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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Attn: Docketing Division 120 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 4321508-0917-EL-SSO 04/26/2009

PUCO

Reference: Case Number 08-917-EL-SSO.

I would like to voice my concerns about the unfair rate increase being offered to AEP by the Ohio PUCO. The PUCO has offered to allow AEP 6-8% increases for each of the several subsequent years and perhaps retroactive. This at a time when a rapidly growing number of Ohio residents are losing even more jobs and many of us are on a limited fixed income trying to survive. I am both of the fore mentioned. My plant closed in 2004, was demolished in 2005, jobs went to India and China. Due to my age I was only able to find occasional part time temporary employment, despite having a degree in 1967 from a University in Ohio. Eventually I was forced to take Social Security at a greatly reduced rate due to needing income to help survive. Over the last several years that income has continued to erode due to property tax increases, gasoline cost, medical cost and insurance, natural gas speculation and food cost. Now along with all other cost the PUCO has granted major increases to AEP. (AEP can better fight natural gas speculation with it suppliers than individual households, if that one of the reasons for seeking rate increases from their customers.)

After the rate is passed by the PUCO. I am sure within the next 18 months the AEP board will grant to themselves and the executive staff a nice raise and pat each other on the back for doing such a nice job.

AEP used the oldest and most basic negotiating tactic by asking for an outrageous amount of increase (15%) initially and allowing the PUCO to feel a win/win by "negotiating the increase down to a meager 6-8%." Meager unless you are one of the real losers in this transaction: the millions of Ohio citizens hanging on by their fingernails. Did the PUCO ever ask the AEP executive staff and board to take pay cuts? If the CEO carned low six figures per year in total compensation and his staff and board reduced their pay in the same percentage, how much lower could the 6-8% increase go. Many of us go without light, use energy efficient bulbs, seldom use air conditioning, keep heat down in the winter for both gas and electric use to lower cost and save energy, then the PUCO and AEP come along and take it and more in one heartless swipe. How far has AEP really gone in cost control, not just in lip service and fancy presentations, but actual long term hard core cost reduction. The PUCO needs to visit some families that have lost their jobs: visit some individuals and families on Social Security and see how many Ohio citizens really live. Don't just sit in a nice air conditioned conference room with executives or their representatives making millions a year and wanting more.

I know that this note will not do any good towards changing your plans, only short term cathartic for me as I figure out how to make my mouthly stility, property tax and healthcare payments.

I wish you a cool summer and a warm winter, while your decisions assure millions of others in the State of Ohio can not have the same.

Sincerely.

Michael C. Tabler 2298 Stargrass Ave. Grove City, Ohio 43123

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