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PUCO

PUCO
Attn: Docketing
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Case # 10-0176-EL-ATA

PUCO Representatives,

Commitments:

Our all-electric home was built in 1978 during the "70's" energy crisis. The features of the home were fewer windows, smaller windows, increased (R-factor) insulation, and a heat pump. At the time, the price of gas was escalating; thus we were told, the all-electric home was cheaper, cleaner, safer, and considered "energy efficient" for that time period. With the support, and encouragement of the electric company, promises were made "verbally", and in some cases in writing, that electric rates would be discounted, and maintained, for the "life of the home" no matter how many owners the home had. It was an agreement that was made between the electric company, the builder, and the purchaser, and highly encouraged as the most affordable, and efficient way to heat, and cook.

Electric vs. Natural Gas:

In today's energy market place, natural gas usage would be considerably cheaper, but not the conversion for this to take place. Three years ago we had our heat pump replaced. So in a situation like ours, we would need to incur the new expenses of having a gas line run down the street, and up to the house, a new furnace installed, as well as a stove, and hot water heater. All of these conversions would take years to achieve on my husband's retirement income, and my (2 day a week) part-time job. Not even taking into consideration how many years it would take for us to "break even" financially. We have already added insulation, closed off rooms, have energy efficient bulbs, replaced all the windows, set the temperature to 62 degrees in the winter, and 80 degrees in the summer. This is not exactly comfortable heating or cooling in either setting.

Rate Shock:

What is fair in regards to the increase in electric rates when First Energy already has broken (reneged) on their verbal, and written agreements. Can "THEY" be fair or trusted again with the all-electric consumer? If there has to be a rate increase, it has to be spread out over a 10 year period of time. (It is projected, that it will take at least 10 years for the

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economy to make a recovery.) Senior citizens, the critically ill, disabled, and anyone on a fixed income should still receive a discount. The billing cycle could be made shorter, and the "Budget" method of payment, become the standard or only method of payment to keep the payments the same each month. Wind, solar power, and on-line-demand water heaters, should be made available at a discounted rate for those communities allowing them. This not only provides some relief to the homeowner, but in some cases, the individual can sell power back to the electric company. (We purchased our Culligan Reverse Osmosis water purifier thru a greatly discounted CEI program.)

Summary:

What PUCO and First Energy should keep in mind is the "power" of the negative impact of these changes. Ultimately, what will occur should the rates escalate, is folks will shut their lights off, and heat off, thus increasing the use of room heaters, kerosene heaters, kerosene lanterns, candles, ill-prepared fireplaces, stovetops, and ovens to keep warm, and maintain light. All these have the increased potential for home fires, and injuries. Will it be that the "BIG" corporate utility company comes out the financial winner at "The Little Guys" expense? The fact to the matter is, not only can First Energy not hold to an agreement that's been in place for over 40 years, but decides to change the rules during the worst economic conditions since "The Great Depression". It puts First Energy, and PUCO in poor standing with the public here, and across the nation.

Lastly, what really hurts about this situation is that electric heat is "cold" heat. With electric heating, and heat pumps, cold air comes out through the registers. Why should we pay over \$1000.00/month for "COLD AIR"!

We're looking forward to the PUCO to represent us the "people" in a fair, and unbiased fashion who have no choice but to use electricity.

Awaiting a positive outcome for all of us,

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