pa	rkinson	
9 Direct Tes	stimony	25
10 Mike Day	vis	
Direct Test	timony	27
Russ Meek	ker	
12 Direct Te	estimony	30
13 Mark Har	rville	
Direct Test	timony	34
14 J. R. Halle		
		38
15 Direct Te	sumony	30
16 Seth Port		1.6
Direct Test 17	timony	46
Dave Mart	in	
18 Direct Te	estimony	48
19 John Burl	ke	
Direct Test	timony	51

20	
Russ Murray	
21 Direct Testimony	54
22 Erin Miller	
Direct Testimony	57
23	
Jeff Miller	
24 Direct Testimony	61

1 WITNESS	PAGE
2 Angela Kypriotis Direct Testimony	63
3	
Rod Bodwalh 4 Direct Testimony	66
+ Direct resultiony	00
5 Tom Moore	
Direct Testimony 6	68
Teresa Layne	
7 Direct Testimony	72
8 Com Fink	
8 Gary Fink Direct Testimony	74
9	
Tom Cannon	77
10 Direct Testimony	77
11 Julie Wells	
Direct Testimony	80
12 Dave Southan	
13 Direct Testimony	81
14 John McCabe Direct Testimony	83
15	05
James Sisto	
16 Direct Testimony	86
17 Joyce Levenson	
Direct Testimony	90
18 Detaisis Sharman	
Patricia Sherman 19 Direct Testimony	92
	24

20 Pete Preissle Direct Testimony	94
21	
William Arnett	
22 Direct Testimony	97
23 Mark Krietemeyer Direct Testimony	99
24	

1 WITNESS	PAGE
2 Lloyd Moore Direct Testimony	103
3	
Jeff Frontz 4 Direct Testimony	107
5 Jerry Leard Direct Testimony	109
6	109
Ty Marsh	
7 Direct Testimony	110
8 Nachy Konfer	
Direct Testimony	113
9 C(
Stacy Pierce 10 Direct Testimony	116
10 Direct resultiony	110
11 Kristen Arnold	
Direct Testimony 12	120
Ewan Oglethorpe	
13 Direct Testimony	121
14 41 4 11 4	
14 Aleta Hunter Direct Testimony	123
15	123
Will McCartney	
16 Direct Testimony	126
17 Mary Cunningham	
Direct Testimony	128
18	
19	

20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

1	Monday Evening Session,
2	October 27, 2008.
3	
4	EXAMINER SEE: Good evening.
5	The Public Utilities Commission has
6	assigned for public hearing at this time and place
7	Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO being captioned:
8	In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern
9	Power Company for Approval of its Electric Security
10	Plan; an Amendment to its Corporate Separation Plan;
11	and the Sale or Transfer of Certain Generating
12	Assets.
13	It is also the local public hearing for
14	Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO, being captioned:
15	In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power
16	Company for Approval of its Electric Security Plan;
17	and an Amendment to its Corporate Separation Plan;
18	and an Amendment to its Corporate Separation Plan.
19	I'd like to call to your attention

- 20 there's also Commission personnel in the room. They
- 21 are in the back, and standing is Ms. Jones, and by
- 22 the door is Ms. Mitchell. If you have any questions
- 23 that are unrelated to the electric security plan case
- 24 and you want some additional information from the

1	Commission, please approach either of those
2	individuals and they will try to get your question
3	answered or direct you to whom you need to contact at
4	the Commission to get the information that you need.
5	I note there are a number of parties that
6	have filed motions to intervene in the case, which
7	means they are participating in the case. There are
8	intervenors that represent commercial customers,
9	industrial customers, and there are various
10	residential consumer advocates.
11	At this time I'd like to ask counsel for
12	CSP and the Ohio Power and counsel for the other
13	intervenors that are present to enter an appearance
14	on the record.
15	MR. NOURSE: Thank you, your Honor on
16	behalf of Columbus Southern Power and Ohio Power
17	Company, Stephen T. Nourse, senior counsel, One
18	Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
19	EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse, do you have

- 20 any individuals from AEP that are here to address any
- 21 individual's utility service questions?
- 22 MR. NOURSE: Yes, we do. We have service
- 23 representatives back in this corner over here right
- 24 by the PUCO table. Maybe you could stand for us.

1	They are happy to answer any questions for people
2	afterwards to address those types of issues.
3	Thank you.
4	EXAMINER SEE: On behalf of the Ohio
5	Consumers' Counsel.
6	MS. ROBERTS: Your Honor, Jacqueline
7	Roberts on behalf of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel,
8	Janine Migden-Ostrander, who by law in the proceeding
9	represents the interest of all Ohio consumers. We
10	have several people with us today that are here to
11	answer your questions and provide information.
12	Can you wave? They are in the back with
13	a table of information, and they will be happy to
14	help you if you have any questions.
15	EXAMINER SEE: Is there counsel for any
16	of the other intervenors in this matter present
17	today?
18	MR. MASKOVYAK: My name is joe Maskovyak.

19 I'm with Ohio State Legal Services Association, part

- 20 of legal services that represent the Appalachian
- 21 People's Action Coalition, which is a consortium of
- 22 low-income consumers in southeast Ohio representing
- 23 their interest here.
- 24 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

1 As Commissioner Fergus mentioned, this is
2 the last public hearing in a series that the
3 Commission has scheduled that were held in various
4 locations throughout AEP-Ohio's service territory.
5 I'd also note that it is the first step in a dual
6 hearing process. The next phase is the evidentiary
7 hearing scheduled to commence on November 17 at the
8 offices of the Public Utilities Commission.
9 At that hearing it will give the company,
10 the intervenors, and the staff of the Commission an
11 opportunity to present evidence in support of their
12 respective positions.
13 As Commissioner Fergus also noted, when
14 you came in tonight, you were given an opportunity to
15 sign up on a sheet to come here and present testimony
16 tonight. We will ask you to come forward. You can
17 stand or sit at this table, whichever is most
18 comfortable for you, and face towards the audience so
19 the court reporter can clearly hear you and record

- 20 what is being said.
- 21 If you missed the opportunity to sign up,
- 22 feel free to do it at any point during the hearing,
- 23 or at the conclusion of the hearing I'll ask again if
- 24 there is someone that wishes to offer testimony that

did not sign up. If when I call your name or 1 Ms. Bojko calls your name you have changed your mind, 2 please just indicate that you pass and we will move 3 on to the next witness. 4 I'll also ask that you go through your 5 comments but respect that there are others behind you 6 that also wish to offer testimony. 7 You will also be asked to affirm or swear 8 that the information you are giving is true, to state 9 and spell your name for the record, and go ahead and 10 give your statement. As a witness you may be 11 cross-examined by counsel or the other intervenors. 12 I indicated that the tonight's hearing is 13 being transcribed and that the court reporter is 14 15 recording everything that is said here tonight. If you plan to testify, speak loudly and clearly so the 16 record is accurate. 17 If you have a prepared statement and 18

19 you're willing to give a copy of that to the court

- 20 reporter, it makes the record clearer and she knows
- 21 exactly what you mean and the acronyms that you are
- 22 using.
- 23 Again, we appreciate your participation
- 24 in tonight's hearing, and we want to give everyone a

1	chance to speak. Are there any questions about the
2	process?
3	Hearing none, we will call the first
4	witness.
5	EXAMINER BOJKO: Rosemary Applegate.
6	Please state your name and address for
7	the record.
8	MS. APPLEGATE: My name is Rosemary
9	Applegate. I live at 1544 Zettler Road, Columbus
10	43227.
11	
12	ROSEMARY APPLEGATE
13	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
14	examined and testified as follows:
15	DIRECT TESTIMONY
16	MS. APPLEGATE: It's unfortunate we don't
17	have a microphone tonight and I will speak as loudly
18	as I can. If someone back there can't hear me, wave
19	your hand because I know what it is like to be in a

- 20 meeting where you can't hear. I wear an aid myself,
- 21 and I have been frustrated many times so I don't want
- 22 that to happen tonight. If you can hear now, I will
- 23 begin.
- 24 Commissioners and ladies and gentlemen, I

questions to begin with and then I will go on with 2 what I have to say. 3 I assume that the concept of raising the 4 prices started perhaps a year and a half a year ago, 5 two years ago. Am I right? How long ago did you 6 decide you would do this? 7 EXAMINER SEE: Ms. Applegate, this is 8 your opportunity. This is not something we decided 9 10 so go ahead.

appreciate coming come here. I may have some

MS. APPLEGATE: Okay, then I will assume
it was some time ago, and maybe two years ago,
perhaps. I don't know. And then they went to the
PUCO and then they came here and they are probably
trying to present this to people now.
Well, then there was September 15 and all
the weeks that followed which have caused all of us
financial stress. Probably no one here has not been

19 touched by that, and I think that it's a serious

- 20 situation and I might even say it is critical for a
- 21 lot of people.
- 22 And I'm going to say that perhaps the
- 23 concept of this raise in rates was then, but this is
- 24 now, and now is different than then, and I think we

should ask the PUCO and ask AEP to try to think of 1 this raise in real time, which is now when people are 2 struggling. People are really struggling. 3 4 In fact, one of our candidates said not too long ago people are scared, and he was talking 5 about the financial situation, people are frustrated, 6 and he even said some people are outraged. Well, the 7 people are scared, and I'm scared. I'm scared and 8 frustrated with corporate mind-set that says the 9 costs always must go to the consumers. And I think 10 that that's unfair. 11 My message to the PUCO and to AEP is to 12 say this is no time for a raise. Our country is in a 13 critical situation, and please listen carefully to 14 what I say. It may not affect you as much as some 15 others, but all the experts are saying: Sit tight. 16 Hold on. Wait. Hang in there and everything's going 17

18 to be all right, but that's not now, that's later.

19 I don't think this is any time to raise

- 20 prices for anything because we may be all right later
- 21 but that's if the prices aren't raised and we don't
- 22 have serious inflation. We don't know if that is
- 23 going to happen.
- 24 I think if we raise the rates now,

14

especially at 15 percent now and for two years, AEP 1 may be part of the spiral that takes us down. It may 2 be a small part but it could very easily be a part of 3 the financial problems being worsened and causing 4 more problems for our country. It started in New 5 York. Then it went to the country, and now it has 6 spread through the world. It's like a plague. 7 And I implore you to consider this. I 8 think your timing is incredibly bad. Did everybody 9 see the Dispatch this morning? 14 percent up since 10 last year of shut-offs. We all know that's a high 11 percentage. That's double digits, and it could get 12 worse, and that's even without the increase, people. 13 So I think there's the promise it will 14 get worse, and I'm just going to give you a couple 15 notes that I know that has happened to me. I'm 77. 16 I'm retired and I have a pension, a small pension, 17 but I work a small job part time. In the last three 18 19 months I've had two people over 75, acquaintances of

- 20 mine, who said: Rosemary, do you know where I can
- 21 find a job? Are they hiring at your place?
- 22 These are people that have been retired,
- 23 and it is a serious situation. I also want to say
- 24 that yesterday I went out and I was distributing the

pamphlets, the notes from our Eastside Community 1 Association. I am a trustee of that, and twice a 2 year we put out a little paper. And as I was going 3 through the neighborhood on my street, which is a 4 little more than a half a mile long, there were six 5 empty houses. 6 7 And this is serious. AEP doesn't make any money on empty houses. So I think you need to 8 make it possible for people to have affordable 9 electric because we're in a bad time. So I think 10 when things are bad, it's time for the company to get 11 mean and lean and start to find where they can save 12 money. 13 And one of the things I think that is 14

15 serious about AEP is that they can't afford their

16 CEO, 19.5 million for one year. That's what they

17 said on the television. I think it's incredibly bad

18 taste that they're coming to us now and asking for

19 more money. This is one person. I don't know what

- 20 else there is in their salary range, but I think
- 21 there needs to be some kind of regulation that says
- 22 when profits are good enough to pay that, then
- 23 they're good enough to not have a raise.
- 24 So with that I'm going to say again, I'm

1	not asking anyone to feel sorry for me. That's not
2	while I'm here. I'll get through this. I've gotten
3	through worse, and I have a plan, and that is to use
4	less electricity, which I will do, and I ask AEP to
5	go back to the drawing board, step back for a year,
6	come back in a year, leave the rates the way they
7	are, and find out what you can do to have a more
8	efficient company. And I ask you again to step back
9	and wait. This is no time to raise rates.
10	Thank you very much.
11	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Matt Vaccaro.
12	Please state your name and address for
13	the record
14	MR. VACCARO: My name is Matt Vacarro. I
15	live at 1191 St. Clair over Columbus, Ohio.
16	
17	MATT VACCARO
18	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
19	examined and testified as follows:

- 20 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 21 MR. VACCARO: I'm here not just for
- 22 myself but for a lot of other people, too, because
- 23 I'm also chair also of the Mile Area Grove
- 24 Commission. The Mile Grove as of last year,

1	54 percent of our residents live below poverty level.
2	That's 54 of existing residences. 193 of those are
3	boarded-up homes. We are a very poor area of the
4	community. What is really a travesty, we live just
5	right next to the transmission subplant of AEP there
6	at Fifth Avenue.
7	So we're all angry. We're all
8	frustrated. We are at a time when the markets are
9	out of control. I feel a 15 percent rate increase
10	every year for the next three years is going to be a
11	nail in my coffin.
12	Now, I've manged to pay my bills barely
13	for the last 12 years since I'm not able to work.
14	And my wife is making 23,000 for last five years, and
15	I have done this without food staps or any kind of
16	subsidy whatsoever, but if they do this, that's going
17	to be it. I won't be able to do it. I couldn't pay
18	my mortgage last month. I was able to work with some
19	people and worked out a way where we can do it

- 20 without going out and asking for money, but if you
- 21 add this big rate increase I can't do it.
- 22 Now, I'll say on the other side of the
- 23 coin I've worked with people, customer service with
- 24 AEP, and if I was to rate them for customer service

over the other utilities, I would say they're 1 probably one of the best in understanding that I have 2 ever worked with. They are polite. They are 3 sympathetic, and they really care, but, again, 4 they're still employees that have to do what they're 5 6 told So I have to give them that credit. But 7 I don't think we're being told everything either. 8 Unfortunately it's just only hearsay. I talked to 9 some of the employees at AEP right after the wind 10 storm because we all lost power. They said part of 11 this rate increase was to bring in what they call 12 13 smart meters. They are remote-controlled meters 14 controlled from a hub elsewhere, not just on your 15 house.

16 So I did have research on them, and

17 they're using them out West, and when they installed

18 them, people's bills increased dramatically. So

19 before I would be willing to embrace that kind of

- 20 technology, I like to see some discipline in place.
- 21 If you can manipulate your power meters from a
- 22 distance, who else can because there's always going
- 23 to be someone out there looking for ways to steal
- 24 power.

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1 It always seems like when the chips are down -- we're all hurting, we all have no money, 2 everybody's rising up -- if it's not the utilities, 3 it's the unions and the school boards, they are 4 demanding more money. 5 6 Well, the reason there isn't any more money is because we're all hurting so why can't we 7 all just kind of work together to hold down prices 8 until we can make things better? This market is 9 going to have to stabilize in order for things to get 10 better. I'll quote the Reagan administration. When 11 Ronald Reagan first got into office, he said: High 12 energy prices is the worse thing for a recovering 13 14 economy.

> That's what's happening. In order for 15 this economy to recover, we have to keep energy 16 prices down; in other words, AEP's going to have to 17 give a little before they gain a lot. 18

The other point I want to touch on, 19

- 20 something the lady there didn't mention what these
- 21 rates are supposed to cover. The CEO talked about
- 22 working and helping, investing, helping with the low
- 23 income. I didn't hear anything of out of you when
- 24 you made that presentation. But we've tried to work

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

20

1 with AEP in the past. They're hard to contact and

2 work with the upper management.

Out West people put in solar panels. Why 3 can't they do that here? What happens is the people 4 put in solar panels and then sell the electricity 5 6 that is generated by the solar panels back to the company. Why can't they do it for the low income 7 here? Let AEP install the solar panels, I'll rent 8 you my roof for that. 9 10 I'm serious. What difference does it make? I will rent my roof. I'm at home all day. 11

12 The only thing I have on is one television so those

13 solar panels will generate a tremendous amount of

14 electricity so I'll be using a very little bit. A

15 lot can go back to the company.

16 It's the same principle whether I install

17 and sell the solar power back; it's just their

18 equipment. I sell the house, and they can take the

19 equipment unless the new owner comes up with an

- 20 agreement.
- 21 And here's something else. We've got
- 22 about five acres -- that might be a little high,
- 23 maybe four acres -- at the transmission plant or
- 24 subplants, whatever you want to call it on Fifth

Avenue. And you know where it's at, just past 1 St. Clair on Fifth Avenue. We have tried to turn it 2 into a park for seniors citizens because in our 3 community we don't have a place where senior citizens 4 can enjoy the peace and quiet without a lot of people 5 6 around or a lot of small children because we have places for small children. 7 But they didn't want to work with us on 8 that. Okay, now, we have this big, huge piece of 9 land out there. Why can't' you put solar panels on 10 it right there right next to the transmission station 11 where you can send it back, where you can generate 12 more power and save money? 13 14 Because the bottom line is coal, no matter what you do, I don't care all the scrubbers 15 you can buy, that stills adds to the atmosphere, and 16 we're out of time because the latest research said 17 that what's going at the North Pole with global 18

19 warming, we're 50 years too soon in order to be in

- 20 the situation we're in now, and with the latest
- 21 research, and it scares me, we need to do something
- 22 now.
- 23 And all I can say I'm not going to blame
- 24 AEP for everything, but we know what is going on.

1	It's a complicated issue, but it's going to take all
2	of us coming together to fix the problem. It's not
3	going to be government. It's not going to be these
4	individual politicians or these CEOs. No matter
5	what, it is going to happen. You're going to have
6	it, and it's going to take us to fix the problem.
7	Thank you.
8	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. David Celebrezze.
9	Please state your name and address for
10	the record.
11	MR. CELEBREZZE: David Celebrezze, 1459
12	West Lane Avenue, Apartment A, Columbus, Ohio 43221.
13	
14	DAVID CELEBREZZE
15	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
16	examined and testified as follows:
17	DIRECT TESTIMONY
18	MR. CELEBREZZE: If you can't hear me in
19	the back, please raise your hand.

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

- 20 I appreciate this opportunity to comment
- 21 on AEP's proposal. I have shaved off some of my
- 22 verbal testimony in the interest of time. My concern
- 23 with the proposal is that it goes too far too quickly
- 24 and hurts ratepayers no matter what steps they take

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1	to reduce their energy consumption. A 45 percent
2	increase over three years is excessive. I don't know
3	any business that can raise their prices by that much
4	and survive unless that business has a monopoly
5	I am troubled, puzzled about many parts
6	of this plan. First AEP wants to increase its energy
7	efficiency. I applaud this goal. The more the
8	utilities can reduce their carbon footprint is a good
9	thing. Ohio utilities have hundreds of millions of
10	tons greenhouse gases into the air which heavily
11	contributes to climate change
12	What I am puzzled about is energy
13	efficiency usually means you save money either in the
14	short, medium or long run. So why does AEP need to
15	hike up the rates in order to save money when they're
16	getting it back in energy efficiency?
17	Second, AEP mentions the energy federal
18	mandated carbon tax. This tax is not in place yet.
19	How do they know what it is going to be? Are they

- 20 supportive of a reasonable tax supported by
- 21 environmentalists? Why cannot they use the money
- 22 they save by being more energy efficiency towards the
- 23 tax? If this tax has a carbon trade system, they
- 24 could reduce their emissions. They would have

1 allowances left over they could sell for profit to

2 other utilities.

3 Third, green jobs and energy generation is a thing of the present and the future. The old 4 dirty paradigm of burning coal is slowly 5 transitioning out. In order to get up with the 6 times, AEP has to invest in green jobs and energy 7 efficiency. But has AEP performed a study to see how 8 the rate increase would impact low-income individuals 9 and families? If not, why not? And when can it be 10 done? If so, what are the results? How is this 11 going to affect small business? Is AEP going to do a 12 study to find out? Again, if not, why not? If so, 13 what are the results? 14 Are AEP green jobs going to focus on 15 training low-income individuals and retrofitting old 16 buildings to be energy efficient? I understand why 17 there would need to be some type of bump up in how 18

19 much you pay for electricity, and it seems AEP is

- 20 using this opportunity to take advantage of its
- 21 customers, customers such as myself who have no other
- 22 option but to get my electricity from AEP. So I ask
- 23 the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to deny AEP's
- 24 request for a 45 percent increase in charges over the

1 next three years.

2	However, if the Commission approves this
3	plan, it needs to be responsible. The world's
4	leading scientists say we need to cut greenhouse gas
5	emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050. If
6	this rate increase is approved, AEP must guarantee
7	that it can cuts its emissions by this level or more.
8	If they can't make that guarantee, then they are just
9	blowing smoke in our faces and fouling the planet.
10	Thank you for this opportunity to come.
11	EXAMINER BOJKO: Eugene Parkison.
12	
13	EUGENE PARKISON
14	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
15	examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT TESTIMONY
17	MR. PARKISON: My name is Eugene R.
18	Parkinson, and I am the mayor of the Village of
19	Lexington. Lexington is a known as a small community

- 20 about 60 miles north of here. We get our power from
- 21 AEP. I've been mayor of the Village for about 25
- 22 years so I think I can speak with a little bit of
- 23 experience.
- 24 In years past we felt like we were at the

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

26

1	end of AEP lines. We received little attention to
2	our problems. Sure, they responded to a power
3	outage, but that would be about the extent of it.
4	The Village and I started a program
5	working for economic development, growing some new
6	businesses and asking AEP to be involved. We had
7	experienced power outages it seemed like once a week
8	or more, and some were very extensive. We held
9	several local meetings that AEP attended. There were
10	several letters sent, including to the PUCO.
11	The conclusion was without good clean
12	power our hopes and theirs for development were slim
13	and none. Several businesses decided to locate in
14	our area. With this we were destined not to be just
15	a small village south of Mansfield but rather our
16	future looked bright.
17	With cooperation AEP has assisted us with
18	economic development grants including upgrade and an

18 economic development grants, including upgrade and an

19 adding an additional substation, which has greatly

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 reduced any power outages we were experiencing, and
- 21 they have established a good neighbor policy with
- 22 both our businesses and our residents. We will
- 23 always have tornadoes, ice storms, windstorms similar
- 24 to what we experienced recently, but through our

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

27

1	association with AEP, I hope they will give us
2	promptly serve our residents and most of all our
3	businesses expeditiously, professionally, and timely.
4	I am convinced that our partnership,
5	which includes progressive upkeep and continual
6	upgrades to plant and equipment and right-of-way,
7	forces them to come before you today. This is where
8	my experience kicks in. You cannot provide increased
9	services without considering the rates. We all know
10	what is happening in our cost of operation both of
11	homes and businesses as well as municipalities.
12	Please consider their role in development of Ohio as
13	we consider them in development for Lexington.
14	Thank you.
15	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Mike Davis.
16	
17	MIKE DAVIS
18	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was

19 examined and testified as follows:

- 20 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 21 MR. DAVIS: My name is Mike Davis, 4486
- 22 Haybury Drive in New Albany.
- 23 Good evening. I'm Mike Davis, vice
- 24 president of development with United Way, and I'm

1 here to express our appreciation and gratitude for
2 the engagement and the commitments to community that
3 AEP expresses both currently and over the years.
4 We address the issues about how do we
5 educate this community and improve education? How do
6 we increase income in the community for folks who
7 need training and so forth? How do we make sure it's
8 a healthy community? And how do we address homes and
9 make sure people can live in homes in safe
10 neighborhoods.
11 And AEP is one of our key partners, and
12 most of that support is from the employees of AEP,
13 both employees and the leadership who sit on
14 committees, volunteer their time, go out and improve
15 the community by their time and their work and their
16 efforts. So we simply want to take this opportunity
17 to say how important AEP is in our community, how
18 important they are in addressing the most issues in
19 central Ohio.

- 20 When you look at volunteering time,
- 21 there were more than 120 volunteers who came out for
- 22 Community Fair today to help address the issues we're
- 23 discussing this evening, to help people improve their
- 24 lives and improve the conditions in which we all

1 live.

2	When we look at contributions, last year
3	most of the \$1.9 million that was contributed from
4	the employees through their organization of AEP is
5	coming to address the issues for measurable results
6	about how do we advocate, how do we get more people
7	to volunteer, and how do we financially support the
8	experts out in the communities doing the work to
9	address the issues that are most important in central
10	Ohio and Columbus.
11	So we want to take this opportunity to
12	thank you. We appreciate your engagement and support
13	in the past and appreciate your time this evening.
14	AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Do you want your
15	light bill to go up \$50 a month in three years? Can
16	you afford that?
17	MR. DAVIS: I'm here to address the
18	support they provide.
19	EXAMINER SEE: Gentlemen, I'm sorry, if

- 20 you would like to speak at the end of the hearing,
- 21 please go ahead. We need to continue and let the
- 22 other people who have come here tonight to offer
- 23 testimony go ahead and have the opportunity to give
- 24 their statement.

1	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Robert Huff.
2	MR. HUFF: I will pass.
3	EXAMINER BOJKO: Betty Ann Wernet.
4	MS. WERNET: I will pass.
5	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Russ Meeker.
6	Please give your name and address.
7	MR. MEEKER: Russ Meeker, 628 Bins
8	Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio.
9	
10	RUSS MEEKER
11	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
12	examined and testified as follows:
13	DIRECT TESTIMONY
14	MR. MEEKER: Good evening. My partner,
15	Mary Cunningham, and I are both residents of the
16	Columbus area, and we're business owners. Our
17	company, Renewable Concepts & Design, promotes
18	renewable energy and energy efficiency.
19	We are here this evening to address two

- 20 aspects of the current AEP rate case: The
- 21 distribution and use of AEP's \$75 million shareholder
- 22 set-aside for energy efficiency and renewable energy
- 23 and streamlined customer access to net metering.
- 24 In 1934 AEP President George Tidd said:

"We are citizens of each community we serve and take 1 an active part in its affairs. Like any other 2 citizen, we want our neighbors to think well of us. 3 We prosper only as the community prospers, so we help 4 it thrive in every way we can." 5 6 We would like to acknowledge and thank 7 AEP of Ohio for their continued commitment to the community and environment as demonstrated by: The 8 2000 Outstanding Environmental Education Program 9 Award from the Environmental Education Council of 10 Ohio; the 2003, 2004, 2005 Advocacy Excellence Award 11 from the Edison Electric Institute; the 2005 EPA 12 Climate Protection Award; the 2006 Community Service 13 Award from the American Council of the Blind of Ohio; 14 and most recently their support of the 2008 Hilltop 15 Green Summit this month. These are just a few 16 examples of the recognition that AEP has received 17 over the years from various organizations. 18

19 AEP also has shown strong support of

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 energy awareness in education demonstrated by the
- 21 development and implementation of "Learning From
- 22 Light" and "Learning From Wind," environmental
- 23 education programs. Their support is also shown by
- 24 support of "Watts On Schools" and "Ohio Schools Going

- 1 Solar." Through these programs AEP partners with
- 2 learning institutions to install 1 kW solar sheet

3 voltaic systems.

4 We at Renewable Concepts & Design commend

5 you for your community, environmental and educational

6 efforts. Again, as Tidd said, "Besides, it makes

7 good business sense. We prosper only as the

8 community prospers so we help it thrive in every way

9 we can."

- 10 We suggest that AEP continue its
- 11 leadership role in advancing renewable energy sources
- 12 to help meet our energy needs, both within their

13 service areas and in the whole state of Ohio. This

14 leadership would mean good green jobs and economic

15 growth.

- 16 In response to Ohio House Bill 221, AEP
- 17 is seeking to purchase up to 300 megawatts of
- 18 renewable energy by 2010 and would also provide
- 19 \$75 million in shareholder funds over three years to

- 20 support programs for low-income customers, economic
- 21 development, energy efficiency, and the installation
- 22 of renewable energy systems.
- 23 Renewable Concepts & Design proposes that
- 24 AEP commits to providing a portion of this set-aside

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

to install renewable energy systems. At this point 1 the primary barrier to the installation of renewable 2 energy systems is the up-front cost. We suggest AEP 3 allocate a portion of these \$75 million for customer 4 assistance in the amount of 25 percent of their down 5 payment cost for a lease-to-own, rent-to-own, or 6 rental systems. 7 This investment would provide a 8 tremendous boost to customers and the implementation 9 of renewable energy. In addition, this initiative 10 would increase AEP's renewable energy contribution 11 towards Ohio's advanced energy standard. 12 In keeping with the spirit of Ohio Senate 13 Bill 3, Renewable Concepts & Design is seeking AEP's 14 assistance to eliminate the legal and regulatory 15 barriers to advancing renewable energy. On the AEP's 16 website under Corporate citizenship the following 17 statement is made: "Small to midsize renewable 18

19 energy sources are relatively easy to tie into a

- 20 customer's facility or the distribution."
- 21 We call on AEP to provide streamlined
- 22 opportunities for equal access to the promise of the
- 23 emerging green economy as Ohio reinvents itself.
- 24 Let's take advantage of and utilize Ohio's strengths

1	in manufacturing, innovation, and research facilities
2	to advance renewable energy for good green jobs and
3	economic growth throughout Ohio, in both urban and
4	rural markets.
5	Thank you for the opportunity to add this
6	testimony tonight regarding American Electric Power's
7	electric security plan. Thanks very much.
8	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Mark Harville.
9	Please proceed and give your name and
10	address.
11	MR. HARVILLE: Mark Harville, 3264 Fisher
12	Road, Columbus, Ohio 43204.
13	
14	MARK HARVILLE
15	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
16	examined and testified as follows:
17	DIRECT TESTIMONY
18	MR. HARVILLE : Ms. Fergus, Ms. Bojko,
19	Ms. See, thank you for the opportunity to speak at

- 20 this evening's hearing. I like this tee shirt that
- 21 says "Everything Solar." I think it has a lot of
- 22 impact.
- 23 I'll be very succinct and straight to the
- 24 point, even though it takes an hour and half for me

1 to watch 60 Minutes.

2	I'm a 13-year public Ohio employee for a
3	state governmental agency, and I was infuriated when
4	I was made aware of this 45 percent rate increase
5	that American Electric Power is attempting to push
6	onto its consumers. Bear in mind I work in a public
7	capacity. I did today just exactly like I did for
8	the last 13 years. I am familiar with government. I
9	am familiar with the PUCO process, not the authority
10	one. But I would like to ask you three a rhetorical
11	question. When was the last time that you three,
12	probably just like myself, I bet you haven't had a
13	15 percent raise in one year in a long time.
14	In the same manner I would ask everyone
15	in the audience, when was the last time? Let me see
16	a hand, anybody that had a 15 percent raise last
17	year, and I'm not picking on the attorneys in the
18	room. Except for the attorneys, okay.
10	

19 Our past two governors going back

- 20 actually quite a long time before I was in the public
- 21 service came up with the simple phrase: Do more with
- 22 less. I lived with that as a part of my life five
- 23 days a week for the last 13 years. I would implore
- 24 AEP to even scratch at this concept. If they would

scratch at this concept, maybe 15 percent per year 1 for three years would not be what they feel would be 2 reasonable. 3 As far as the corporate structure goes, 4 every state agency straight across board, Governor 5 Strickland: Trim-trim. What's wrong with the 6 CEO of AEP telling all his departments to do the same 7 thing while maintaining federal and state compliance? 8 This burden that they want to create 9 should not be passed on to the consumers. In reading 10 the literature that was handed out when I walked in, 11 12 I saw I think it was on the blue sheet of paper, it said \$75 million over three years to benefit low 13 income, economic development, and energy efficiency 14 renewable energy systems. 15 16 In this day and age I think the most important category out of all is the low-income 17 aspect in the sector of this society, and I'm damn 18 19 sure I'm not expecting to see \$75 million going to

- 20 that sector that they have described. There's no
- 21 guarantee how this is going to be used, and
- 22 furthermore, these adverse effects of this
- 23 45 percent, we haven't even talked about fixed
- 24 income, seniors, middle class. I've talked about the

37

1 lower-income folks.

And within the last couple of weeks on 2 a Sunday night talking about the seniors for a 3 minute, I saw one of the reporters comment on that 4 social security is going to see its biggest increase, 5 6 four or five percent, not 15 percent, and I'm darn sure not 15 percent over three years. The seniors in 7 this community that get service by AEP will be lucky 8 if they see their social security checks go up five 9 percent for three years. The last time I did math, 10 45 percent even at an assumed five percent increase, 11 doesn't equal 45 percent; it equals being the whole 12 greater than what a lot of the citizens in the 13 14 community already are. I, for one, have got stable employment, which I'm thankful for, but my raise will 15 not be 15 percent this year. 16 17 In closing comment, one of the greatest

18 things that is going to be taxing the community is

19 the retirement of our baby boomers. Madam

- 20 Commissioner, if the PUCO allows this 15 percent over
- 21 three years to go through -- I'm saying this as a
- 22 private citizen, not as a public employee. Everybody
- 23 get that little paper when they came in? I would
- 24 draw your attention to the first bullet point about

the PUCO, and I quote: "The state agency charged 1 with assuring all our residential and consumers 2 access to adequate, safe, reliable utility services 3 at fair prices while facilitating an environment that 4 provides competitive choices." 5 Madam Chairman, I would assume this 6 probably goes probably towards maybe intertwined with 7 a mission statement. The approval of 15 percent over 8 three years for a total of 45 in my opinion, and 9 solely my opinion, does not constitute utility 10 services at a fair price. 11 12 Thank you. 13 EXAMINER BOJKO: J. R. Haller. Please state your name and address. 14 15 PARTICIPANT: J. R. Haller. I reside in Upper Arlington, 4235 Oxford Drive, right next to 16

17 Coach Tressel. I won't probably name drop him as

18 much as I usually do.

- 20 J. R. HALLER
- 21 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
- 22 examined and testified as follows:
- 23 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 24 MR. HALLER: Most of you have seen the

newspapers out there. I know a lot of you have them 1 there, and I got a kick out of a lot of them. One of 2 the things, "Utility Shutoffs Hitting Home," I 3 underlined the "electricity" with yellow because most 4 of the people I talked to aren't aware that you're 5 not going to have any heat when your electric goes 6 off. Most of you here probably know that, when the 7 electric goes off, you don't have a blower in your 8 motor. A lot of people don't know that. You're not 9 going to have any heat. I hate to bust your bubble 10 for a few of you, but you're not going to have any 11 heat. So you have twofold, you have gas and 12 electric. So it's very important. Electricity we 13 got is an unbelievable necessity. 14 The one article I pulled out here 15 especially was the quote that I got out of the 16 Wednesday's edition last week that's got the AEP 17 spokeswoman, Terri Flora. Is she here tonight? That 18

19 would be you?

- 20 This is addressed to you. It says: "We
- 21 are hearing what we knew we'd hear," said AEP
- 22 spokeswoman, Terri Flora.
- 23 Well, I don't know if you heard this yet
- 24 or not, but the Canadians that came down that set up

our neighborhood over in Arlington with the electric, 1 it's a Canadian outfit that helped AEP. They brought 2 in subcontractors to get the electricity back on, 3 slammed AEP pretty hard, and I'd like to have the 4 Public Utilities Commission check into that, call 5 some of them. It's the one that did the work in our 6 7 area, 4235 Oxford Drive. There was about four trucks there when I 8 came back from the Ohio State game that day, and I 9 thought it was AEP, and I was going to tie into them. 10 I looked at the side of the trucks and it had funny 11 markings on it. I said: I don't know what's up on 12 this. I went over and I shook the guy's hand and I 13 said: Where are you guys from? He said: We're from 14 Canada. And I said: Well, I'll shake your hand. I 15 said: It's a good thing you're not from American 16 Electric Power because I would have castigated you. 17 I said "castigated," people. I didn't 18

19 say "castrated."

- 20 Well, I'm telling you he told me, he
- 21 said: Son -- he called me son. I'm retired and he
- 22 called me son. He said: We are down here doing a
- 23 job. He says: It's unbelievable, the maintenance
- 24 program that these people have down here.

1	These were electricians from Canada now
2	telling us about how bad our maintenance program was
3	here trimming the trees. Now, along the main roads
4	you can see it's pretty well trimmed. That's what
5	you can see as you drive by. Go back in the
6	alleyways and the byways and see how it's trimmed
7	back there.
8	And I would invite the Public Utilities
9	Commission tonight to come where we live between
10	Tressel and my place, the whole corridor back there
11	where they trimmed out, where we have had numerous
12	outages. Heck, I went out and bought a whole house
13	generator a couple years ago after the ice storm
14	because I didn't want to go through anymore of that.
15	And thank God we had it, but most of my
16	neighbors lost all the food in their icebox. They
17	lost all the food in one day in the icebox. The
18	freezers were full of meat, everything gone,
19	thousands of dollars. We were very fortunate. We

- 20 were one of them that had a generator that we could
- 21 at least hook it up.
- I tried to get a generator for my
- 23 neighbor across the street, and he said: J. R., I
- 24 thank you for it, but, he said: Son, I can't use it.

I've lost everything now. What good is it going to 1 do to fire up a gas generator just to load my icebox 2 up again? The damage is done. 3 I guess what it boils down to is that 4 American Electric Power thinks a lot of themselves to 5 6 pay a guy that kind of money. I mean I don't know what -- is this corporate greed or what? Is this 7 corporate greed? I think the next president needs to 8 look into this. The next president needs to look 9 into AEP on corporate greed. \$19 million 10 compensation for a guy in an ivory tower down there. 11 That's unbelievable. \$1.1 billion last year in 12 earnings, and they're coming back to us . 13 Now, I was a salesman. That's how I made 14 my money over the years, and I think to be truthful, 15 I think that what AEP wants is about five percent and 16 asked high to try and get the low figure. I really 17 think that's the truth. They can't be -- they can't 18

19 be asking 15 percent all this time, three years in a

- 20 row. They can't be doing it. They're asking high to
- 21 get low. Don't you agree with that? I believe that,
- 22 absolutely do.
- 23 And even five percent is too much I think
- 24 with the money they're making and the times we're in

43

1	right now. It's too much. I'm going to preach a
2	little bit longer, and then I'm going to let it go.
3	I'll tell you what, I'm retired now. I
4	have three grandchildren I adopted, and times are
5	hard. I'm having a hard time myself. I have 70
6	rental properties that my wife and I have. We own
7	them. And I'm here to speak to the landlords
8	tonight. Are there any landlords here tonight? Not
9	many. Well, the landlords are suffering there,
10	you got a couple.
11	The units I've got, I'm with the
12	gentleman over here. I'm in Mile Grove here. I have
13	some units in the university. I'm an Ohio State
14	graduate by the way. The whole east side of the city
15	over at the university are suffering. It's festering
16	like a boil.
17	Now they're taking it back. I rent to a

18 lot of women. Most of my rentals are women with

19 small children. I have 30 Section 8 and so lower

- 20 income and I have some regular occupancy. We have
- 21 done very well with them, but it's a constant battle.
- 22 These people can't tolerate a 15 percent increase.
- 23 It's going to be hard just for five percent.
- 24 And one thing I want to ask the Public

Utilities Commission tonight is to ask AEP to do is 1 come out with a new box that will keep people from 2 tampering with it. They peel these boxes back like a 3 sardine can. They come out, AEP will put a lock on 4 them, and I got three of them like that going on now. 5 I just put one woman under eviction for doing it 6 because I'm the one that's got to pay for the box 7 when they come out and turn the women's electricity 8 off and take this whole box. They'll take the meter 9 and all. But you can peel these boxes back. They 10 got to come out, the money they're making, with a 11

12 theft-proof box that they can't tamper with, not to13 mention killing themselves.

We had electric power on one of our units
that he peeled the box back. We lost electric power
on one of our units where the guy tried to pry it
back and blew the electricity out for the whole
building. It cost us \$3,000 to get the electric

19 installed with a licensed electrician, which AEP

- 20 requires because they get in there and tamper with
- 21 those boxes. So I would ask them to come up with a
- 22 theft-proof box to avoid that issue.
- 23 The generator I bought, I bought it one
- 24 year same as cash, \$8,000. Thank God I had it

because I saved my food. I had both my iceboxes. I
 still had to boil my coffee in the restroom. It's a
 whole house but when you have a bigger house, you can
 only get part of it to work. Tressel, the football
 coach, got the same problem so we're in the same boat
 together.
 I took my generators out to people that

I took my generators out to people that 8 had freezers. I had some small ones because I have a business and I can afford to loan them out with so 9 many people losing all their food. I hate to figure 10 the thousands and thousands of dollars in lost food, 11 especially for the lower income that had to supply 12 themselves and didn't get a repeat on it from the 13 government. 14 The one thing where I heard this story 15 from the Canadians, that they were really slamming 16 AEP for the amount of maintenance done on this work 17 down here in Ohio. They couldn't believe it. And I 18 thought, man, this is pretty good stuff because you 19

- 20 don't get this secondhand. I just happened to get
- 21 it, you know, secondhand. But since we're right here
- 22 and testifying like a jury trial tonight, I was asked
- 23 to testify, I thought I'd just talk. I would ask
- 24 like a judge would do with a jury, being the PUCO,

and invite you out to the crime scene to show you the 1 area I'm talking about where they have actually 2 trimmed out the wires now and it still isn't very 3 good. The next storm we will go down again. 4 They spent all day about seven months ago 5 6 trimming them out, shut the electric off for a whole day and trimmed it out and it's still not very good. 7 That's the orange and green truck, Asplundh, or 8 however you pronounce that that comes out and does 9 the work for them. I would invite you out to the 10 crime scene like a judge to a jury to see what I'm 11 talking about and know what I'm talking about 12 tonight. 13 Thank you. 14 EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Seth Porter. 15 16 State and spell your name please. MR. PORTER: Seth Porter, 2627 North

18 Fourth Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43200.

19 - - -

17

- 20 SETH PORTER
- 21 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
- 22 examined and testified as follows:
- 23 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 24 MR. PORTER: My name is Seth Porter. I

grew up in south central Ohio. I graduated from Ohio 1 State. I purchased a home in Columbus three years 2 ago. I plan to remain in Columbus. My reason for 3 being here today is to express my outrage that AEP 4 would even consider a 45 percent increase over three 5 years of our electric bills. 6 Private firms are operating in this 7 economy with tightening budgets, shrinking margins, 8 and lower profits. My employer imposed a hiring 9 freeze and eliminated all bonuses. We're looking at 10 times right now that are tough everywhere across the 11 board, and it's the public utility monopoly alone 12 that is even making the idea of a 45 percent increase 13 possible, and I think it's disgusting. 14 If AEP has the money to give \$20 million 15 to its CEO and \$10 million to Mayor Coleman's park 16 downtown, I think it has room in its budget to trim 17 some fat and withdraw the plan to raise our rates by 18

19 45 percent.

- 20 Don't allow the monopoly to cripple our
- 21 economy worse than it already has. Vote against the
- 22 rate increase, Commissioners.
- That's all I have.
- 24 EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Richard Chaney.

1	MR. CHANEY: I'll pass.
2	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Dave Martin.
3	State your name and address.
4	MR. MARTIN: Dave Martin, 5092 Cemetery
5	Road, Hilliard.
6	
7	DAVE MARTIN
8	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
9	examined and testified as follows:
10	DIRECT TESTIMONY
11	MR. MARTIN: Well, I don't really have a
12	script, and I hopefully I'll be talking loud enough
13	that everyone can hear me but I'll try to fill in in
14	points that I don't think have been covered. It's a
15	little bit of an education type process.
16	I consider myself one of the leading
17	experts from the average Joe citizenry. I followed
18	this issue for about 12 or 15 years. And back when
19	they were proposing the deregulation law of 1999, I

- 20 was actually a guest on ONN's Look Who's Talking
- 21 show.
- 22 I have a little bit of background in
- 23 what's going on. And at that particular time I
- 24 thought that deregulation of the utilities that is

1

49

2	the biggest scam, the biggest consumer ripoff in the
3	history of the country, and all you need to do is
4	mention Enron. Does anyone remember Enron? That was
5	all about the deregulation of the utilities in this
6	country.
7	Now, speaking as far as Ohio goes, it's
8	been a complete joke what has gone on, and I don't
9	have to mention to anybody what has gone on with your
10	natural gas price increases over a number of years
11	since that's been deregulated.
12	Now, I guess the biggest point I want to
13	make about the electricity is that this is not just a
14	15 percent increase; this is actually 52 percent over
15	three years with the added caveats in here because

going on all over this country is the biggest con,

16 according to this flyer here from the OCC, that it

17 also gives them the right to pass on all these added

18 increases that will be put on with interest now.

19 It says: Beginning in 2012 AEP's plan

- 20 also seeks to recover costs from customers for a
- 21 number of different caveats, which is a bunch of
- 22 gobblity-gook really. But the bottom line is this,
- 23 that they're going to keep on imposing massive
- 24 increases on our bills over and over again, and

believe me when I say this, the PUCO is not our
 friends. They're nothing more that the lap dogs of
 the big utilities. And the problem that I have is
 that this media is not doing a proper job covering
 what is going on.

And I heard, you know, it's already been 6 talked about, our reliability. Well, I guess that's 7 been called into question over the last couple of 8 years and just a month or two ago. And as far as the 9 lack of maintenance, I think it's well documented 10 that when they put in deregulation, one of the things 11 they took off was safeguards, anybody keeping an eye 12 on this maintenance being performed, which we are 13 finding out firsthand this maintenance has not been 14 performed. They have not upgraded the equipment. 15 16 Well, it says in here they're going to upgrade the equipment. But guess who is going to pay 17 for it? We're going to pay for it because it's going 18 19 to be an added increase on our bills. So I guess my

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 biggest point is that 15 percent is completely out of
- 21 the question. I really don't know if they need any
- 22 increase seeing how they got millions and millions of
- 23 dollars to spend on stupid advertisements in the
- 24 local newspapers, on the local radios, on the

51

4	. 1 • •		
	televición	of cotors	of cotora
T	television,	ci ccicra,	ci ccicra.

2	So the bottom line is they don't need any
3	more money. It's time that the consumers get a
4	break, and I guess that's all I got to say.
5	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. John Burke.
6	State your name and address for the
7	record, please.
8	MR. BURKE: John Burke, 3110 Brookwood
9	Drive, Portsmouth, Ohio.
10	
11	JOHN BURKE
12	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
13	examined and testified as follows:
14	DIRECT TESTIMONY
15	MR. BURKE: It's very difficult to follow
16	that speaker that was just up here, and I'm a little
17	bit different than the other presenters here this
18	evening. I own an industrial company down in

19 Portsmouth, Ohio, and it's kind of interesting, you

- 20 know, that the bread and butter product that we have
- 21 is industrial and commercial heat pumps, which is a
- 22 favorite with AEP. That dovetails right into our
- 23 business, and that's been a real winner with us so we
- 24 wish them great success.

1	Now, let me address the 15 percent
2	increase. You're exactly right, sir, that compounded
3	to us that represents 52 percent, not 45 percent.
4	Our company uses an aggregate of about \$4 million of
5	electricity a year so by 2011 we're going to be
6	paying 6 million bucks for electricity.
7	And I'll just read you some comments we
8	got from one of our customers about a 1.8 percent
9	increase, and what these are the first sentences of
10	five consecutive paragraphs written to me as a
11	company president. And they read as follows: We
12	find your price increase of 1.8 percent most
13	disturbing. Our company is not in a position to
14	grant any emphasis on "any" increases for
15	2009. As you know, the entire industry is down due
16	to housing and there is no relief in sight. Based on
17	input from our management team, any increase from a
18	supplier must be market tested to ensure viability of
19	the request.

- 20 And finally: Over the last several
- 21 months we have been contacted by several other
- 22 suppliers looking for additional work with many
- 23 stating that they are producing at 60 percent of
- 24 capacity. We both know that the blanket solicitation

will be well -- there will be a well qualified 1 competitor willing to take the work that will have a 2 3 positive result for our company. Recognize again what happens to us. Half 4 of that increase that we're putting through is due to 5 increases in our energy costs. I think you can just 6 imagine, you know, the hysteria and push-back that 7 we're going to get when we try to pass on these 8 15 percent annual increases for 52 percent interest 9 compounded over three years. 10 11 I'd like to thank the Commission, and I plan to submit written comments through the mail. 12 Thank you. 13 14 EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Richard Tressler. MR. TRESSLER: Pass. 15 16 EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Russ Murray. 17 I will put someone on deck so that they can be prepared. Ms. Erin Miller. 18

19 Please state your name and address for

- 20 the record.
- 21 MR. MURRAY: My name is Russ Murray, 2969
- 22 Scioto Place, Columbus, Ohio 43221.
- ---

24

1	RUSS MURRAY
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MR. MURRAY: Good evening. My name is
6	Russ Murray, and I'm the executive director of the
7	Ohio Cast Metals Association. Although it is not
8	well-known, the Ohio metal casting industry is one of
9	the largest in the United States. The Ohio Cast
10	Metals Association represents Ohio metal casting
11	facilities, also called foundries, and their many
12	suppliers throughout the state of Ohio, and our job
13	is to try and protect and preserve or industry.
14	Approximately 22,000 men and women are
15	employed in our industry in manufacturing jobs that
16	pay good wages with generally full benefit packages,
17	including health insurance programs.
18	However, when I assumed this position in
19	1992 more than 40,000 individuals were employed by

- 20 this industry. During that 2002-2001 recession, OCMA
- 21 lost approximately 25 percent of its membership
- 22 through bankruptcies and closures. We can only hope
- 23 that we are better prepared for the coming recession.
- 24 I appear at today's public hearing as a

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1	result of our significant interest in issues that
2	affect the price and availability of electricity for
3	Ohio metal casting facilities. More specifically, I
4	am here to convey our concerns relative to the
5	Electric Security Plan that has been filed by the
6	American Electric Power that if approved by the PUCO
7	would establish the framework under which rates will
8	be set for the next three years.
9	AEP's plans, everybody knows, is
10	15 percent per year compounded to 52 percent over the
11	three-year period. Given the state of Ohio's economy
12	and the potential impact these rate increases would
13	have upon Ohio manufacturers, including metal
14	casters, these proposed increases are incredible.
15	Perhaps some comparisons between AEP and
16	Ohio metal casters would be edifying. AEP is a
17	monopoly regulated by the PUCO and virtually
18	risk-free profit on their return to cap. Most people
19	that get risk-free investments get it at two or three

- 20 percent. AEP and other utilities like them are
- 21 closer to 10 or 12 percent on their capital, and it's
- 22 risk-free.
- 23 The Ohio metal casters on the other hand
- 24 is private, often family owned, like John's business,

in an extremely competitive marketplace with profits 1 in good times generally less than five percent. In 2 bad times, you're lucky to get five or one or two 3 percent. 4 AEP proposes a 15 percent increase every 5 6 year for the next three years after receiving 7 percent plus increases for the last four years. 7 Ohio metal casters, as John pointed out, with 8 competition from China and India creates great 9 difficulty in increasing prices by a minimal amount, 10 in his case, 1.8 percent. 11 AEP is able to pass on their various 12 costs of regulation, fuel, raw materials, et cetera 13 to consumers, especially if the increases jeopardize 14 AEP's ability to meet their target profit levels. 15

- 16 Unfortunately, Ohio metal casters subject
- 17 to increased costs for raw materials, fuel, wages,
- 18 health insurance are not able to pass those costs on
- 19 without extreme difficulty. Historically public

- 20 utilities are granted monopoly status and guaranteed
- 21 a reasonable rate of return risk-free because it was
- 22 perceived to be in the public interest. It is
- 23 unfathomable to perceive a public interest that
- 24 allows AEP to raise its rate by 15 percent per year

1	for the next three years that would create 50 percent
2	higher costs for Ohio metal casters and other Ohio
3	manufacturers that would endanger their
4	profitability, if not their viability, and endanger
5	the many tens of thousands of jobs that could be lost
6	if these proposed increases are allowed to stand.
7	Thank you.
8	EXAMINER BOJKO: Ms. Erin Miller.
9	Please state your name and address.
10	MS. MILLER: Erin Miller, 36 Grandview
11	Place West, Westerville, Ohio 43081.
12	
13	ERIN MILLER
14	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
15	examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT TESTIMONY
17	MS. MILLER: Good evening. Can you hear
18	me in the back? I will try to speak loudly here.
19	My name is Erin Miller. I am the

- 20 director of the Center for Energy & Environment at
- 21 the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and I am
- 22 testifying on behalf of the Mid-Ohio Regional
- 23 Planning Commission this evening.
- 24 MORPC, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

58

1 Commission, and the Center for Energy & Environment

2 at MORPC support the rules as presented for

3 implementation of Senate Bill 221 advanced energy and

4 energy efficiency provisions. These provisions

5 directly support a major goal of MORPC's public

6 policy agenda shaped by members of the Central Ohio

7 Regional Policy Roundtable, which is group of diverse

8 interests and representation throughout the 12-county

9 region of central Ohio.

10 Our adopted goal is to promote energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable and 11 alternative energy. The implementation of energy 12 efficiency measures are an important strategy to 13 14 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve air quality attainment for central Ohio, of which we are 15 in nonattainment for air quality which hurts 16 businesses and our health and everyone else, so this 17 is one step to get us there. 18

19 AEP's proposal includes energy efficiency

- 20 measures and programs that will help consumers lower
- 21 our bills in the long run. They plan to launch a
- 22 highly visible energy efficiency program, including
- 23 deployment of advanced technologies such as smart
- 24 meters to help Ohio families save money; establish an

energy efficiency collaborative, which we are serving 1 on which will involve diverse stakeholders to assist 2 AEP-Ohio in the speedy development and deployment of 3 these efficiency programs. 4 We look forward to supporting the efforts 5 6 of all involved in assisting AEP in the development their energy efficiency program. Recently we served 7 on a similar program development team for Columbia 8 Gas of Ohio. We have worked with Columbia Gas of 9 Ohio to implement their Warm Choice Program for over 10 20 years of which through that program we provided a 11 wide range of energy efficiency services to 12 low-income residents throughout Franklin County. 13 14 In the interest of complete coverage of the target population which has been set, the low 15 income and middle income population, and eliminate 16 redundant and overlapping actions, MORPC strongly 17 believes it is imperative that all electric and gas 18

19 utilities collaborate and be a partner in their

- 20 energy efficiency programs.
- 21 Lastly, as a nonprofit and a government
- 22 entity, MORPC understands the ramifications of AEP's
- 23 proposed rate increase. However, a note worth
- 24 addressing is that it is realistic for our energy

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

60

1	rates to begin to increase due to the worldwide
2	demand for increased energy fuel such as coal is
3	affecting us here in Ohio. In China they're building
4	a power plant a week and using all the coal reserves
5	that we have been shipping coal over to China and
6	India by the bushel load.
7	So we as a community I think need to
8	acknowledge the era of cheap energy that we have
9	enjoyed in the past is likely over because of
10	worldwide demand, but if we strongly tie energy
11	efficiency programs to AEP's plan, it is going to
12	benefit everybody in the long run. We really need to
13	invest in our aging electric infrastructure and in
14	energy efficiency programs. This will spur new green
15	jobs, increase efficiency and reliability of the
16	delivery system for our electricity, and improve the
17	economic and competitive advantage of our region and
18	our state.

19 Thank you.

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

20	EXAMINER BOJKO: Jeff Wolf.
21	Ms. Angela Kypriotis will be next.
22	Your name and address.
23	MR. WOLF: Jeff Wolf, 3315 Scioto Run

24 Boulevard, Columbus, 43026.

1	
2	JEFF WOLF
3	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
4	examined and testified as follows:
5	DIRECT TESTIMONY
6	MR. WOLF: Good evening. My name is Jeff
7	Wolf. I'm president of the Ohio Foundation of
8	Independent Colleges, and I'm here to recognize the
9	corporate citizenship of American Electric Power.
10	I'm not here to take a stand on the position for or
11	against.
12	The Ohio Foundation of Independent
13	Colleges or OFIC is a nonprofit organization
14	representing 34 of Ohio's independent liberal arts
15	colleges and universities. In Franklin County those
16	member colleges with main campuses include Capital
17	University, Franklin University, Ohio Dominican
18	University, and Otterbein College.
19	OFIC is one of the largest providers of

- 20 need-based scholarships for Ohioans attending our
- 21 member institutions, thanks to the generosity of
- 22 companies such as AEP. For the past 56 years AEP has
- 23 been generously supporting our mission to assist Ohio
- 24 citizens in attaining a college education. Few

1 issues are more critical than the education of our

2 youth.

3 Out of every ten students who start high school in Ohio fewer than 3 will earn a post 4 secondary degree within ten years. In addition to 5 its financial support, AEP has also provided our 6 organization with strong volunteer leadership. This 7 includes the involvement of AEP executives on our 8 board of trustees as well as the involvement of AEP 9 employees in our annual campaign. 10 However, AEP's corporate citizenship goes 11 well beyond our organization. AEP and its employees 12 have been major supporters of the United Way, as was 13 14 stated earlier, Operation Feed and the Salvation Army in addition to numerous other nonprofit organizations 15 focused on issues such as the environment, the arts, 16 housing, safety, and basic health and human service 17 18 needs.

19 AEP's corporate citizenship is being

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 publicly recognized by the Association of Fundraising
- 21 Professionals in November as part of National
- 22 Philanthropy Day. At this event AEP will receive the
- 23 Outstanding Large Corporation award for its
- 24 "commitment, leadership and philanthropy to the

1	central Ohio community and state of Ohio."
2	In closing, AEP-Ohio and the state of
3	Ohio is indeed fortunate to have a corporate citizen
4	as community-minded as AEP.
5	Thank you.
6	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Rod Bodwalh on deck.
7	MS. KYPRIOTIS: Angela Kypriotis, 14 West
8	Lakeview Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43202.
9	
10	ANGELA KYPRIOTIS
11	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
12	examined and testified as follows:
13	DIRECT TESTIMONY
14	MS. KYPRIOTIS: Hi. I'm Angela
15	Kypriotis, and I'm a social worker and associate
16	director of the Clintonville B12 Community Resources
17	Center right down the street from here. I'm here
18	tonight to speak on behalf of the thousands of
19	clients that we serve every year.

- 20 People have a misconception about
- 21 Clintonville, and I'm here mainly to talk about the
- 22 poor and underserved and the impoverished that we
- 23 serve every day in our center. There actually are
- 24 people that are poor living in Clintonville. We

cover an area from Hudson all the way up to 1 Worthington, including North Broadway Boulevard. Not 2 everyone is on North Broadway. Not everyone can 3 afford their electricity. 4 We have 45 percent renters in this 5 6 neighborhood, in 43214. From North Broadway all the way up to Worthington has the highest percentage of 7 seniors in Franklin County. This past year our food 8 pantry served 1,076 households and 2,196 individuals 9 living in poverty. Many do have jobs. Many are 10 disabled. Many suffer from mental illness. They 11 struggle every month to make ends meet. 12 We often tell folks to use the pantry 13 instead of buying groceries so they can pay their 14 utilities. It's easier for us to give people food 15 than give them money to pay their utilities. 16 17 We traveled into the homes of over 300 seniors this year, most whom live on social security 18 alone. Those on social security and others 19

- 20 struggling financially have to make choices: Do I
- 21 eat? Do I keep the heat on?
- I spoke to one senior the other day who
- 23 said he can't turn his heat on until the HEAP program
- 24 kicks in because he can't afford it. That starts on

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

65

November 1. It snowed today. He said he will only 1 turn it on once in the morning for an hour and once 2 at night for an hour to keep the pipes from freezing. 3 I think someone earlier mentioned that sometimes if 4 you have gas heat your blower does not work. Those 5 two things go together. 6 These folks cannot afford a 15 percent 7 increase each year for three years. If the cost of a 8 gallon of milk would increase 45 percent in three 9 years, we would all be outraged. 10 In closing I hope you will consider the 11 12 needs of our families with children and our seniors who struggle more than anyone. I hope you will 13 consider other ways -- I hope AEP will consider other 14 ways to make costs stretch out over a longer period 15 of time. I support some of the previous testimony 16 about how they can make cuts in other areas, and, 17 obviously, we all know that none of us are getting 18 19 raises.

- 20 Our families that we service at CRC
- 21 aren't getting raises. Many of them are losing their
- 22 jobs. The Chrysler plant closed down in Ohio. We
- 23 have lots of families here who actually are working
- 24 and still come to the food pantry for food, and we

1	want their utilities to remain on. We know that some
2	of them are the most high-risk folks who live in our
3	neighborhood who we don't want to have to go without
4	things, things like heat and power.
5	So that's it. Thank you.
6	EXAMINER BOJKO: Please state your name
7	and address.
8	MR. BODWALH: My name is Rod Bodwalh. I
9	live at 580 East Whittier.
10	
11	ROD BODWALH
	ROD BODWALH being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
12	
12	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
12 13	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows:
12 13 14	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT TESTIMONY MR. BODWALH: I am a couch potato. Ask
12 13 14 15	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT TESTIMONY MR. BODWALH: I am a couch potato. Ask any of my friends, I am a lazy son of a gun, but when
12 13 14 15 16	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT TESTIMONY MR. BODWALH: I am a couch potato. Ask any of my friends, I am a lazy son of a gun, but when I saw this in the paper and the raises they want, I

- 20 department at Port Columbus at the Lane facility.
- 21 What did they need three jet airplanes for? I
- 22 finally figured it out. They made a billion dollars
- 23 in profit. The CEO is making -- I'm glad you're
- 24 sitting down -- \$1.5 million a month. So if you're

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1	making that kind of jack, you need a jet airplane to
2	taxi your butt around the country and spread the
3	wealth, right? I mean, how else are you going the
4	spend that kind of money if you make 1.5 a month?
5	According to the fiscal statement they're
6	making \$1.1 billion a year a year. What they
7	really need to do is roll back the rates, not
8	forward, because they're making plenty of money.
9	I thought of this while I was sitting
10	back there. You know, who do they think they are, an
11	oil company or something? Is that enough money?
12	Cripes. They need to do what all of us are doing,
13	tighten their belts - now; not three months from now
14	and all that, now. We're doing it. They need to do
15	it.
16	And let's not forget, you know, I hear
17	all these accolades about their generosity. Who is
18	AEP? Is it the CEO and his executives? All those
19	executives 23 total, they make 36 million. Is that

- 20 enough? AEP is each and every one of you. You're
- 21 paying for their generosity. He's not. He's on an
- 22 airplane headed to Florida, toes in the sand. He's
- 23 not paying for it. You are. You are AEP's
- 24 generosity.

1	Say no to AEP's greedy ways.
2	EXAMINER BOJKO: Thank you.
3	Jan Higdon.
4	(No response.)
5	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Tom Moore.
6	State your name and address, please.
7	MR. MOORE: Tom Moore, 152 Olde Mound
8	Lane.
9	
10	TOM MOORE
11	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
12	examined and testified as follows:
13	DIRECT TESTIMONY
14	MR. MOORE: I will talk in bullet points
15	today because we have been here. Hopefully you can
16	hear me. I don't know why we don't have microphones
17	but let's continue.
18	Let's start out with milking the cow.
19	Ohio accounts for 32 percent of all AEP's revenue,

- 20 Ohio has the largest population density than any
- 21 other service area. That means when they run that
- 22 764-kilowatt line, they're getting their money's
- 23 worth. On top of that, AEP projects that their
- 24 capital costs in Ohio is going to drop about

1 40 percent the next three years.

- 2 On top of this, Ohio is also the largest unregulated power company in the whole AEP umbrella. 3 All of the other factors that they deal with 4 state-wise are regulated. On top of that, who can 5 say by raising our rates that they won't subsidize 6 lower power costs for our neighboring states. 7 Where will the new-found wealth go? 8 Chances are it won't be in Ohio. If you can see a 9 gap of 52 going up and 42 percent going down in 10 capital expenditures, there's a gap. 11 Creating jobs in the infrastructure, we 12 have had three major blackouts in the past ten years. 13 The fact of the matter is burying power lines can 14 create jobs and strengthen their infrastructure and 15 strengthen our economy here in Ohio so we don't have 16 to suffer here in Ohio again. 17 On top of that, instead of \$75 million in 18
- 19 an undefined time line, they could probably spend

- 20 that to create jobs for Ohioans. The fact of the
- 21 matter is that AEP has been charitable in the past.
- 22 I don't want to deny that, but the fact of the matter
- 23 is that Ohioans don't want to be a charity case in
- 24 this package.

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1	When it comes down to it, deregulation is
2	not working at all. Ohioans have no real choice
3	since 2000 because the AEP tariffs has chased all of
4	the competitors away. You go to ohiochoice.com,
5	guess what? It does not exist anymore. There is no
6	website for us to go to to search for power. It's
7	noncompetitive.
8	Rates have increased more than
9	100 percent since the year 2000, and they're
10	proposing even further rate increases. At the same
11	time it will be difficult to keep and attract
12	industry here in Ohio, which, once again, demand is
13	going down and so is the population. People have to
14	leave here just to find decent work. You know, we
15	lost a Honda plant to Indiana. Why do you think that
16	is? Honda loves Ohio but they need to have a
17	regulated energy company so they can budget those big
18	capital expenditures. If not, guess what? They're
19	going to our neighborhood state that has it. They

- 20 build the plants.
- 21 To continue on, small business, what can
- 22 I say, the rate increases take effect. My
- 23 electricity costs in the wintertime will equal that
- 24 of my rent. I am a small business owner, by the way

2	Losing power for days means I lost business, and I
3	can't ever get it back.
4	Do you know what I'm saying? If they
5	invested in our infrastructure, I would not have to
6	go without income. People would not have to go, you
7	know, without their food or their means of life.
8	Well, let's see, us being a small
9	business, we pay a higher rate because we have what
10	is called a peak demand charge, \$9 a kilowatt. Isn't
11	that nice. I know that individual homeowners are
12	concerned, but these businesses, they're going to get
13	whacked. And then there's no assistance for small
14	businesses to pay their utility bills, and what
15	happens, they fold up. What happens, more
16	unemployment.
17	So to continue on, in conclusion since
18	Ohio currently has the highest rates in the AEP
19	network with the lowest projected capital costs in

1 I just do retail. I have no big expenditures.

- 20 the next three years, the current proposal will be
- 21 another poison pill for the Ohio economy since the
- 22 2000 AEP tariffs.
- 23 That's it.
- 24 EXAMINER BOJKO: Bill Anderson, and

- 1 Teresa Layne will be on deck.
- 2 MR. ANDERSON: I will pass. I was going
- 3 to say that the 15 percent over three years is
- 4 52.0875 percent.
- 5 EXAMINER BOJKO: Teresa Layne.
- 6 State your name and address.
- 7 MS. LAYNE: Teresa Layne, 4897 Solar
- 8 Drive, Columbus Ohio, 43214.
- 9 ----
- 10 TERESA LAYNE
- 11 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
- 12 examined and testified as follows:
- 13 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 14 MS. LAYNE: Good evening. And I'm not
- 15 sure if there are any AEP executives here this
- 16 evening. I would like the record to reflect my own
- 17 personal concerns. I walked in here tonight, and I
- 18 thought it was a 45 percent increase over the next
- 19 three years. Now I find out it's 52 percent. Hello.

- 20 I guess I have a challenge for the AEP
- 21 company. I'm directing this at the Board of
- 22 Directors, all top management -- all top
- 23 management -- all executives and the CEO. I'm going
- 24 to ask you instead of taking a 15 percent raise and

73

1 the $45/52$ percent over the next three years and
2 giving it to your consumers, are you human enough and
3 loving enough and do you care enough about your
4 fellow Ohioans to take that pay cut yourself? Do you
5 really care that much about your fellow human beings?
6 Now, if you're not, that's okay, but I
7 don't want you to lay off AEP workers because those
8 are the people that go out and do your work. I'm
9 going to ask you if you get this rate hike, and I
10 would like the PUCO and the Commission and Ohio
11 Counsel, I would like them to guarantee me that the
12 CEO and the executives and the top management do not
13 under any circumstance make one red cent in the form
14 of bonuses, salaries, benefits, gifts, perks, stocks
15 and bonds, corporate write-offs, golden parachutes or
16 any other compensation now, directly, indirectly, or
17 in delayed compensation.
18 So if you can hear me, I can't afford

19 this. I can't afford a 15 percent hike, let alone 45

- 20 to 52 percent. Are you willing, CEOs, to give back
- 21 to your community?
- 22 Thank you.
- 23 EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Gary Fink.
- 24 State your name and address, please.

1	MR. FINK: Gary Fink, 206 East Stanton
2	Avenue, Columbus, 43214.
3	
4	GARY FINK
5	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
6	examined and testified as follows:
7	DIRECT TESTIMONY
8	MR. FINK: I still don't understand why
9	they're putting in for such a rate increase. The
10	last two years they made over a billion dollars.
11	They're on track this year to make over a billion
12	dollars.
13	I heard one spokesperson make the comment
14	that we're exporting coal to China and India.
15	Unfortunately, China is the number one producer of
16	coal. The US is number two. Coal prices are down
17	15 percent in the last six weeks. The U.S. Energy
18	Information Administration is predicting coal prices
19	to continue to drop.

- 20 I understand that the electric industry
- 21 uses 90 percent of the coal produced in the United
- 22 States. That's fine. I'm happy that they're
- 23 employing the miners. I hope AEP doesn't continue to
- 24 use rise of fuel costs as one reason to raise their

1	rates. It doesn't make sense to me that they should.
2	Reliability, as we all know, we just went
3	through another blackout. The PUCO in 2006 found
4	that AEP was in violation of an agreement of 2003 to
5	improve their service reliability; ordered, not
6	fined, but ordered AEP to earmark \$10 million to
7	improve their service reliability. I'm sorry, I'd
8	like to be in a business where I'm not fined but told
9	where to send my money.
10	Now, evidently it's already been
11	demonstrated by AEP that they will not live up to
12	their promises. If they can't follow an agreement in
13	2003 and increase reliability, then what says when we
14	give them this 15 percent over the next three years
15	they're going to own up to this, to what they promise
16	today? As one gentleman talked from Upper Arlington
17	about the tree trimming service, it's been noted by
18	the PUCO that AEP is lacking in their tree trimming
19	services and in the their maintenance updates.

- 20 If you make over a billion dollars a
- 21 year, any business should be putting money aside to
- 22 maintain their physical plant and make improvements.
- 23 The 15 percent we will pay over the next three years
- 24 is probably not going there.

76

1	As you already heard how much the CEO
2	makes, I kind of wonder if he lives in the state of
3	Ohio. As another individual pointed out, our
4	surrounding states serviced by AEP are paying far
5	less for their electricity than we are. As Governor
6	Strickland recently said, maybe we should look at
7	going back and regulating our utilities once again.
8	Since we can't bring in other companies to provide us
9	with electricity, perhaps that is what needs to be
10	done.
11	If the PUCO approves these rate
12	increases, then it will prove what that one gentleman
13	also said about the PUCO, that you're in their back
14	pocket. I won't say you're in their back pocket. I
15	will just say you're inept. You're not listening to
16	the consumer.
17	You have heard from small businesses.

18 You're hearing from individuals. I'm an individual

19 consumer. I moved back to this state three years

- 20 ago. I'll be more than happy to move back out of
- 21 this state. If we can't regulate our electricity
- 22 rates and keep them reasonable where we can afford
- 23 them, then we have a problem. I understand that they
- 24 may need an increase because of other costs, but

1	15	percent is	totally	out of line.
---	----	------------	---------	--------------

2	Perhaps we should tie it to what the
3	social security increase is on an annual basis. That
4	way people receiving social security will not make
5	more money but at least they'll stay on an even keel
6	and stay at their current level of living.
7	Thank you for your time.
8	EXAMINER BOJKO: Tom Cannon.
9	Please state your name and address.
10	MR. CANNON: Tom Cannon, 5335 Old Creek
11	Lane, Holland, 43036.
12	
13	TOM CANNON
14	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
15	examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT TESTIMONY
17	MR. CANNON: Thank you for the
18	opportunity to speak. I came here at the prompting
19	of one of my friends. I've never done this before so

- 20 please bear with me. I plan to make these bold
- 21 points very short. But one thing I think we all need
- 22 to remember is life isn't what you deserve; it's
- 23 about what you negotiate, and we're leaving this
- 24 negotiation to the PUCO.

1	The speaker before me made some very
2 va	alid points. This deal was brought to the PUCO at a
3 pe	eriod of very high commodity prices. Is it
4 re	esponsible to sign a three-year deal based on the
5 fa	ct that the assumptions were made at a time we were
6 at	high commodity prices?
7	Right now the cost of energy, oil,
8 ac	ccording to the Department of Energy, Central
9 A	ppalachian Coal has dropped by \$20 a ton in the
10 la	ast six weeks, and the oil prices have dropped about
11 \$	85 a barrel over the last couple months. We are
12 b	asically at 2006 levels there.
13	So in this period of high volatility, is
14 it	t responsible to sign a three-year deal when
15 c	ommodity prices are that volatile? Copper, which is
16 a	huge input, aluminum which is a huge input are at
17 tł	hree year lows. Carbon emission regulation is not
18 s	et. Let's face it, we are in an election year. Two
19 d	ifferent philosophies are being stated so are we

- 20 serving the best interests of the consumers by
- 21 getting into a deal at this point in time that's
- 22 fixed?
- 23 My challenge to PUCO is to develop a plan
- 24 that is fair to the consumer and to American Electric

Power by providing true competition in an area where 1 there's really not competition. Let's give them 2 3 quality metrics, such as customer service metrics, power reliability such as minutes of power that 4 they're providing over the total available minutes 5 they could provide; and then cost control metrics, if 6 they develop efficiency, they get to keep that, 7 75 percent or 100 percent of that. I don't care. If 8 they're making advances in their business, they could 9 10 certainly do that, and that's something we should challenge them to do. So these methods need to be 11 kept in mind. 12 Thank you very much for the time, and, 13 remember, please negotiate on our behalf. 14

15 Thank you very much.

16 EXAMINER BOJKO: Betsy Kirby.

17 (No response.)

18 EXAMINER BOJKO: JD Niceswanger.

19 (No response.)

20 EXAMINER BOJKO: Julie Wells.
21 MS. WELLS: Julie Wells, 950 East North
22 Broadway, Apartment 2, Columbus, Ohio, 43224.
23 --24

1 JULIE WELLS being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was 2 examined and testified as follows: 3 4 DIRECT TESTIMONY 5 MS. WELLS: The reason why I came tonight was because of the fact that I feel like AEP doesn't 6 have the right to raise our rates at the rate they're 7 requesting it. I know last month when we were out 8 electricity for almost a whole week, I had a cell 9 phone so I was able to call them up, not using a land 10 line, but twice I called them about some question. 11 12 One was: Where do I find a local Laundromat because I was not able to use mine. It 13 14 was like she didn't know the answer, couldn't tell me where to go. And then another concern I had was the 15 fact that: Where do I get hot water? Okay, I 16 realize probably out of state they answered the 17 phones, but they couldn't give me a direct answer or 18 19 didn't really answer directly my question. I got

- 20 nowhere.
- 21 Why should I give you a pay raise? I
- 22 feel like they're asking for a pay raise they don't
- 23 deserve. If they would have answered those
- 24 questions, then I would have been out the door.

1	So another thing, too, they were saying
2	earlier about the executives and the CEOs and about
3	how much they make. How come they couldn't afford to
4	turn around and put their bonus into food pantries
5	because. Not everybody's income is low enough to get
6	food stamps, for example, even though there's no
7	groceries in the house because there's not enough
8	money to go around.
9	Another thing that upset me when I got my
10	electric bill when during the week it was out, it was
11	a little higher than usual.
12	Thank you.
13	EXAMINER BOJKO: Mr. Dave Southan.
14	And on deck, Ms. Jody Swisher.
15	Please state your name and address.
16	MR. SOUTHAN: Dave Southan, 4318 Fairoaks
17	Drive, Columbus, Ohio, 43214.
18	
19	DAVE SOUTHAN

- 20 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
- 21 examined and testified as follows:
- 22 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 23 MR. SOUTHAN: Good evening, members of
- 24 PUCO, AEP. I'm the Clintonville commissioner for

- 1 District 7. I sat here tonight and listened to the
- 2 pros and cons. Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen,
- 3 the present state of our declining economy, stocks
- 4 and foreclosures, is this a smart way to treat the
- 5 citizenry when all we hear is increase in fees and
- 6 taxes; pensions and social security are not
- 7 increasing? A lot of people are on fixed incomes, so
- 8 to speak. 45 percent over three years is totally out
- 9 of the question.
- 10 I represent the residents of my district.
- 11 AEP, please consider going back to the drawing board,
- 12 and in a year maybe our economic status will be on
- 13 the road to recovery. We're going to see an increase
- 14 in homeless. People can't their pay their electric
- 15 bills. We've got over 400 homes in Clintonville that
- 16 are vacant, and we're going to see a lot more. This
- 17 is not over by a long shot. This country is on a
- 18 road to decline. We need to bring this back, and we
- 19 need help.

20	That's all I have to say. Thank you.
21	EXAMINER BOJKO: Swisher, Jody or John.
22	(No response.)
23	EXAMINER BOJKO: John Schneider.
24	(No response.)

1	EXAMINER BOJKO: John McCabe.
2	MR. McCABE: John McCabe, 119 West North
3	Broadway, 43214.
4	
5	JOHN MCCABE
6	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
7	examined and testified as follows:
8	DIRECT TESTIMONY
9	MR. McCABE: I don't understand why, I
10	was reading in the paper, part of this is to help
11	replace the revenues they lost when we lost as much
12	as they did. I think if we lose, they should lose.
13	Nobody is going to replace what I lost or what you
14	lost or what any others lost, so why should we
15	replace what they lost when the power was down for a
16	week. I can't see that. Okay, that's just one.
17	And there's another thing that bothers me
18	a great deal. I'm kind of old, you can tell, because
19	I can't even talk, but I've been around a long time

- 20 and I haven't seen much of an improvement in the
- 21 quality of the grid in this state. That's where I
- 22 lived all my life so I don't know about the rest of
- 23 the world, but I know that if Henry Ford had worked
- 24 with his automotive industry through the years like

84

AEP and some of the other electrics that represented 1 us, we would still be driving Model Ts, because 2 there's very little -- a squirrel can still put a 3 transformer out. That's a little bit ridiculous. 4 The other thing of course somebody 5 6 brought up, and I guess that's pretty true, I have to tell you I don't believe there's any such thing as 7 any human being with enough mentality, shall we say, 8 or enough knowledge or enough ability to be worth 9 that much more than me that they're worth hundreds of 10 thousands of dollars, no; billions of dollars, no. 11 I'm not worth a lot, but I don't think that they have 12 that much mentality that someone else can't run that 13 company for a lot less and get the same thing 14 accomplished. This is ridiculous, and I know most 15 companies are doing that, not just this one. 16 17 I'm looking at notes I made while you were talking. Oh, I by the way, the lady made a 18 19 comment there. I was on a generator for a week when

- 20 this power went down, which cost me quite a bit in
- 21 gasoline, by the way. At the end of that when my
- 22 next bill came, the bill was \$6 less than the
- 23 previous month. Something very strange about that
- 24 because that would pretty much indicate that I pay

1	\$24 a month. I don't think that's correct.
2	Someplace along the line there is an
3	awful lot of money going an awful lot of places.
4	It's not going to the right place. I'd like to see
5	somebody put some money into building this grid the
6	way it should be. I'm not sure it's underground. I
7	don't have that expertise. I am sure that it hasn't
8	improved enough in the last 70 years.
9	I hope you're able to hear me. I'm doing
10	my best.
11	I don't think I have a lot more to say
12	except obviously no one in their right mind is going
13	to expect anyone to raise the price of anything
14	45 percent, 52 percent, whatever it might be. This
15	is just totally out of the question. Everyone in
16	here knows it, including the people that are thinking
17	about doing it.
18	Thank you.
19	EXAMINER SEE: Teresa Hartkeneyer.

- 20 Ms. Hartkeneyer.
- 21 (No response.)
- 22 EXAMINER SEE: James Sisto.
- 23 Please state your name and address for
- 24 the record.

1	MR. SISTO: James Sisto, 1097 Highland
2	Drive, Columbus, 43220.
3	
4	JAMES SISTO
5	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
6	examined and testified as follows:
7	DIRECT TESTIMONY
8	MR. SISTO: I'm here this evening on
9	behalf of the Central Ohio Community Improvement
10	Corporation. The Central Ohio Community Improvement
11	Corporation is a statutory nonprofit entity that was
12	created to help redevelop brownfield properties
13	within our community. Brownfield properties would be
14	old landfills, contaminated sites, sites that sit
15	unused and underutilized because they are
16	contaminated.
17	In 1992 or 1993 a brick company in
18	Gahanna, Ohio went out of business leaving some
19	bricks that were no longer of any value but two big

- 20 holes in the ground. The two big holes were filled
- 21 up with trash by the company before it finally
- 22 declared bankruptcy and the owner disappeared out of
- 23 the state
- 24 The landfill sat there for many years.

1 Potential contaminated methane, which is a greenhouse
2 gas, was released out into the air. There were some
3 groundwater issues. They have been addressed now.
4 We had an environmental blight in our community.
5 In 2005 then County Treasurer Rich
6 Cordray and the Franklin County Commissioners decided
7 to try to do something about these types of
8 properties and, it caused the nonprofit Community
9 Improvement Corporation to be formed. Our company,
10 the Value Recovery Group that is a small business on
11 the other side of the river here, was asked to be the
12 asset manager to help this nonprofit entity with no
13 budget to remediate and redevelop these types of
14 properties.
15 The Central Ohio Community Improvement
16 Corporation, being unfunded but with a very important
17 mission, went out and sought different grant funds to
18 help do this redevelopment and remediation of the
19 landfill. The methane from that landfill, which is a

- 20 greenhouse gas, was being captured minimally and
- 21 reused to actually heat and cool the old Lucent
- 22 facility on East Broad Street. I don't know if any
- 23 of you are familiar with that facility. It sits
- 24 right across from the hospital complex.

88

1 In the ice storm of 2004 that methane
2 system got knocked out and basically the methane was
3 just escaping out into the atmosphere. So in 2006
4 the CIC went around and started looking around for
5 different sources to develop a plan. The state of
6 Ohio has a program called the Clean Ohio or CORE
7 program, which is Issue 2. It's on your ballot, no
8 speeches, but it's an important issue.
9 If it hadn't been for that, this landfill
10 would still sit unaddressed. The Community
11 Improvement Corporation capped the landfill
12 controlling the contamination and hopefully the
13 release of the methane, but it was still falling
14 short of its ultimate goal of taking care of all its
15 problems.
16 The Central Ohio Community Improvement
17 Corporation then learned of a grant program from AEP
18 and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio called

19 the Rate Stabilization Program. The CIC proposed to

- 20 the AEP and the PUCO to help upgrade the utility
- 21 infrastructure on the site of the landfill and to
- 22 complete the construction of the methane recovery
- 23 system.
- A \$500,000 grant was awarded to the

Community Improvement Corporation which helped us to 1 finalize the work and brought electric service onto 2 the site so that electricity can be produced from the 3 methane coming off of the landfill so we're 4 eliminating an environmental problem and we are going 5 to be producing energy from it. 6 The AEP, PUCO, Ohio Economic Development 7 Rate Stabilization Plan helped to cover the costs 8 associated with the electric infrastructure and with 9 the site methane extraction system. These grant 10 dollars were essential for the redevelopment of the 11 property, which will include a recreational area for 12 the community and a business park. 13 The Bedford landfill was a public eyesore 14 as well as a health and environmental hazard. 15 Consequently, the majority of the property adjacent 16 to this abandoned landfill was never developed. The 17 COCIC and our company, with the help of AEP-Ohio and 18

19 RFP funding is going to create a 192-acre business

- 20 park that will comfortably host 4,000 employees.
- 21 The Central Ohio Community Improvement
- 22 Corporation is looking at other programs throughout
- 23 the central Ohio area. We are looking to help them
- 24 with redevelopment of gas station sites that have

1	been contaminated, old industrial sites that are no
2	longer in use, and we hope to continue to look at
3	some public grant programs such as the one I've just
4	addressed.
5	Thank you.
6	EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
7	Joyce Levenson.
8	Please state your name and address.
9	MS. LEVENSON: Joyce Levenson, 748
10	Strawberry Hill Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43213.
11	
12	JOYCE LEVENSON
13	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
14	examined and testified as follows:
15	DIRECT TESTIMONY
16	MS. LEVENSON: Ladies and gentlemen, as
17	you can see, I am a senior citizen, and I'm proud of
18	it. I'm on a limited income, just like most senior
19	citizens. I cannot cannot afford the increase

- 20 that is going on.
- 21 My question is -- and I read it in the
- 22 Dispatch and I'm not sure I read it right, but I
- 23 think I did. People say truth is often spoken in
- 24 jest, and the CEO was quoted as saying: Well, we're

going to make the citizens pay for the blackout. I 1 believe that this increase is exactly that, and I 2 think it's wrong. 3 I don't think they know what they are 4 doing because they did not manage the trees. When I 5 ride by and see trees cut at the top, you never cut a 6 tree at the top. You trim, and you thin it, but when 7 you cut a tree at the top or a shrub at the top, 8 you're killing that tree. And I think they need to 9 go back and talk to an arborist on how to properly do 10 it because their people do not know how to cut a tree 11 12 or trim it.

Now, in this last storm I called to find
out how long our electric was going to be out. I
live maybe about a mile from the substation. Do you
know what they told me? I don't know, ma'am, I'm in
Michigan. Excuse me, I need to know from somebody
here in Columbus, not somebody in Michigan. I could
care less about the state up north, and I'm actually

- 20 from Alabama.
- 21 Thank you.
- 22 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
- 23 Glenna Kemper, Glenna Kemper.
- 24 (No response.)

1	EXAMINER SEE: Patricia Sherman.
2	Please state your name and address for
3	the court reporter.
4	MS. SHERMAN: Patricia Sherman, 287 East
5	Dunedin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.
6	
7	PATRICIA SHERMAN
8	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
9	examined and testified as follows:
10	DIRECT TESTIMONY
11	MS. SHERMAN: Good evening. I learned
12	more since I've been here then I really came here to
13	say because now my complaint seems very, very small.
14	We're not commissioners or anything. We
15	just live probably about a half mile from here. But
16	prior to the hurricane that came through our area was
17	on the grid that was off all the time for eight or
18	nine hours. I am really here to testify in that I
19	thought customer service was not hearing what we were

20 saying.

- 21 We saw two transformers from our back
- 22 porch blow. The third one blew during the hurricane,
- 23 and, you know, I'm not faulting AEP for what they
- 24 did. I thought they were fabulous. Although when

they did repair that transformer and turn on the 1 electric, we were out in ten seconds because again 2 the wire that slid three times in June did fall 3 again, came down on the street and kind of whipped 4 around a little bit. 5 6 So we don't feel the customer service that we have gotten, that the maintenance of our 7 lines, that our transformers, any of that. And as 8 the fellow from Arlington said, the fellows that 9 worked on our line were up from the south, Kentucky I 10 think, and they said. Well, ma'am, it looks like a 11 big rodent has chewed through that line. 12 And we were like: Oh, you're so sweet. 13 It's midnight and bless your little hearts for doing 14 this. 15 16 But I really feel they let it go for a

17 very long time. So I'm not sure getting a raise and

18 counting on them doing their maintenance to the

19 infrastructure is really going to be something

- 20 they're going to do.
- 21 EXAMINER SEE: Pete Preissle.
- 22 Please state your name, spell it and give
- 23 your address to the court reporter.
- 24 MR. PREISSLE: My name is Pete Preissle,

	1	P-R-E-I-S-S-L-E.	I live at 253	Croswell Road
--	---	------------------	---------------	---------------

- 2 Columbus 43214.
- 3 ---
- 4 PETE PREISSLE

5 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was

6 examined and testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 MR. PRIESSLE: I do have written remarks,

9 and I will give them to you afterwards if that's

10 okay.

My thanks to the PUCO for the opportunity 11 to respond to the AEP's rate increase request. 12 Others have spoken correctly tonight and at last 13 14 week's hearing about the hardships this increase would cause. What I would like to introduce is 15 information that expands on the commodity cost 16 changes a couple of other folks have mentioned 17 tonight. After the Commission examines this 18 information, I believe it will rightly conclude that 19

- 20 it must turn down AEP's request.
- 21 I think it is fair to say that AEP's
- 22 primary justification for the request was their
- 23 expectation that they face greatly increased costs
- 24 for the fuel used in their power plants. My

concluding this is based on what AEP stated in their
 formal filing document, the letter the Ohio president
 submitted with that filing, and their news release
 announcing the filing.
 For example, quoting from Mr. Hamrock's

6 letter, he stated: "Fuel and other commodify prices have more than doubled in very recent time." AEP 7 filed its request in July. It is perhaps ironic 8 that this was the very same time that the commodity 9 price bubble burst. I expect everyone here knows the 10 price of a barrel of crude oil has collapsed. From a 11 high \$147, it has plunged nearly 60 percent to 12 today's closing price of \$63. As someone said 13 14 earlier, that is more than \$80 down on the commodity price. That has translated to a welcome low, a 15 dramatic decline in the cost we pay to fuel our motor 16 vehicles. 17

- 18 What is pertinent and the reason that we
- 19 are here tonight is that the prices for the fuels

- 20 that AEP uses have also collapsed. Based on
- 21 near-month futures contracts on the New York
- 22 Mercantile Exchange, in just three months the price
- 23 of Central Appalachian Coal has fallen nearly
- 24 45 percent from a tad above \$141 per ton to slightly

1 more than \$80 as of Friday.

The price of natural gas has declined at 2 3 an even greater rate, by more than 50 percent from above \$13 per million Btus to less than \$6.25. 4 That's also as of Friday. Mr. Hamrock's statement 5 6 concerning the doubling of fuel prices was valid when he made it in July. Now, however, prices have fallen 7 back to approximately where they were before the 8 doubling. 9 10 I think this negates AEP's primary reason for the rate increase. Given that, as I said, I 11 believe the Commission will rightly conclude that it 12 must deny the request. I have copies of the graphs 13 14 with this price information on it that I will leave with you. 15 16 Thanks for the opportunity. 17 EXAMINER SEE: Rick Mask. Rick Mask. (No response.) 18

19 EXAMINER SEE: William Arnett.

- 20 Mr. Arnett, please state your name and
- 21 address.
- 22 MR. ARNETT: I'm William Arnett, 7288
- 23 Aplin Drive, Reynoldsburg Ohio, 43068.
- ----

1	WILLIAM ARNETT
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MR. ARNETT: My name is Bill Arnett, and
6	I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony. I
7	did provide written testimony previously to the PUCO.
8	What I'd really like to say and give you
9	my perspective on AEP a little bit, I've been doing I
10	guess what you call economic development in Ohio now
11	since 1995, and I've worked primarily in areas where
12	AEP has been the service provider for electricity.
13	From my point of view and my perspective,
14	and if you look at other parts of the state, we have
15	been pretty lucky in the AEP service territory in
16	terms of cheap electricity, especially when compared
17	with other investor-owned utilities in Ohio, and it's
18	based on the coal-fired power plants that AEP uses to
19	generate the majority of its electricity.

- 20 So I understand that a 15/15/15,
- 21 52 percent rate increase isn't anything that
- 22 residential or business customers would look forward
- 23 to. None of us want to pay any more than we do
- 24 currently. I've been an AEP customer since 1990 so I

- 1 will be living with whatever increase is approved,
- 2 but from an economic development perspective in Ohio,
- 3 we have been very fortunate throughout the years in
- 4 terms of AEP's rates for the industries.
- 5 I also want to say briefly, because we
- 6 still have people to present tonight, from an
- 7 economic development perspective, AEP-Ohio has been a
- 8 strong partner with local development organizations,
- 9 as well as some of the larger regional chambers that
- 10 work to bring in business to Ohio and work to retain
- 11 the jobs we already have here.
- 12 I look at the ESP that AEP has submitted,
- 13 the Electric Security Plan, and part of that
- 14 partnership with Ohio talks about \$75 million of
- 15 shareholder contributions for a variety of things,
- 16 and one of the things that caught my attention was
- 17 economic development. Truly economic development is
- 18 important and truly AEP has been a strong partner for
- 19 economic development in Ohio.

- 20 Thank you.
- 21 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
- 22 Please give you're name and address.
- 23 MR. KRIETEMEYER: Mark Krietemeyer,
- 24 K-R-I-E-T-E-M-E-Y-E-R, 4947 Sawmill Road, Columbus,

1	Ohio 43235.
2	
3	MARK KRIETEMEYER
4	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
5	examined and testified as follows:
6	DIRECT TESTIMONY
7	MR. KRIETEMEYER: I, like several people
8	who have spoken before, am somewhat new to this
9	forum. A lot of people gave statistics, and that is
10	all good, but I want to give a little bit of a
11	different perspective.
12	I, too, am amazed at the percentage
13	increase expected, which is over 50 percent over
14	three years. I own a modest 1,400 square foot home
15	in northwest Columbus, and for 15 years now I've done
16	a fair amount as far as trying to keep my electricity
17	usage down, such as I think that I have two
18	incandescent lights left in the whole house. I have
19	used the pocket fluorescents and compact fluorescents

- 20 and in doing new windows and things, that kind of
- 21 thing so I have done what is reasonable.
- 22 There are, of course, some bigger steps
- 23 that could be taken, and due to these increases that
- 24 we're talking about, it seems like I'm going to have

to do something expensive because -- first of all, I 1 don't know if anyone else here has got an 2 all-electric home, all-electric heat instead of 3 gas/electric combination, but it is an all-electric 4 home that I have. 5 6 So with an all-electric home there is currently a discount for the heating months. I think 7 it's November through I want to say February or 8 March. I'm not positive of the exact months, but 9 there is a little bit of a rate break for the winter 10 months for all-electric homes. And I have been told 11 that that may be going away with this plan also, 12 either going away or phrased out, which is very 13 concerning to me. 14 So if I take my last January's bill, 15 number of kilowatt-hours, and, again, I'm not one 16 that lights up the entire yard with Christmas lights 17 either. I have one tree. If I take the number of 18 19 kilowatt-hours, my bill in 2011 would be more than my

- 20 mortgage and my taxes, \$850 for one month.
- 21 So that's just staggering. So I mean I
- 22 obviously would have to do something. I don't know
- 23 if it would mean get off electricity, move or
- 24 something. Something is really going to have to give

1 if that's going to happen.

And, of course, that doesn't take into 2 consideration if that rate break would go away, so 3 that is more or less taking the rates on the sheet 4 here times the number of kilowatt-hours I had in 5 January. That is extremely alarming. That really is 6 the main reason I'm here, one month electric bill 7 more than my mortgage, and currently I'm in Dublin 8 schools so it is not cheap school taxes, but it would 9 still be more than my mortgage and my taxes for one 10 11 month. 12 A few people have talked about the maintenance programs and things. I, too, and almost 13 14 everyone lost power. I was out just for a little over a day, actually one of the lucky ones. I 15 managed to pretty much save the freezer things, lost 16 a couple of things out of the fridge. A neighbor, a 17 couple neighbors weren't so fortunate, and in the 18 19 process of one of the out-of-state crews coming in to

- 20 work on their electricity outage, they had a short
- 21 conversation with my neighbor, and I was actually
- 22 close by.
- 23 And more or less the neighbor told them:
- 24 Look, you guys aren't here. We have seen a lot of

1	it. Once this outage is out, you have to call them
2	and tell them they need to trim the lines. They're
3	just bad everywhere. This crew was actually from
4	South Carolina. So, you know, they have seen these
5	kinds of winds. They know what they can do. I'm not
6	saying those kind of winds are going to happen next
7	month, but it is to say that they, too, did not think
8	the maintenance was up to snuff.
9	I have brought my one January bill. I
10	also brought my cheapest month bill, and it would
11	still be \$250 after the rate increases.
12	So I would like to thank the PUCO for
13	this forum, and I would really appreciate you denying
14	this extreme rate increase.
15	Thank you.
16	EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
17	Lloyd Moore.
18	Please state and spell your name and give
19	your address.

- 20 MR. MOORE: May name is Lloyd Moore,
- 21 M-O-O-R-E. I reside at 355 Galloway Road, Galloway,
- 22 Ohio 43119.
- ---
- 24

1	LLOYD MOORE
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MR. MOORE: Commissioner Fergus and your
6	very good helpers, and ladies and gentlemen,
7	obviously, I didn't start this yesterday. I have
8	been very fortunate, very blessed in many ways.
9	Along with my years I'm getting along in the twilight
10	of life, but I'm concerned about my fellow man, the
11	citizens of the state of Ohio.
12	We haven't hit bottom yet, I'm afraid,
13	economically. Hang on. It's going to be a tough
14	ride.
15	Now, Commissioner Fergus, your very good
16	helpers, I hope that you will choose to deny,
17	emphatically deny, this ridiculous request of these
18	irresponsible corporate citizens irresponsible
19	corporate citizens that won't step up to the plate

- 20 and be patriots and be about the economic development
- 21 of the state of Ohio and our nation.
- 22 We're in deep trouble as a nation. I
- 23 happen to be a member of the Sons of the American
- 24 Revolution. I happen to have a daughter that's past

1	regent, state of Delaware. Patriotic blood flows
2	through my veins. Let me add that, God bless
3	America.
4	How many of you folks are aware of
5	hydroelectric-generated energy? Raise your hands,
6	please. All of you. Please raise your hands. Are
7	you aware of hydroelectric-generated energy? Well,
8	I'm not surprised. I didn't see your hands come up
9	either, members of American Electric Power.
10	I built a total electric Medallion home
11	in 1968, 355 Galloway Road, Galloway, Ohio. I pay a
12	lot of taxes. I try to be a responsible citizen of
13	this state, my home state of Kentucky, and the United
14	States. Ohio has been very good to me. I cannot say
15	too many good things about the state of Ohio.
16	I've journeyed down 23 many times. US
17	52, Scioto County, hydroelectric-generated
18	electricity is at Greenup Dam on US 52. It furnishes
19	all the electricity for Hamilton, Ohio, which the

- 20 last time I checked is about 60 to 80 thousand
- 21 people, since about 1960, somewhere along there.
- 22 But you don't have to go that far. I
- 23 will personally take you folks on a tour to a present
- 24 dam up with AEP. I'm sure you're aware of it, but

I'll take you on a tour just in case, my gas, my 1 automobile, and I drive electric. You'll ride pretty 2 comfortable. 3 You don't have to go very far, right up 4 here at O'Shaughnessy Dam is a hydroelectric 5 6 generation facility that I believe that AEP, Columbus Southern Power torpedoed. They didn't want it to 7 run. It's the most economic generated electricity 8 the last time I checked. It's cheaper than solar. 9 It's cheaper than any fossil fuel, petrochemical or 10 otherwise. 11 12 Now, I'd like to go on for about 30 minutes, maybe longer than 30 minutes, but I won't 13 14 bore you. I respect that you need to get other things done. 15 16 And Ms. Rosemary, Madam Rosemary, you hit the nail right on the head. God bless you. God 17 bless you, God bless you, and all the rest of the 18 19 speakers, too. You did a fantastic job.

- 20 You, Commissioner Fergus, and your other
- 21 commissioners and the leaders of the state of Ohio
- 22 are in a very responsible position. We need to turn
- 23 Ohio around economically, and we need to give the
- 24 folks of Ohio, shine the light on a better way of

1 life. Give them some hope. Let's put people back to

2 work.

3	And corporate executives, I challenge you
4	to step up to the plate, from the CEO down. Don't
5	take it out on the worker. Don't take it out on the
6	people that respectfully. I'm sure you try to do
7	your job. You have a boss, too. Most people do. I
8	do. I've had a boss since Valentine's Day 1954. I
9	love her. She's a redhead. I was blessed with a boy
10	and a girl, a son and a daughter, and they've done me
11	proud. God bless them.
12	God bless you all. Have a good evening.
13	Let's make Ohio great. Let's make the United States
14	great. Come clean, corporate America. Come clean.
15	Come clean. Come clean.
16	Drop the hammer on them. Thank you.
17	EXAMINER SEE: Please state, spell your
18	name and address for the record.
19	MR. FRONTZ: Jeffrey, J-E-F-F-R-E-Y,

20 Frontz, F-R-O-N-T-Z, 310 Walhilla Road, Columbus,

21 Ohio 43202.
22 --23
24

1	JEFFREY FRONTZ
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MR. FRONTZ: This is in reference to part
6	of Senate Bill 221 that deals with the renewable
7	energy portfolio. I'm concerned about the rulemaking
8	that's going to take place. I want to make sure that
9	the PUCO explicitly includes the environmental costs
10	of carbon-based energy when they calculate the cost
11	of compliance with renewable energy requirements.
12	This is the only way I believe that you
13	can truly determine the cost of compliance. If we
14	don't include the environmental costs in the
15	compliance cost evaluations, the public is
16	essentially subsidizing carbon-based generation.
17	This not only causes problems with our environmental
18	health, but also causes problems it doesn't
19	support our renewable energy development in Ohio.

- 20 I think until a better mechanism is
- 21 devised, the environmental costs of carbon-based
- 22 generation can best be calculated by using a
- 23 market-based approach by using the carbon credit
- 24 trading that's taking place now.

1	If PUCO does not adopt such an approach,
2	it will effectively gut the renewable energy
3	provisions of Senate Bill 221. The electric
4	utilities will be able to claim that the costs of
5	complying with renewable energy requirements exceeds
6	the effectively subsidized costs of traditional
7	carbon-based generation.
8	And just as a disclosure, I'm actually
9	a shareholder of AEP. I'm an AEP ratepayer and have
10	a very, very tiny interest in a company that develops
11	renewable energy in Ohio.
12	Thank you.
13	EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
14	Pat Semmelman.
15	(No response.)
16	EXAMINER SEE: Kenneth Nichols.
17	(No response.)
18	EXAMINER SEE: Kim Balzano.
19	(No response.)

20	EXAMINER SEE: Paul Finlayson.
21	(No response.)
22	EXAMINER SEE: Jerry Leard.
23	MR. LEARD: Here.
24	EXAMINER SEE: Virginia Songstad will be

1	next.
2	MS. SONGSTAD: Pass.
3	EXAMINER SEE: Okay, thank you.
4	Peggy Fein.
5	(No response.)
6	EXAMINER SEE: Ty Marsh.
7	MR. MARSH: Here.
8	EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Marsh, you will be
9	right after Mr. Leard.
10	Please state and spell your name for the
11	court reporter and give your address.
12	MR. LEARD: My name is Jerry Leard,
13	L-E-A-R-D. I live at 2287 Indian Avenue, Columbus,
14	Ohio.
15	
16	JERRY LEARD
17	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
18	examined and testified as follows:
19	DIRECT TESTIMONY

- 20 MR. LEARD: I would like the AEP-Ohio
- 21 Electric Security Plan to include financial
- 22 incentives for green energy production in the form of
- 23 renewable energy credits. The renewable energy
- 24 credits would be produced by generating electricity

1	from solar, wind or biomass hardware on the
2	AEP-Ohio's customer's property.
3	AEP-Ohio could purchase the renewable
4	energy credits or aggregate and sell the accumulated
5	renewable energy credits produced by AEP-Ohio
6	customers.
7	Thank you.
8	EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
9	Mr. Marsh, please state and spell your
10	name.
11	MR. MARSH: Ty, T-Y, Marsh, M-A-R-S-H.
12	150 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43201.
13	
14	TY MARSH
15	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
16	examined and testified as follows:
17	DIRECT TESTIMONY
18	MR. MARSH: My name is Ty Marsh, and I
19	serve as president of the Greater Columbus Chamber of

- 20 Commerce. I'm also a lifelong resident of Columbus
- 21 most of my adult life and proud to call Clintonville
- 22 my home.
- 23 So Commission and staff, we're pleased to
- 24 have you in Clintonville, and come back on a day like

1 today with no rain and see what a beautiful park,

2 v	vhat	a	beautiful	setting.
-----	------	---	-----------	----------

3	I'm here today on behalf of the Columbus
4	business community, our 2,500 members of the Columbus
5	Chamber of Commerce, to express the importance of AEP
6	to our community overall and our business community.
7	At the chamber our mission is economic
8	development, growth and prosperity. That means that
9	we work hard every day to attract new companies to
10	our region and helping our local companies to grow
11	and prosper.
12	AEP has been and remains a strong partner
13	in our economic development initiatives which
14	ultimately produces jobs for our region. The key
15	responsibility of that economic development, one of
16	the ways we do attract customers and help them to
17	expand is infrastructure. It's important for
18	businesses to have access to reliable service.

19 In addition to keeping lights on in our

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 home, AEP makes it possible for our businesses to be
- 21 productive. Entrepreneurs, major manufacturers, and
- 22 auto producers, the output produced by these
- 23 businesses are critical to our region's prosperity.
- 24 AEP has been a strong corporate citizen in Columbus

since 1980 and before as Columbus Southern, when AEP 1 moved its corporate headquarters here from New York, 2 and now AEP-Ohio employs more than 1,500 people 3 locally, more than 7,000 in the state. That itself 4 is a positive economic impact for our community and 5 region. 6 As a company AEP-Ohio contributes 7 millions of dollars to our community and our economic 8 development and environment, education and other 9 needs. The companies with its employees contributes 10 to the constant improvement of the quality of our 11 life in our community through financial investment, 12 contribution and volunteer hours. I have no doubt 13 that AEP continues to be committed to the growth and 14 prosperity of our region. The chamber is proud to 15 have AEP as one of our sponsors fulfilling our 16 mission of growth and prosperity. 17

- 18 Thank you.
- 19 EXAMINER SEE: Nachy Kanfer.

20	After Mr. Kanfer is Dave Richards.
21	(No response.)
22	EXAMINER SEE: Stacy Pierce. Ms. Pierce,
23	you will be after Mr. Kanfer .
24	Please state and spell your name for the

1	record.
2	MR. KANFER: I'm a private citizen,
3	concerned ratepayer. My name is Nachy, N-A-C-H-Y,
4	Kanfer, K-A-N-F-E-R. I reside at 106 North High
5	Street, Apartment 303, Columbus Ohio State 43215.
6	
7	NACHY KANFER
8	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
9	examined and testified as follows:
10	DIRECT TESTIMONY
11	MR. KANFER: I want to thank the
12	Commissioners first for the opportunity. I want to
13	thank you all for coming. I want to thank the court
14	reporter, who has a really hard job who has been
15	unrecognized so far.
16	I want to echo also the concerns of
17	everybody who has spoken here so far, concerns about
18	their rates. I echo the concerns. I don't need to
19	repeat them.

- 20 A couple small elements, detailed
- 21 elements of the information we have been presented
- 22 with. I note that there have been approximately \$178
- 23 million dedicated to energy efficiency over the next
- 24 three years by AEP. That's actually a considerable

amount of money. It's substantially more than other 1 utilities, namely FirstEnergy, that has contributed 2 or promised to contribute nearly zero so I want to 3 point that out. 4 However, unlike the lady who spoke for 5 6 MORPC, there are some serious concerns in the details that remain unclear. First of all, it's unclear that 7 this energy efficiency investment will be devoted to 8 the entire AEP service area. That's important. Also 9 it's important that it be spread out among all 10 customer classes, not just industrial consumers 11 benefiting from energy efficiency and not just 12 commercial consumers but also residential consumers. 13 I'd also like to point out it's really 14 important that this program be administered by a 15 third party as well as monitored and verified by a 16 third party. I don't think anybody wants a 17 self-reporting situation going on here. 18 I'd also like to point out that AEP is 19

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 sponsoring a \$40 million public advertising campaign
- 21 meant to convince you, the public, that coal is clean
- 22 and cheap. You have all seen the commercials, the
- 23 cute little plug that plugs into a piece of coal
- 24 that's bright and cheery that talks about how it is

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

115

1 keeping America safe and prosperous.

Well, coal is nothing but -- not but --2 remotely close to clean. It cannot be mined cleanly. 3 It can be transported cleanly. It can't be processed 4 cleanly. It has to be washed with chemicals that go 5 to coal slurry, and sludge. It can't be burned 6 cleanly. We certainly don't know how to capture the 7 carbon yet along with other pollutants found in coal, 8 and it cannot be disposed of cleanly with the fly ash 9 and slag. That's just the clean part. 10 We know that coal isn't cheap. That's 11 because they're coming to you now with a request for 12 a 52 percent increase because coal is so expensive. 13 14 I don't think AEP should be allowed to have it both ways. If they really want cheap energy, they should 15 look to renewable sources that are becoming cheaper 16 by the day and will certainly be cheaper in the 17 decades to come. Solar is free and always will be as 18 19 long as we have the sun. And wind is free and always

- 20 will be as long as the sun is heating our atmosphere
- 21 and causing pressure changes and things that cause
- 22 the wind to blow.
- 23 And it is astonishingly shortsighted that
- 24 we continue to assume that we are going to have coal

1	plants when coal is going to continue to rise. We
2	are facing that right now. There is some volatility
3	in the price, as people mentioned before, but the
4	fact is that it's a fossil fuel and it will continue
5	to rise. The nation is moving away from fossil
6	fuels. Ohio should do the same, and AEP should do
7	the same.
8	Thank you.
9	EXAMINER SEE: Ms. Pierce, please state
10	and spell your name for the record and your address.
11	MS. PIERCE: Stacy Pierce, P-I-E-R-C-E,
12	6308 Hilltop Trail Drive, New Albany, Ohio 43054.
13	
14	STACY PIERCE
15	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
16	examined and testified as follows:
17	DIRECT TESTIMONY
18	MS. PIERCE: AEP is proposing a
19	15 percent increase to be absorbed by their

- 20 1.5 million Ohio customers leading to an overall
- 21 increase of 45 percent resulting in nearly
- 22 \$100 million in three years.
- 23 According to AEP this additional money is
- 24 to finance the rising costs of coal and the

1	requirements of a new state energy law signed by
2	Governor Strickland. Yet even the governor has
3	stated: Even though he has not determined its
4	validity, it does not meet the stable and predictable
5	standard rate increases he had envisioned, and it
6	does not seem like an appropriate or acceptable
7	course of action. This was in the Columbus Dispatch.
8	AEP's Electric Security Plan has many
9	great initiatives above and beyond the state
10	requirements. These are great ideas outlined in the
11	plan, but these ideas come at a cost higher than
12	Ohioans can afford at this time.
13	Ohioans have one of the highest
14	foreclosure rates in the nation. The bankruptcy rate
15	is the tenth highest in the United States, and
16	September's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent. We
17	simply cannot afford this excessive increase in this
18	relatively short period of time.
19	As I gathered information for this

```
file:///A|/AEP102708.txt
```

- 20 meeting, I visited the AEP website and noticed it's a
- 21 great place to work. As an employee of AEP, workers
- 22 are entitled to work/life programs such as:
- 23 Subsidized health club memberships; pet insurance;
- 24 holiday parties, sporting events, performances,

1 picnics, and more; service awards such as jewelry,

2 artwork, electronics and many more.

3 According to Business First, AEP's CEO,

4 Michael Morris, made \$19.7 million in total

5 compensation for 2007, making him the highest paid

6 executive with a public company in central Ohio. USA

7 Today also reported Mr. Morris as one of the, quote,

8 heaviest users of the company plane perks for family

9 and weekend travel, getting nearly \$300,000 worth of

10 travel subsidized by shareholders.

11 And I think it's important to note as

12 well the day AEP filed this plan, they also reported

13 second quarter earnings were up 56 percent to

14 \$281 million compared with \$180 million for the

15 second quarter of 2007.

16 Perhaps there are some benefits within

17 the company that can be temporarily removed to

18 provide additional funding for the proposed plan's

19 initiatives. And it appears they are still managing

- 20 to increase revenue despite this economy so there may
- 21 be funds currently available within the companies to
- 22 support their plan.
- 23 Ohio's families are cutting back as
- 24 nearly the cost of everything has gone up. Inflation

1	is here and the markets show no end in sight. I
2	understand a raise increase is necessary, as both
3	Duke Energy and FirstEnergy also filed applications
4	with the PUCO. However, their proposed rate
5	increases are significantly lower than AEP's
6	proposal.
7	I ask the PUCO to deny the current
8	Electric Security Plan proposed by AEP, and I ask AEP
9	executives to prioritize the initiatives and revise
10	the plan to correlate with the times we are in.
11	If the 45 percent rate is passed, it will
12	affect consumers at home as well as Ohio taxpayers.
13	Schools, hospitals, grocery stores, municipalities
14	and more all need to keep the lights on. They will
15	have no choice but to increase their costs and pass
16	them on to the consumer to absorb this excessive
17	amount.
18	EXAMINER SEE: Kristen Arnold.

19 After Ms. Arnold, Ewan Oglethorpe.

- 20 Please state your name and address for
- 21 the record.
- 22 MS. ARNOLD: Kristen Arnold, 2311 Hoxton
- 23 Court, Columbus, Ohio, 43220.
- ---

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1	KRISTEN ARNOLD
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MS. ARNOLD: Hello. I just want to say
6	that AEP commits to a total of \$178 million in
7	efficiency spending in Ohio for the next three years.
8	This funding commitment lacks some important details.
9	Which classes of customers will receive efficiency
10	savings? What kinds of programs will be offered?
11	We suggest that the money invested in
12	energy efficiency be spent on each customer class and
13	throughout the entire AEP service territory.
14	Also who will pay for the energy
15	efficiency programs and who will benefit from them?
16	AEP may offer certain industrial and commercial
17	customers special deals in return for committed
18	efficiency savings. Who will pay for these
19	efficiency improvements and will residential

- 20 customers see a proportional share of the benefit?
- 21 We suggest that all customer classes pay
- 22 for energy efficiency programs, and I also oppose the
- 23 rate if it passes.
- 24 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

1	Please state your name, spell it for the
2	court reporter and your address.
3	MR. OGLETHORPE: Ewan E-W-A-N, last name
4	Oglethorpe, O-G-L-E-T-H-O-R-P-E, 2305 Neil Avenue,
5	Columbus, Ohio 43201.
6	
7	EWAN OGLETHORPE
8	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
9	examined and testified as follows:
10	DIRECT TESTIMONY
11	MR. OGLETHORPE: I would add on to what
12	Kristen just said, and we think that it should be put
13	into the laws that are being talked about that it
14	should be monitored who is running these efficiency
15	programs and the results that are coming from them.
16	They should not be self-regulated. And also it
17	should be put in how these savings will be verified.
18	Other states require that a third-party
19	administrator administrate, monitor the energy

- 20 efficiencies. So we suggest that the PUCO require a
- 21 third-party administrator to administrate all the
- 22 energy efficiency programs.
- 23 One more thing I'd like to add on is that
- 24 taking a bigger look at the current energy scene here

in Ohio and in the US, we've come to a very key 1 turning point in the US. I'm originally from D.C., 2 and when I talk to my friends about energy and 3 certain areas of the US which are very strong in 4 renewable resources, Ohio certainly isn't one of the 5 6 regions where that first comes to mind, California and things like that. 7 And so AEP can make huge steps in 8 redefining its image. At the current moment they are 9 the US's second largest carbon emitter, and in the 10 world they are the seventh largest. It's despicable 11 how a company can go on the way they are and 12 their CEO make an absurd amount of money while they 13 are killing the world around them. AEP can take 14 giant steps in being a role model for smaller 15 companies and even larger energy companies 16 17 And again with the coal issue, it's eventually going to run out and it is not 18 19 sustainable. There is an abundant supply of solar

- 20 energy and wind energy so why not use that. It seems
- 21 an absurd lack of foresight by AEP right now. They
- 22 should redefine their image and move into renewable
- 23 resources.
- 24 Thank you.

1	EXAMINER SEE: Aleta Hunter.
2	After Ms. Hunter is Mouhamed Tarazi.
3	(No response.)
4	EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
5	your name for the court reporter and give us your
6	address.
7	MS. HUNTER: Aleta, A-L-E-T-A, Hunter,
8	H-U-N-T-E-R, 2872 Betsy Ross Road, Columbus, Ohio,
9	43207.
10	
11	ALETA HUNTER
12	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
13	examined and testified as follows:
14	DIRECT TESTIMONY
15	MS. HUNTER: My name is Aleta Hunter, and
16	I come to you speaking I believe for many people that
17	weren't able to be here because they're disabled or
18	because for whatever reason they weren't just able to
19	get out of their house. And, of course, just like

- 20 everyone else, I'm here to speak about the AEP rate
- 21 hikes and how much I'm against them.
- 22 We were asked to speak about how the rate
- 23 hike would affect us, and so I will try to make what
- 24 I have to say very brief. I will personally be

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

1 affected significantly by this rate hike. With the
2 economy as it currently is, I'm already struggling
3 trying to make ends meet. Prices have already
4 escalated high enough at the grocery stores, at the
5 gas pump. Thank God prices are coming down some at
6 the gas pump.
7 But these things are forcing many of us
8 to make it from paycheck to paycheck; that is, you
9 know, some of us are just barely doing that. My
10 younger son moved in with me at the beginning of the
11 year, and our plan was to help each other out
12 financially. And it's only by the grace of God that
13 we have been able to do what we can do, and we are
14 still struggling at it.
15 My mother is a senior citizen. She's on
16 a fixed income. She doesn't do near the things that
17 she used to do because for one thing, not just
18 because for health reasons and thank God she's in
19 pretty good health but because she's on a fixed

- 20 income. She doesn't have extra money to do anything
- 21 extra.
- 22 My daughter and her family have combined
- 23 incomes with miscellaneous jobs, side jobs to help
- 24 them to continue to make it from day-by-day. They

1 have four young children in school. They live in a

2 single family home.

3 My family, my coworkers, and my church

4 family, we're all finding ourselves in the same boat,

5 as I'm sure quite a few of you here. My

6 grandchildren's ability to go to college will be

7 adversely affected not only by this rate hike but by

8 all the other hikes in rates that are going on, a

9 combination of these things.

10 A rate hike would cause many of us who

11 are low to middle income families to lose -- possibly

12 lose our homes, our businesses, our transportation,

13 et cetera, if not completely shut us down.

14 AEP, I just want to say we really do not

15 need this rate hike. This is the worst time to

16 present this to us.

17 Thank you.

18 EXAMINER SEE: Will McCartney. And after

19 Mr. McCartney, Mary Cunningham.

- 20 Please state and spell your name and give
- 21 your address to the court reporter.
- 22 MR. MCCARTNEY: Will, last name McCartney
- 23 M-C C-A-R-T-N-E-Y, 845 Minerva Avenue in Columbus.

1	WILL MCCARTNEY
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT TESTIMONY
5	MR. MCCARTNEY: I, too simply cannot
6	afford 45/52 percent, whatever it is. What I really
7	cannot afford is the disingenuous manner in which AEP
8	is proposing to change a number of things about its
9	infrastructure.
10	I have read the testimony of Mr. Assante.
11	AEP proposes to remove your power meters, throw them
12	away, and let you pay for it, and replace them with
13	the so-called smart meters, which, again, you would
14	pay for. That's the proposal.
15	That would go along with power monitoring
16	and instantaneous power pricing, if you will, which I
17	understand would set the stage for some types of
18	possible efficiency by linking this meter to other
19	things that may or may not shut off, hot water heater

- 20 or air conditioner or something like that.
- 21 Along with that is the replacement of
- 22 quite a few pieces of line equipment, which curiously
- 23 do not need to be depreciated, again, according to
- 24 this testimony. It is incumbent upon the Commission

to get to the bottom of why this line equipment does
 not need to be depreciated, does not need to be
 covered by ratepayers. It's curious it all ends at
 one point in time.

5 So there's much more to this than the 6 simple price of fuel. This is an effort to set the stage for a change in the infrastructure, and that 7 may be something that's coming. It may be good. It 8 may be bad. I don't know, but it's kind of working 9 its way in from the bottom. 10 And one question that I have for the 11 Commission at the moment is simply this: AEP would 12 have us as ratepayers pay for all of this. What 13 14 benefit do we get from it? AEP would own the equipment. That's the proposal. I can see that down 15 the road AEP could use this equipment for certain 16 things, but the question is what does AEP intend to 17 contribute to this? As I read the testimony, 18

19 absolutely nothing. The ratepayers will pay it all,

127

- 20 and oh, by the way, 10.8 percent return on investment
- 21 or return on equity, excuse me, while they're going
- 22 along there.
- 23 In addition, AEP has asked the Commission
- 24 in this filing for permission to pass along the cost

1	of closing down any generating plants prematurely to					
2	ratepayers. Deregulation/not deregulation, you can't					
3	have your cake and eat it too. Which way is it going					
4	to be? The Commission needs seriously to address					
5	that question.					
6	There's a whole lot more here than simple					
7	fuel, and it's been, I think, rather disingenuous of					
8	both AEP and the Commission that some of these other					
9	aspects have not been made more public.					
10	Thank you.					
11	EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.					
12	Ms. Cunningham, please state your name					
13	and spell it for the court reporter and give your					
14	address.					
15	MS. CUNNINGHAM: Mary Cunningham,					
16	C-U-N-N-I-N-G-H-A-M. My address is 628 Binns					
17	Boulevard, Columbus Ohio 43204.					
18						
19	MARY CUNNINGHAM					

- 20 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
- 21 examined and testified as follows:
- 22 DIRECT TESTIMONY
- 23 MS. CUNNINGHAM: As we have heard
- 24 repeatedly, AEP is asking for a 15 percent increase

in utility costs each year for the next three years. 1 That's in addition to the cost recovery that the 2 gentleman before me just alluded to. I won't even go 3 into that. 4 5 What I would like to talk about is that AEP is forcing us as consumers to achieve energy 6 efficiencies to offset this increase. Now, that's 7 not necessarily a bad thing because we in the United 8 States are per person a much higher energy consumer 9 10 than anyone else in even the developing countries, so we actually have a need to move towards those energy 11 efficiencies. 12 13 However, those who are most affected by the proposed increases are the people who are already 14 doing more with less. Those who are most affected by 15 the proposal are those who pay energy costs that 16 amount to 30 percent of their fair market rent in 17

18 their area, 30 percent. This is true for 59 counties

19 in Ohio. You can imagine paying 30 percent of your

- 20 rent for your electricity. That's the average.
- 21 Even further in 87 of the 88 counties in
- 22 Ohio people pay 22 percent on average of their fair
- 23 market rent for their energy costs. If AEP itself
- 24 were able to achieve 15 percent efficiencies in each

1 of the next three years, there would not be a need to

- 2 increase costs for its customers.
- 3 Make no mistake, this would not be a
- 4 totally altruistic move on their part as there are
- 5 studies that show that every one dollar invested in
- 6 energy efficiencies you get a \$3 return on that
- 7 investment. This is an achievable goal and
- 8 complements with Senate Bill 221 mandate for energy
- 9 efficiencies, as well as Governor Strickland's state
- 10 mandate for energy efficiencies.
- 11 We will be doing our part to do more with
- 12 less if AEP can meet that effort equally.
- 13 Increasingly consumer rates is the easy thing for AEP
- 14 to do, and these are not easy times.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
- 17 That concludes the witness list. Is
- 18 there anyone here that has not already offered
- 19 testimony that wishes to do so?

- 20 (No response.)
- 21 EXAMINER SEE: If that's the case, we
- 22 thank you for coming out this evening. Thank you for
- 23 your time and patience.
- 24 (The hearing concluded at 9:35 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE						
I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a						
true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken						
4 by me in this matter on Monday, October 27, 2008, and						
5 carefully compared with my original stenographic						
6 notes.						
7						
 Rosemary Foster Anderson, Professional Reporter and 						
Notary Public in and forthe State of Ohio.						
10 My commission expires April 5, 2009.						
11 (RFA-8212)						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

file:///A|/AEP102708.txt

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

11/20/2008 9:15:41 AM

in

Case No(s). 08-0917-EL-SSO

Summary: Transcript AEP 10/27/08 This is a re-docketing. Was first docketed on 10/17/08. electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer D. Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc.