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September 6, 2011

PUCO

Todd A. Snichier
Chairman, Ohio PUCO
180 East Broad Street
Columbus Ohio

Dear Mr. Snichier,

It is gratifying to learn Ohio has a different PUCO Chairman. Just a few years ago I read a statement in the Columbus Dispatch made by your predecessor relative to the PUCO decision allowing AEP a 13% rate increase over 2 years rather than the requested 15%. In case you missed it, the article quoted him as saying "Generally, I'd like to say that if everybody's unhappy, we've done a good job". I was not only unhappy but also dumbfounded that a man appointed to such an important job could make such a stupid statement to the press. His job simply stated was to be fair. Now, it is painfully evident that American Electric Power is back still again asking for an additional rate increases.

Please allow me to present you with a few reasons why AEP deserves more scrutiny and fewer increases. During the time their previous rate increase was being considered, the electrical service in our area was worst than any I experienced in third world countries. The reason for this was a total lack of line maintenance. There are many trees in the area and on my property alone, there was zero tree trimming in over 15 years. Some trees had grown so big that the branches actually grew into and around the power line. We called the PUCO under Mr. Schriber at the time and was told they didn't go to sights and look at anything, they merely sit in the office and waited on complaints. If it was decided complaints were significant enough they might mention it to AEP. Further, the Columbus Dispatch also stated that of the top 25 highest paid executives in Ohio, 6 were from AEP. It doesn't seem they are suffering too badly while waiting for their next rate increase.

Further, I have considerable knowledge in electronics and know that voltage spikes caused by power disruptions (even those lasting only milliseconds) damage the fragile junctions of transistors and other electronic components. Over time, the components will totally fail causing expensive replacement of circuit boards or the entire appliance regardless if it is a TV, radio, stove, refrigerator or other appliance. So while AEP executives dine on steak and fine wine, their customers not only have the inconvenience of too many power interruptions but also the expense of high electric bills and damage to their electronic appliances that most don't even know was caused by power disruptions.

While AEP has finally increased line maintenance in our area and power interruptions are fewer, their performance has hardly been stellar enough to be granted still another reward.

Respectfully



Ed Thies

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