

FILE
FAX

10/8/2012

To The Chairman and Commissioners of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Vezelay Properties
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President
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PUCO

Re: Case No 12-1685-GA-AIR , et seq. Duke Energy Gas & Electric Rate Increases

I am against the proposed increase in natural gas and electricity rates requested by Duke Energy Ohio. In these difficult economic times, this region of Ohio needs to be able to compete with other regions of the country on important cost components such as utility costs. Among the items I am particularly concerned about, are:

Duke is misrepresenting the actual rate increase resulting from its application. Instead of the 6% gas rate increase that was stated by Duke and the PUCO, the actual increase is closer to 25% when gas costs are included. 25% is a significant increase which is bound to make many area businesses less profitable and less competitive and possibly force the closure of additional local businesses costing needed jobs.

As a Cincinnati ratepayer, I don't want the costs of gas and electric utility line relocations placed on my bill but not on the rest of the Duke customer's bills who live outside of the City of Cincinnati. Duke Energy should stay out of the Streetcar Project funding fight and remove these rate increases from their requests.

Duke has requested to include the current monthly Accelerated Main Replacement Rider (AMRP) line item charge of \$5.95/month on each bill, into base rates and then to reset the Rider to "0". A utility "rider", by definition, is a temporary charge. A change to base rates can only occur during a full base rate case, therefore, the AMRP charges should remain a "rider" and not be "rolled into base rates". It could be years before Duke files another base rate case and those AMRP charges would remain on all bills until that time.

For these and many other reasons, I implore the PUCO to deny the Duke Energy Ohio increase in natural gas rates.

Sincerely,

Mary Blume

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