

FILE

Hal Merz
1822 W. First Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43212

3
RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2013 JAN 15 PM 2:00
PUCO

January 11, 2013

Andre T. Porter
Commissioner, PUCO
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215 - 3793

10-501-EL-FOR
10-502-EL-FOR

Dear Commissioner Porter:

We were very dismayed by the recent decision of the PUCO regarding American Electric Power's Turning Point solar project in Noble County, Ohio. Our understanding is that AEP was denied permission to seek recovery of costs for this project from its customers. Our understanding is that even though the PUCO staff had endorsed the project, the Commissioners voted against it 3-1. The rationale supposedly was that AEP had failed to demonstrate the need for the project, and that some businesses were concerned about its impact on their future utility costs.

I ask you, who is going to pay, when Southeastern Ohio continues to experience high levels of unemployment and attendant social problems such as prescription drug abuse? As an Ohio small business owner, I know that the continuing unemployment and underdevelopment of Southeastern Ohio causes the State of Ohio to spend more money. As a consultant for many nonprofit organizations – and former advisor to one that sponsors community development activity in Southeastern Ohio – I know that the percentage of residents there who receive public benefits such as Medicaid and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families is much higher than the average for the state of Ohio!

Projects that create jobs and business opportunities are the only viable antidote to the long – term malaise of Southeastern Ohio. The Turning Point project would not only generate direct jobs for that region, but also increase tourism and draw attention to opportunities in the area.

Now I will share a few words about AEP. AEP seems to be the only major corporation that has done anything productive for the economic and community development of the region. AEP donated the land that is now the Wilds wildlife preserve. The AEP Foundation and a number of AEP staff volunteers have assisted community development, education and conservation projects in several counties in Southeastern Ohio. The community development nonprofit I referred to above has received AEP Foundation grants to benefit summer supplemental education activities for underachieving local students.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician SM Date Processed JAN 15 2013

Commissioner Andre Porter, page 2

In summary, the regional economic development and social benefits that the Turning Point project could create will trump the costs of this project to utility consumers. We are offended by the Commission's apparent lack of consideration of such long – term effects on the state of Ohio. Please re-consider the Commission's decision on this vital project!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Merz", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

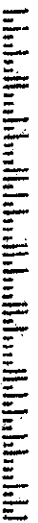
Hal Merz, President

Paraclete Funding Resources, LLC

Harl Metz
1822 West First Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212

Andre T. Porter
Commissioner, PUCCO
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215 - 3793

43215379399



PSN0289001 05456

0625

APC