

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of the 2018 :
Long-Term Forecast Report : Case No. 18-501-EL-FOR
of Ohio Power Company and :
Related Matters. :

In the Matter of the :
Application of Ohio Power :
Company for Approval to :
Enter Into Renewable : Case No. 18-1392-EL-RDR
Energy Purchase :
Agreements for Inclusion :
in the Renewable :
Generation Rider. :

In the Matter of the :
Application of Ohio Power : Case No. 18-1393-EL-ATA
Company for Approval to :
Amend its Tariffs. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Sarah Parrot and Ms. Greta See, Attorney
Examiners, and Commissioners Lawrence K. Friedeman
and Thomas W. Johnson, at the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Rooms 11-A
and 11-B, Columbus, Ohio, called at 10:09 a.m. on
Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

- - -

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
222 East Town Street, Second Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

- - -

1 APPEARANCES:

2 American Electric Power Service Corporation
 3 By Mr. Steven T. Nourse
 4 and Ms. Christen M. Blend
 5 1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
 6 Columbus, Ohio 43215

7 Ice Miller, LLP
 8 By Mr. Christopher L. Miller
 9 and Mr. Jason M. Rafeld
 10 250 West Street, Suite 700
 11 Columbus, Ohio 43215

12 Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, LLP
 13 By Mr. Eric B. Gallon
 14 and Mr. L. Bradfield Hughes
 15 41 South High Street, 29th Floor
 16 Columbus, Ohio 43215

17 On behalf of Ohio Power Company.

18 Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General
 19 By Mr. Thomas W. McNamee,
 20 Principal Assistant Attorney General
 21 Public Utilities
 22 30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
 23 Columbus, Ohio 43215

24 On behalf of the Staff of the Public
 25 Utilities Commission of Ohio.

McNees Wallace & Nurick, LLC
 By Mr. Frank P. Darr
 Fifth Third Center, Suite 1700
 21 East State Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of Industrial Energy
 Users-Ohio.

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
 By Mr. Christopher J. Allwein
 and Ms. Colleen Mooney
 P.O. Box 12451
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable
 Energy.

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APPEARANCES: (Continued)

Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP
By Ms. Kimberly W. Bojko
and Mr. Brian W. Dressel
280 North High Street, Suite 1300
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of Ohio Manufacturers'
Association Energy Group.

IGS Energy and IGS Solar, LLC.
By Mr. Joseph Olikier
and Mr. Michael Nugent
6100 Emerald Parkway
Dublin, Ohio 43016

On behalf of IGS Energy and IGS Solar,
LLC.

Bruce J. Weston, Ohio Consumers' Counsel
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
By Ms. Maureen R. Willis,
Mr. William J. Michael,
and Mr. Christopher Healey
Assistant Consumers' Counsel
65 East Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4313

On behalf of Residential Utility
Consumers of Ohio Power Company.

Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP
By Ms. Angela Paul Whitfield
280 North High Street, Suite 1300
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of The Kroger Company.

Ohio Environmental Council
By Ms. Miranda Leppla
1145 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite I
Columbus, Ohio 43212

On behalf of the Ohio Environmental
Council.

1 APPEARANCES: (Continued)

2 Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter, LPA

3 By Mr. Robert Dove

4 Capitol Square, Suite 1800

5 65 East State Street

6 Columbus, Ohio 43215-4294

7 On behalf of the Natural Resources

8 Defense Council.

9 Whitt Sturtevant, LLP

10 By Mr. Mark A. Whitt

11 and Ms. Rebekah J. Glover

12 The KeyBank Building, Suite 1590

13 88 East Broad Street

14 Columbus, Ohio 43215

15 On behalf of Direct Energy, LP. and

16 Retail Energy Supply Association.

17 Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP

18 By Mr. John F. Stock

19 and Ms. Orla E. Collier

20 41 South High Street, 26th Floor

21 Columbus, Ohio 43215

22 On behalf of the Ohio Coal Association.

23 Dickinson Wright, PLLC

24 By Ms. Christine M.T. Pirik,

25 Mr. Terrence O'Donnell,

 Mr. William V. Vorys,

 and Ms. Cristina N. Luse

 150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400

 Columbus, Ohio 43215

 On behalf of Mid-Atlantic Renewable

 Energy Coalition.

 Kravitz, Brown & Dortch, LLC

 By Mr. Michael D. Dortch

 and Mr. Justin M. Dortch

 65 East State Street, Suite 200

 Columbus, Ohio 43215

 On behalf of Calpine Retail Holdings,

 LLC.

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APPEARANCES: (Continued)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, LLP
By Mr. Michael J. Settineri
and Ms. Gretchen L. Petrucci
52 East Gay Street
Columbus, Ohio 43216

On behalf of PJM Power Providers Group
and the Electric Power Supply
Association.

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Tuesday Morning Session,
December 4, 2018.

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EXAMINER PARROT: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has called for hearing, at this time and place, Case No. 18-501-EL-FOR which is captioned "In the Matter of the 2018 Long-Term Forecast Report of Ohio Power Company and Related Matters"; Case No. 18-1392-EL-RDR, captioned "In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval to Enter into Renewable Energy Purchase Agreements for Inclusion in the Renewable Generation Rider"; and Case No. 18-1393-EL-ATA, captioned "In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval to Amend its Tariffs."

Good morning, everyone. My name is Sarah Parrot, with me today is Greta See. We are the Attorney Examiners assigned by the Commission to hear these cases. Also with us, today, is Commissioner Larry Friedeman.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEMANN: I just want to take a moment to thank you all for showing up today. I never thought the term "standing room only" would be used in conjunction with a PUCO public hearing, but I guess there's a first for everything. I'm

1 really gratified by your involvement in the process.
2 Thank you for that. And I, for one, look forward to
3 hearing all of your comments. So, once again,
4 welcome and thank you.

5 EXAMINER PARROT: We also have with us
6 today, Commission personnel from the Commission's
7 Public Affairs, and Service Monitoring and
8 Enforcement Departments, and they are here to assist
9 members of the general public. I believe we have Kim
10 Norris and Jill Kocher from Public Affairs, as well
11 as Maureen Harbolt from the SMED Department. These
12 individuals are available to address procedural
13 questions about these cases or questions concerning
14 general utilities matters.

15 At this time, I would like to take
16 appearances on behalf of the parties, and we will
17 start with Ohio Power Company.

18 MR. NOURSE: Thank you, Your Honor. On
19 behalf of Ohio Power Company, Steven T. Nourse and
20 Christen M. Blend, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio
21 43215; with the law firm of Ice Miller, Christopher
22 Miller and Jason Rafeld, 250 West Street, Suite 700,
23 Columbus, Ohio 43215; with the law firm of Porter
24 Wright Morris & Arthur, Brad Hughes and Eric Gallon,
25 41 South High Street, 29th Floor, Columbus, Ohio

1 43215.

2 I'd also like to mention, we have
3 Customer Service Representatives here, Your Honor, if
4 any -- if anyone has questions about their bills or
5 any other customer-service issues that don't relate
6 to this matter, we've got people here, we're happy to
7 try to help with that. Thank you.

8 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Nourse.
9 On behalf of the Commission staff.

10 MR. McNAMEE: Thank you, Your Honor. On
11 behalf of the Commission Staff of the Public
12 Utilities Commission of Ohio, I'm Thomas McNamee.
13 The address is 30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor,
14 Columbus, Ohio 43215. And I will step to the back to
15 get out of the way here.

16 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you, Mr. McNamee.
17 Ohio Energy Group.

18 Industrial Energy Users-Ohio.

19 MR. DARR: On behalf of Industrial Energy
20 Users-Ohio, the law firm McNeese Wallace & Nurick, 21
21 East State Street, 17th Floor, Columbus, Ohio.
22 Appearing on behalf of the firm is Frank Darr,
23 D-a-r-r.

24 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Darr.
25 Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy.

1 MR. ALLWEIN: Good morning, Your Honors,
 2 Commissioner Friedeman, members of the public, Staff.
 3 On behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy,
 4 Christopher Allwein, A-l-l-w-e-i-n, and Colleen
 5 Mooney, 65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

7 Sierra Club.

8 Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy
 9 Group

10 MS. BOJKO: Thank you, Your Honor. On
 11 behalf of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy
 12 Group, Kimberly W. Bojko and Brian W. Dressel, with
 13 the law firm of Carpenter Lipps & Leeland, 280 North
 14 High Street, Suite 1300, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Interstate Gas Supply
 16 and IGS Solar.

17 MR. OLIKER: Good morning, Your Honors.
 18 On behalf of IGS Energy and IGS Solar, LLC, Joseph
 19 Olikier and Michael Nugent, 6100 Emerald Parkway,
 20 Dublin, Ohio 43016.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Ohio Consumers'
 22 Counsel.

23 MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Your Honor. On
 24 behalf of the residential customers of Ohio Power
 25 Company, Bruce J. Weston, Consumers' Counsel, by

1 Maureen R. Willis, William Michael, and Christopher
2 Healey, 65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

3 EXAMINER PARROT: The Kroger Company.

4 MS. WHITFIELD: Good morning, Your
5 Honors. On behalf of The Kroger Company, Angie Paul
6 Whitfield with the law firm of Carpenter Lipps &
7 Leland, 280 North High Street, Suite 1300, Columbus,
8 Ohio 43215.

9 EXAMINER PARROT: Ohio Environmental
10 Council.

11 MS. LEPPLA: Good morning, Your Honors,
12 and Commissioner Friedeman. Miranda Leppla, 1145
13 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite I, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

14 EXAMINER PARROT: Natural Resources
15 Defense Council.

16 MR. DOVE: Good morning, Your Honors.
17 Robert Dove, on behalf of NRDC, with the law firm of
18 Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, 65 East State Street,
19 Suite 1800, Columbus, Ohio 43215. And NRDC would
20 like to thank all of the members of the public who
21 came out today.

22 EXAMINER PARROT: Direct Energy.

23 MS. GLOVER: Thank you, Your Honor. On
24 behalf of Direct Energy and the Retail Energy Supply
25 Association, Mark Whitt and Rebekah Glover of the law

1 firm of Whitt Sturtevant, 88 East Broad Street, Suite
2 1590, Columbus, Ohio.

3 EXAMINER PARROT: Ohio Coal Association.

4 MR. STOCK: Thank you, Your Honor. On
5 behalf the Ohio Coal Association, the law firm of
6 Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, by Orla
7 Collier and John Stock, 41 South High Street,
8 Columbus, Ohio 43215.

9 EXAMINER PARROT: Retail Energy Supply
10 Association was Ms. Glover.

11 One Energy Enterprises.

12 Ohio Hospital Association.

13 Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition.

14 MR. O'DONNELL: Good morning, Your
15 Honors. On behalf of Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy
16 Coalition, the law firm of Dickinson Wright, Terrence
17 O'Donnell, Christine Pirik, and Christina Luse,
18 L-u-s-e; and Dickinson Wright is at 150 East Gay
19 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

20 EXAMINER PARROT: Calpine Retail
21 Holdings.

22 MR. J. DORTCH: Good morning, Your
23 Honors. On behalf of Calpine Retail Holdings, LLC,
24 Justin Dortch and Michael Dortch of the law firm
25 Kravitz, Brown & Dortch, LLC, 65 East State Street,

1 Suite 200, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

2 EXAMINER PARROT: PJM Power Providers
3 Group and Electric Power Supply Association.

4 MR. SETTINERI: Good morning, Your Honor.
5 On behalf of PJM Power Providers Group and Electric
6 Power Supply Association, Mike Settineri and Gretchen
7 Petrucci, with the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour
8 and Pease, 52 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

9 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

10 Did I miss anyone that is here today on
11 behalf of a party to the case?

12 All right. A little bit about what
13 brought us all here today.

14 On April 16, 2018, Ohio Power Company
15 filed its Long-Term Forecast Report for 2018 in Case
16 No. 18-501-EL-FOR. The Company amended the report on
17 September 19, 2018, with information intended to
18 demonstrate the need for at least 900 megawatts of
19 renewable energy projects in the state of Ohio.

20 On September 27th, 2018, in Case
21 No. 18-1392-ELR-DR and Case No. 18-1393-EL-ATA, Ohio
22 Power Company filed an application seeking approval
23 of the inclusion of two solar energy resources
24 totaling 400 megawatts of nameplate capacity in the
25 Company's Renewable Generation Rider, as well as

1 approval to establish a new Green Power Tariff under
2 which customers may purchase renewable energy
3 certificates for the solar energy resources'
4 environmental attributes.

5 Pursuant to an entry issued on November
6 13, 2018, today's hearing in these consolidated cases
7 has been called to permit interested members of the
8 public to offer comments on Ohio Power Company's
9 proposals.

10 Following the conclusion of the public
11 testimony, the hearing will then be continued to
12 January 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., here at the offices
13 of the Commission. At that time, Ohio Power Company,
14 the Commission Staff, and the Intervenors in these
15 cases will provide testimony and other evidence
16 regarding the Company's Long-Term Forecast Report as
17 amended.

18 Today's hearing, as I'm sure you've
19 noticed, is being transcribed by a court reporter.
20 If you plan to testify, please speak clearly so that
21 the court reporter can accurately reflect your
22 comments on the record. Also, if you have prepared a
23 written statement, it would be helpful to provide
24 that copy to the court reporter.

25 When you arrived, you were offered the

1 opportunity to sign up to testify. After I finish
2 with this introduction, I will begin calling the
3 witnesses forward that have signed the sign-up sheet.
4 I will ask each witness to come up to the podium and
5 face the court reporter. Before you give your
6 comments, I will ask you to state your name and
7 address. I will also ask you to take an oath or
8 affirmation that what you're about to say is the
9 truth. Your testimony will then be considered part
10 of the official record in these cases and it will be
11 reviewed by the Commission before a final decision is
12 made.

13 If you decide that you do not wish to
14 testify when I call your name, simply pass to the
15 next witness. Also, once you finish testifying, or
16 if you're merely here to observe today, feel free to
17 leave at any time you wish.

18 The Commission appreciates your
19 participation in today's hearing and we want everyone
20 who wishes to make a public statement to have the
21 opportunity to do so. We ask that you please be
22 considerate of others waiting to testify and keep
23 your statements to a reasonable period of time.

24 At this time, I'm going to begin calling
25 witnesses forward, and our first witness is Eddie

1 Smith.

2 Please raise your right hand.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 EXAMINER PARROT: All right. Please
5 state your name and record -- your name and address
6 for the record, and proceed.

7 - - -

8 EDDIE SMITH

9 presented himself as a public witness, and being
10 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. SMITH: My name is Eddie Smith,
13 E-d-d-i-e S-m-i-t-h. I live at 109 Main Street in
14 The Plains, Ohio.

15 Thank you, Your Honors, and good morning
16 to Commissioner Friedeman and members of the PUCO
17 Staff.

18 My name is Eddie Smith. I'm a Township
19 Trustee, elected in Athens Township in Athens County,
20 Ohio. I'm not here today to speak on behalf of the
21 board or any action or position the board has taken,
22 but I am here today to speak as an elected official
23 in my community, who represents many of the values of
24 the voters in my community.

25 What I have to say today is really

1 simple. I want to highlight that consumers in Ohio,
2 particularly in my community, want renewable energy
3 and they are willing to pay more for it. Rational
4 consumers are not only concerned about prices;
5 rational consumers are also concerned about how their
6 consumption today affects their consumption in the
7 future.

8 Junk food is a really great example of
9 this. Junk food is cheap and tasty, but if it's all
10 you consume, then you won't live very long and your
11 consumption will end sooner than you'd like it to.

12 Energy is really no different. An
13 economy consuming a diet rich in junky fossil fuel
14 and cheap resources, won't be able to consume very
15 long. And sure, we can attach renewable energy
16 credits, RECs, to fossil fuel energy and title that
17 energy as "renewable" because there is an offsetting
18 or equivalent amount of energy coming into the grid
19 somewhere else, but there's some big policy problems
20 with this. RECs only hold economic value because
21 RECs represent the avoided carbon emissions from
22 displaced marginal generation units on the RTO's
23 dispatch curve.

24 But when wind RECs are generated at night
25 at the same time that locational marginal prices,

1 LMPs, are negative, and the grid is incentivizing
2 more load, not less, then we really have a problem
3 here because we're not really avoiding any emissions
4 and that means that those RECs really don't hold any
5 underlying economic value.

6 In fact, like junk bonds or junk food,
7 those can be called junk RECs because the value of
8 the underlying for that asset is really nonexistent,
9 and transferring those types of RECs to fossil fuel
10 energy is a little like eating Doritos off of --
11 hell, off of fine china and calling it a nutritious
12 dinner.

13 So, in conclusion, I want to restate
14 that, in my opinion, the most important consumer
15 interest fact of the day here today is that consumers
16 have expressed their consumer interest and the
17 tradeoffs they are willing to make. Consumers have
18 expressed that consumers want to consume more
19 renewable energy and that they are willing to pay
20 more for it. Thank you.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

22 All right. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

23 Lee Blackburn.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
2 and address.

3 - - -

4 LEE BLACKBURN
5 presented himself as a public witness, and being
6 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 MR. BLACKBURN: Yes. My name is Lee
9 Blackburn. I live at 148 Pincott Street, it's
10 P-i-n-c-o-t-t Street, Southwest, in Pataskala, Ohio.
11 P-a-t-a-s-k-a-l-a.

12 After careful review of Case No. 18-501
13 as amended, as well as Navigant's "Voice of the
14 Customer," I have -- I am here today to support the
15 above-referenced case. Not only does the Navigant
16 study indicate a strong majority of customers
17 believing that AEP Ohio should make greater use of
18 renewable energy, they -- these customers also are
19 relying on AEP to follow through and achieve those
20 expectations.

21 The development of 900 megawatts of
22 renewable energy in Ohio will reduce the need to
23 import energy from other states, provide jobs in a
24 profoundly-deprived area, promote energy diversity,
25 lower energy costs and, most importantly, reduce

1 carbon emissions. For these and other reasons, I ask
2 the Commission to decide in favor of AEP Ohio's
3 request. Thank you.

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

5 Thank you, Mr. Blackburn.

6 Scott Stevenson.

7 MR. STEVENSON: Good morning, Your Honor.

8 EXAMINER PARROT: Good morning. Please
9 raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
12 and address.

13 - - -

14 SCOTT STEVENSON

15 presented himself as a public witness, and being
16 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MR. STEVENSON: Scott Stevenson. 1188
19 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

20 I'm Scott Stevenson. I'm the Director of
21 Organizing for the International Union of Operating
22 Engineers here in Ohio. We represent over 16,000
23 members and their families, many of whom live in the
24 areas of these projects. On behalf of our
25 membership, I would like to express our wholehearted

1 support for these projects. They'll create thousands
 2 of workhours for those in the community that work on
 3 them, and the ones that don't, will benefit from the
 4 monies that flow back into the communities.

5 We've worked on every type of energy
 6 project in the state, from pipelines, to dams, to
 7 windmills, to solar farms. After these projects are
 8 completed, our members that live in the area
 9 consistently report back that they have a long-term
 10 and positive impact on their communities.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

14 EXAMINER PARROT: Our next witness is
 15 Bradley Holmes.

16 Please raise your right hand.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 19 and address.

20 - - -

21 BRADLEY HOLMES

22 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 23 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MR. HOLMES: Bradley Holmes. 29487 North

1 Village Lane, Solon, Ohio.

2 So I'm testifying on behalf of my support
3 for the project as an Ohio resident and recent
4 college grad. I just got my degree from Bowling
5 Green State University in Environmental Policy and
6 Ethics, and a minor in Sociology, and it helps me
7 understand, you know, with my experience in the
8 classroom and outside of the classroom, the deep
9 relationship between things like energy systems,
10 environmental sustainability, and social health.

11 So, with that, there's two general
12 reasons I want to lend my support for the project
13 being approved. The first is as simple as
14 environmental. More renewables equals less
15 pollution. It can help us pull away from things like
16 coal that's continuing to put pollution in the state;
17 both in our air and water. And it can help update
18 our energy grid; something that we desperately need
19 in Ohio.

20 With that, the social reasons. More
21 renewable energy projects like this will normalize
22 these projects within the brains and the hearts of
23 Ohioans across the state. It can enhance the
24 long-term interest in more projects like this which,
25 as a young person, I have a lot of interest in

1 maintaining more long-term renewable energy projects;
2 without them, we're failing ourselves, to say the
3 least.

4 And another kind of similar reason is a
5 cultural shift. With changing perceptions and with
6 changing feelings about non-renewables versus
7 renewables, bringing more renewables can, you know,
8 inspire more folks to get behind projects like this.
9 So this is a great opportunity for Ohio, and I hope
10 that the Utilities Commission approves the project.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

12 Thank you.

13 David Cruz.

14 MR. GREENE: There are two David Greenes?

15 MR. CRUZ: "Cruz."

16 MR. GREENE: Oh.

17 EXAMINER PARROT: David Cruz, C-r-u-z.

18 Sorry.

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
22 and address.

23 MR. CRUZ: David Cruz. 17677 Hampton
24 Place, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

25 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you. Please

1 proceed.

2 - - -

3 DAVID CRUZ

4 presented himself as a public witness, and being
5 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT TESTIMONY

7 MR. CRUZ: All right. Well, hi. My name
8 is David Cruz, and I'm here to speak in favor of this
9 AEP proposal.

10 As Ohio has moved away from coal, we have
11 seen a major decrease in the amount of carbon dioxide
12 emissions from Ohio's energy sector. Now, this fell
13 by 50-million metric tons from 2005 to 2015, and that
14 is a significant amount. This means that we can have
15 better plant life, and we can also, according to a
16 2008 Stanford study, have longer lives; so that, I
17 believe, is a big deal.

18 However, with this being known in 2017,
19 coal fueled 58 percent of Ohio's net electricity
20 generation. So what are we supposed to do? We
21 clearly need a change and we have to start moving
22 away from coal a lot faster than what we're doing
23 right now.

24 So, thankfully, we have AEP who has
25 decided to step up and do the right thing. I believe

1 that this plan is going to be, you know, a
 2 game-changer for our state as far as this renewable
 3 energy is concerned. And also this plan would help
 4 create 80 direct jobs and over 1,700 indirect jobs
 5 annually. It would just boost the state's gross
 6 domestic product by at least 1 billion a year. And,
 7 therefore, I believe that this plan makes a lot of
 8 sense. And, in all honesty, this would put Ohio
 9 among the elites of the other states that are using
 10 this type of renewable energy. So, thank you.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

12 Thank you.

13 Frida Etchell. And I apologize if I
 14 mispronounce names today.

15 Please raise your right hand.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 18 and address.

19 MS. ETCHELL: Frida Etchell. 1415
 20 Clarence Avenue, Apartment 201, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

22 - - -

23 FRIDA ETCHELL

24 presented herself as a public witness, and being
 25 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

MS. ETCHELL: Good morning. As an Ohio resident and college student, I support AEP's proposal to bring more renewable energy here to our state. I'm used to budgeting out my money very carefully as every dollar makes a difference to me. Though I hear this proposal would increase utility bills by a few cents, I believe this is a small price to pay for ultimately cheaper utility bills down the line. Having more renewable energy in Ohio is something I can get behind. And knowing that students, like me, will be able to save money on utility bills in the future, really makes this worthwhile all the way around. Thank you.

EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

All right. Thank you.

S. Mercy Hamerly.

Please raise your right hand.

(Witness sworn.)

EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name and address.

- - -

S. MERCY HAMERLY

presented herself as a public witness, and being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

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DIRECT TESTIMONY

MS. HAMERLY: My name is Mercy Hamerly, and I live at 3616 Seven Oaks Trail in Richfield, Ohio.

So I'm 19 years old. I've lived in Ohio my whole life. And when I was 12, my dad lived to a house -- or, moved to a house in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. And so, I spent my teen years, very lucky, able to have a trail behind my backyard. And he actually installed solar panels on the garage as well.

I think it's really critical that we utilize clean energy to preserve our national parks because, you know, if we don't, we'll certainly experience backlash within my lifetime and definitely within the lifetimes of, if I choose to have any, children. So, yeah.

EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

Any questions?

Benjamin Cross.

Please raise your right hand.

(Witness sworn.)

MR. CROSS: Thank you, Your Honor.

- - -

1 BENJAMIN J. CROSS

2 presented himself as a public witness, and being
3 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 MR. CROSS: My name is Benjamin Cross. I
6 live at 1791 Huckleberry Drive, Aiken, South
7 Carolina. That's A-i-k-e-n, South Carolina.

8 You recognize that's not from Ohio. I
9 actually work as an independent contractor,
10 supporting Ohio University and its support to what's
11 called the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative
12 which is re-purposing the former Portsmouth DOE
13 Portsmouth site in Piketon, Ohio.

14 One of the visions we have for that site
15 is for it to become an integrated energy system and a
16 closed-loop manufacturing complex because of the
17 tremendous infrastructure that's there, co-located to
18 some of the greatest natural resources in the world,
19 and so our interest is very much you want to
20 integrate energy systems together.

21 Renewable needs to be a part of that
22 integrated system. It can't just all be one energy
23 form. I am a strong promotor of what I call
24 comprehensive, synergistic integration of energy
25 systems. That is where the future needs to be. We

1 have to have them all working together. It's not
2 pitting once against the other. It's unifying them
3 together to work together.

4 Also, I'd like to say you have the
5 integration of diversity. When -- diversity is just
6 like the investments you have; you want to make sure
7 you have a diversified portfolio. When you have gray
8 hair like mine, it becomes very important that you
9 have that diversified portfolio and not have all your
10 eggs in one basket.

11 So solar needs to be a strong part of
12 that piece when, you name it, all the different
13 energy sources need to be a part of that integration
14 piece because we're moving towards -- we need to have
15 sustainable energy systems as we move forward, and
16 they'll be moving more toward renewable systems, but
17 we got to have them all working together. We need
18 "cooperatition" not competition.

19 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

20 Any questions?

21 Robert "McCollisk." It trails off at the
22 end there.

23 MR. MCCOLLISTER: It's okay. It's
24 "McCollister."

25 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right

1 hand.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
4 and address.

5 MR. McCOLLISTER: Robert McCollister.
6 2911 State Route 93, Ironton, Ohio 45638.

7 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

8 - - -

9 ROBERT McCOLLISTER

10 presented himself as a public witness, and being
11 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 DIRECT TESTIMONY

13 MR. McCOLLISTER: I'm here in support of
14 this project because, as Americans and Ohioans, we've
15 reached a historic crossroads. Are we going to
16 continue to power our civilization as we have in the
17 past, with fossil fuels that pollute our atmosphere
18 and threaten our climate, or are we going to make the
19 transition to renewable energy. This transition is
20 underway already around the world; I just want Ohio
21 to lead it.

22 The energy revolution is underway for two
23 simple reasons. First of all, we've come to
24 understand that the fossil fuels that have powered
25 our Industrial Revolution have begun to change our

1 climates in ways that will profoundly affect our
2 human civilization.

3 Just last week, or about a week and a
4 half ago, the Fourth National Climate Assessment told
5 us that climate change is going to bring increased
6 heat and drought, rising seas, more powerful storms,
7 the spread of infectious diseases, and it will
8 dramatically slow our economy.

9 As the Governor of Washington, Jay
10 Inslee, likes to say, "We're the first generation of
11 people to feel the effects of climate change, but the
12 last that can do something to stop it."

13 But the second more hopeful reason is
14 that the advance of technology has provided us with
15 tools to solve the climate crisis and create jobs and
16 economic growth at the same time. Nearly five times
17 as many people now work in the solar industry as work
18 in coal mines.

19 About 2.6 million Americans work in the
20 wind, solar, and energy-efficiency industries.
21 62 percent of new U.S. electrical generating capacity
22 came from wind and solar in 2017.

23 The simple fact is that fossil fuels are
24 commodities whose price will rise and fall with
25 supply and demand, but wind and solar are

1 technologies that will only grow cheaper over time.
2 The transition is underway. Ohio needs to lead the
3 way.

4 But the real reason I'm here is I'm a
5 lifelong resident of southern Ohio. I'm from
6 Ironton, Ohio, at the very southern tip of the state.
7 The Appalachian counties in Ohio have been devastated
8 over the last several decades. When the steel
9 industry collapsed, my hometown died. My dad was a
10 steelworker. And when the Dayton Malleable shut its
11 doors in the late 1970s, 1,200 people lost their
12 jobs. Ironton is now half the size that it once was.

13 The Appalachian counties in Ohio really
14 need a kickstart to their economy, and I think this
15 project is the kind of catalyst that can really
16 create economic growth. It can provide a model, a
17 template. 1,300 jobs during the construction phase,
18 113 permanent jobs, but it can be a model for this
19 kind of renewable energy development all over
20 southern Ohio, which has enormous potential
21 especially for solar power.

22 More and more industries want to be
23 associated with this kind of renewable energy. That
24 can help us attract those kinds of industries as
25 well. For once, I want southern Ohio to be at the

1 made. I think Ohio lags seriously behind in wind
2 energy. Other states, surrounding us, have 10 times
3 as much wind energy as us. They wouldn't be doing
4 this if it wasn't practical. Ohio needs to get
5 involved and needs clean energy. We have terrible
6 air quality. This is one solution for our
7 air-quality problem. Clean energy, long-term
8 reliable energy that is only going to get cheaper.
9 Wind and solar are getting cheaper all the time. A
10 variety of energy sources is important also.

11 AEP is taking the lead in this, and I
12 think it's important, kind of breaking the ice. I
13 think Ohio will get more wind energy, Ohio will get
14 more solar energy, it's only a matter of time, but
15 why should we wait? I think this is a good program
16 and I think you should do it. I think it's important
17 and I think other speakers will say the same thing.

18 So that's basically the issue, are we
19 going to get involved, are we going to be competitive
20 with the other states around us. Thank you.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

22 All right. Thank you.

23 Debbie Phillips.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
2 and address.

3 - - -

4 DEBBIE PHILLIPS
5 presented herself as a public witness, and being
6 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Debbie Phillips. I live
9 at 4240 Baker Road, Albany, Ohio 45710.

10 Good morning, Your Honors, and
11 Commissioner Friedeman. Thank you for the
12 opportunity to testify today in support of AEP's
13 proposal to construct significant renewable energy
14 generation capacity in Ohio.

15 I have the privilege of serving as the
16 CEO of Rural Action, a nonprofit organization engaged
17 in asset-based community development in rural Ohio.
18 Since 1991, we have been working to build a more just
19 economy by developing the region's assets in ways
20 that are environmentally, socially, and economically
21 sustainable. We are a membership-based organization,
22 working in sectors that hold promise for our region,
23 including: sustainable agriculture, sustainable
24 forestry, sustainable energy, zero waste, watershed
25 restoration, environmental education and social

1 enterprise.

2 Our Board of Directors voted unanimously
3 to support this filing because we believe it is
4 directly and deeply connected to efforts toward a
5 just transition in southern Ohio. As the energy
6 economy changes, people who have been employed in the
7 coal-producing region of the country too often have
8 been left behind. The jobs that are anticipated as
9 part of this project are critically important to
10 Ohio, and the fact that the proposal is to locate the
11 projects close to two recently-closed coal-fired
12 power plants creates the potential that some of the
13 affected workers may be able to find jobs.

14 Ohio has long been centrally important to
15 the nation's energy economy. As consumers demand
16 increased access to renewable energy sources, this
17 project will help Ohio stay competitive in a changing
18 sector. In our community, citizens have demonstrated
19 clear support for renewable energy sources, through
20 an electric aggregation plan, and by passing a fee on
21 the local ballot which is designed to deploy solar in
22 a local municipality.

23 Further, the renewable energy sector has
24 demonstrated dramatic job growth, leading to the
25 development of strong, local businesses in our part

1 of Ohio. We know that the potential jobs are there,
2 and a project of this scale has the potential to
3 increase demand in a way that could contribute to the
4 possibility of manufacturing jobs which would be
5 important in a region that lacks access to good jobs.

6 The filing includes customer surveys and
7 cost modeling that demonstrate projected cost savings
8 for consumers. While there will be a cost to
9 consumers, the projected savings outweigh the cost.
10 The estimated net benefit to customers over 20 years
11 is estimated to be \$218 million. This
12 competitively-priced energy can help Ohio remain a
13 leader in the energy sector, create jobs, and help
14 stimulate indirect jobs as well.

15 Ohio, along with other Midwestern states,
16 has seen a steady decline in coal-fired electricity
17 generation. Market forces have driven this trend,
18 and in too many cases there have not been comparable
19 jobs available for displaced workers. The permanent
20 jobs created by this project are critically important
21 for many reasons.

22 We also support renewable energy projects
23 intrinsically. Diversity of energy-generation
24 sources contributes to security and resiliency for
25 our communities, our economy, and our country. It is

1 critically important for us to address our impact on
2 climate overall. Increasingly, damaging storms and
3 changing weather patterns are impacting everyone,
4 from farmers to insurers; and adding significant
5 renewable energy sources to the mix is the right
6 thing to do.

7 As a leader in sustainable community
8 development, I am also concerned about how a lack of
9 opportunity affects individuals, families, and our
10 region as a whole. Beyond the economic impact of job
11 losses, Ohio is suffering disproportionately from the
12 impacts of the opiate epidemic. Access to quality
13 jobs is an essential part of any effort to combat
14 this, along with other dangers of hopelessness and
15 despair. Ohio's focus on treatment and recovery is
16 laudable, but it must be tied to economic-development
17 efforts that contribute to communities that offer
18 work with dignity. These jobs are important to Ohio,
19 and deserve our support.

20 This proposal will be good for Ohio, good
21 for consumers, good for resiliency and dependability
22 of our grid, and good for economic development. It
23 will bring jobs, meet consumer demand, provide more
24 diversity in Ohio's in-state generation capacity,
25 create opportunity, and help Ohio to lead in the

1 energy sector.

2 I encourage you to approve the filing,
3 and I would be happy to answer any questions you may
4 have for me.

5 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

6 Thank you.

7 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

8 EXAMINER PARROT: Charles Lynd.

9 Please raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
12 and address.

13 MR. LYND: Charles Lynd. 5384 Woodville
14 Court, Columbus, Ohio 43230.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed with
16 your testimony.

17 - - -

18 CHARLES LYND

19 presented himself as a public witness, and being
20 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT TESTIMONY

22 MR. LYND: I grow up in Ironton, Ohio, in
23 Lawrence County, in the heart of Appalachia. We were
24 once the center of the nation's pig iron industry.
25 As a child, I played in the slag heaps across the

1 street from my cousin's home, a block from the Solvay
2 Coke processing plant, fed by long trains of West
3 Virginia coal. We were in awe of the industry and
4 proud of its accomplishments.

5 It was, of course, very dirty. I
6 remember vividly that our bathwater always turned
7 gray from soot as I watched it drain from the tub.
8 When I turned the garden hose on the white clapboards
9 of our house, the black soot seeped out endlessly.
10 My aunt and uncle lived across the street from the
11 slag heaps and both died of cancer in their 60s.

12 That was the old world of
13 mid-20th-century America. Fossil fuel industries
14 were king, and computers were about to digitize our
15 money and create a global economy that has steadily
16 eroded our local economies, including the one that
17 once thrived in Ironton, where my grandfather served
18 as President of the Board of Trade.

19 Across Ohio, we lost half our Union-wage
20 manufacturing jobs. Most Ohio cities and towns
21 suffered lower tax revenues. Downtowns were hollowed
22 out and replaced by sprawling chain-store operations
23 and low-wage service-economy jobs. Small farms were
24 lost as commodity agriculture required increased
25 investments and financing of equipment and chemicals

1 to compete in the global economy.

2 But enough doom and gloom. Today, the
3 PUCO has the opportunity to contribute to the
4 reversal of this outdated 20th-century world and
5 endorse AEP Ohio's proposal to invest in clean energy
6 that will drive a new 21st-century economy.

7 I understand there will be resistance
8 from both investors and workers and even some public
9 officials who are wedded to the old world that we
10 built with energy from coal, oil, nuclear, and
11 fracked gas operations.

12 But now we know: The pollution and waste
13 from these systems simply cannot continue due to
14 their role in causing the climate crisis that
15 threatens future generations. As numerous studies
16 have documented, the window for transitioning to
17 clean energy and a new, more localized economy may be
18 as short as 12 years.

19 The PUCO is to be commended for its
20 PowerForward Initiative as it plans to explore all
21 opportunities available to move into this new world
22 of energy and economies that work for all of our
23 communities.

24 The PUCO should enthusiastically support
25 AEP's investments in clean, renewable energy. The

1 proposed developments will actually lower electricity
2 bills while helping to revitalize local economies in
3 our struggling Appalachian communities. Now is the
4 time to position Ohio as a leader in the 21st
5 century. Thank you very much.

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

7 Any questions?

8 Tony Logan.

9 MR. LOGAN: Good morning, Your Honor.

10 EXAMINER PARROT: Good morning. Please
11 raise your right hand.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
14 and address.

15 - - -

16 TONY LOGAN

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being
18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 MR. LOGAN: My name is Tony Logan. I'm
21 at 4740 Hayden Run Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

22 I'm with the firm Renewables Space, LLC,
23 and I'm Immediate Past State Director of the United
24 States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development
25 Agency in Ohio.

1 As someone who is both an industry
2 watcher and an AEP customer, I enthusiastically
3 support AEP's strategic goal of deploying a mix, a
4 balance of electric generation sources across their
5 service territory. Further, AEP's leadership in the
6 adoption of a robust solar renewable energy
7 portfolio, linked to local job creation, will, I
8 believe, put them squarely on the right side of
9 history.

10 And ultimately, this solar initiative
11 will prove to be a benefit to AEP's ratepayers as
12 well, both in terms of stabilizing electric rates and
13 for the social good that it will achieve in the
14 Appalachian region.

15 As a longtime advocate for fortifying the
16 economies of the small towns and rural communities in
17 the Appalachian region, I believe this project
18 represents one of the best opportunities for
19 sustainable growth and job creation that our state
20 has encountered in generations.

21 I hope the Commission will lend their
22 support to this forward-looking proposal. And, heck,
23 I hope the other utilities will soon follow their --
24 your lead. Thank you.

25 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

1 Thank you very much.

2 Mary Counter.

3 Please raise your right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
6 and address.

7 - - -

8 MARY COUNTER

9 presented herself as a public witness, and being
10 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MS. COUNTER: My name is Mary Counter.
13 My address is 1070 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, Ohio
14 43221.

15 AEP is fulfilling commitments made to
16 environmental activists with this solar power plant.
17 Promises made, promises kept. As long as the plan
18 proceeds as promised, I am for this plant.

19 Commitment to environment and reducing dependence on
20 fossil fuels is a win for all of us. Combine that
21 with jobs that do not involve death from toxins over
22 time, such as what happens with coal, and this is a
23 great proposition that we have looked for from AEP.

24 This is fulfillment of an agreement AEP
25 made with the Sierra Club, in 2015, to close or

1 re-purpose power plants, while guaranteeing a profit
 2 on selected coal-fired plants.

3 Every company and citizen must do their
 4 part to make clean energy the only energy. This is a
 5 major step in the right direction. Thank you.

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

7 Thank you.

8 David Palmer.

9 Please raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 12 and address.

13 - - -

14 DAVID PALMER

15 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 16 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MR. PALMER: My name is David Palmer. I
 19 live at 471 East Dunedin Road, that's D-u-n-e-d-i-n,
 20 Columbus, Ohio 43214.

21 Thank you for allowing me and the rest of
 22 us here today to speak in favor of the renewable
 23 energy project. My name is -- there are a lot of
 24 reasons to support the use and nurturing of renewable
 25 energy. I have been told that the proposal may

1 result in increases to the average energy bill on the
2 order of about 28 cents per bill. To me, that is a
3 very small price for an investment that can gain us
4 quite a lot, things like cleaner air and water for
5 ourselves and future Ohioans, that we can preserve
6 the natural beauty of Ohio's farmlands, parks and
7 waters, for ourselves, visitors, tourists, and our
8 children. We can have safer energy, without the
9 threat of costly and damaging spills and pipeline and
10 railway accidents.

11 But, moreover, renewable energy gives
12 Ohio a chance to lead. The proposal under
13 consideration today can bring jobs to Ohio and create
14 energy here in Ohio for Ohioans. Renewable energy is
15 the way forward into the future, and by supporting
16 the proposal to add renewable energy here in our
17 state, we can build a future of opportunity, and keep
18 Ohio clean, beautiful, and prosperous. Thank you.

19 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

20 Any questions?

21 Thank you.

22 Randi Pokladnik. I'm sorry, I'm sure I
23 messed that one up.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
2 and address.

3 - - -

4 RANDI POKLADNIK, PH.D.
5 presented herself as a public witness, and being
6 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 DR. POKLADNIK: My name is Randi
9 Pokladnik. I live at 86200 Tappan Highland Road in
10 Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683.

11 My name is Dr. Randi Pokladnik. I have a
12 Ph.D. in Environmental Studies. I live in
13 Uhrichsville with my husband. We are both AEP
14 customers and we have our own 8.4 kilowatt
15 residential solar system on our garage.

16 I want to express my heartfelt support
17 for this renewable energy project that AEP has
18 proposed, which will help move Ohio away from fossil
19 fuels and towards a clean, green future.

20 Both the 100-megawatt and 300-megawatt
21 solar arrays would be constructed in Highland County,
22 an Appalachian county, and would create jobs with at
23 least 113 of these becoming permanent positions. It
24 would make Ohio a solar leader in the Midwest, with
25 more solar generation than the surrounding five

1 states.

2 Many times, Ohio's regulations have not
3 welcomed renewable energy into the state. There have
4 been several new laws that stymie the development of
5 renewable energy. Especially troublesome is HB 114
6 which would decrease Ohio's Renewable Energy
7 Portfolio by changing the renewable energy target and
8 by dropping the energy efficiency target.

9 The 2014 setback regulations for wind
10 turbines in Ohio are some of the strictest setback
11 laws in the nation. Because of these, developers
12 dropped plans for more than 3,300 megawatts of new
13 wind power for the state. These projects, according
14 to the report by Wind Solar Alliance, would have
15 powered close to a million homes and created 13,000
16 jobs, as well as provided \$660 million in tax
17 payments to local schools and governments.

18 Renewable energy provides a better choice
19 for citizens concerned about jobs, and will also
20 provide endless clean energy for our future. A
21 recent report, cited in an article in "Fortune"
22 magazine, said that "Solar and wind jobs have grown
23 at a rate of about 20 percent annually and are each
24 creating jobs at a rate 12 times faster than that of
25 the rest of the U.S. economy."

1 A 2016 report, from the U.S. Department
2 of Energy, reveals solar energy accounts for the
3 largest proportion of employers in the electric power
4 generation sector. Although solar production
5 accounts for only 2 percent of our nation's
6 electricity, solar energy employed 374,000 people
7 over the 2015-2016 year, making up 43 percent of that
8 sector's workforce, while the traditional oil, gas,
9 and coal fuels employed 187,000 combined, making up
10 just 22 percent of that sector's workforce.

11 A 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report
12 stated that "clean electricity jobs, including wind
13 and solar, outstrip the number of paychecks provided
14 by fossil fuels by at least 5 to 1."

15 The U.S. Bureau of Labor reported that
16 the median annual wage for a wind turbine technician
17 was \$53,000 in 2017, and a solar photovoltaic
18 installer's salary was \$49,000 in that same year.

19 Other jobs that are associated with
20 renewable energy include: component manufacturing,
21 project development, construction and maintenance,
22 financing, engineering, sales and distribution,
23 systems analysis, operations, and energy efficiency
24 such as Energy Star appliances, recycling, and green
25 building.

1 A recent report in "Forbes" magazine
2 stated that 30 million tons of carbon emissions are
3 avoided yearly through the use of solar power. In
4 2014, the use of wind energy kept an estimated
5 139 tons of carbon out of our atmosphere.

6 Certainly, Ohio's citizens are in favor
7 of increasing energy production from renewable
8 sources. AEP polled its customers and found that
9 86 percent of residential customers think it is
10 important to increase the Company's renewable energy
11 generation. A March 2018 poll, by Ohio's Sierra
12 Club, found that 70 percent of Ohioans support going
13 to 100-percent renewable energy by 2030.

14 The AEP projects offer hope and a new
15 direction for our economy just as the government has
16 released its sobering climate assessment report. If
17 significant steps are not taken to rein in global
18 warming, damages will reduce the American economy by
19 as much as 10 percent by the end of the century.

20 I live in Harrison County, an area that
21 has been transformed from a rural, forested region,
22 to one of pipelines, fracking well pads, and
23 injection wells. Local residents must worry about
24 their water wells becoming polluted or their air
25 being toxic. I, for one, would welcome renewable

1 energy; an energy source that would bring jobs and
 2 economic growth to the region, without bringing the
 3 countless externalities associated with fossil fuels

4 At a time when we see the effects of
 5 climate change on a daily basis, a significant part
 6 of the answer to stave off climate change shines on
 7 us and blows across the land. Please support AEP's
 8 renewable projects. Thank you.

9 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

10 Thank you.

11 Nicholas Moore.

12 Please raise your right hand.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 15 and address.

16 - - -

17 NICHOLAS MOORE

18 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 19 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 DIRECT TESTIMONY

21 MR. MOORE: Nicholas Moore. My address
 22 is 34 East Northwood, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

23 So, good morning. First, I want to thank
 24 the Commissioners for hearing our public comments;
 25 Commissioners Trombold, Johnson, Friedeman, Conway,

1 and Haque.

2 My name is Nicholas. I'm a student at
3 The Ohio State University. I will be earning a
4 Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management this
5 upcoming spring. During my college career, I have
6 had tremendous opportunities to work with the Federal
7 Bureau of Land Management, the Ohio Chapter Sierra
8 Club, and the Columbus Recreation and Parks
9 Department. Today, however, I'm speaking just as a
10 citizen of Columbus, who wishes to serve his
11 community for many years to come.

12 I trust that many members of the
13 Commission are already very familiar with why
14 environmentalists are in support of this proposal.
15 Many have already given very good examples. I'm here
16 to speak about why the Commission should support
17 this, even if they do not consider themselves part of
18 this group.

19 Ohioans in the Appalachian region are in
20 dire trouble right now. I've seen it myself. I have
21 family that lives in this region. I used to go there
22 every summer for homecoming, and every year I go
23 there, the towns are just a shade of themselves.

24 The coal jobs are just not going to last
25 forever. Coals plants are closing every year. It's

1 just a dying industry. Even by the most optimistic
2 estimates, those resources are finite.

3 This proposal will alleviate that problem
4 for many people that live in the Appalachian area.
5 It's going to create hundreds of sustainable jobs.
6 The sun is not going anywhere, and the wind is never
7 going to stop blowing. Renewable energy jobs just
8 have much more potential to grow in the long term.
9 This amendment is just simply an investment into the
10 future.

11 Expansion to our state's infrastructure
12 will always be necessary, especially when
13 technologies are changing. Renewable energy is much
14 cheaper to produce after the initial investment, and
15 it is done without adding pollutants into our living
16 space. It is not a liberal or conservative issue.
17 It is an American issue. All of us agree that
18 cheaper energy is better, and that clean air is
19 better than dirty air.

20 To prove this point, I want to bring up a
21 city of 70,000 in the heart of oil and gas country:
22 Georgetown, Texas. It is one of the first cities in
23 the United States to be 100-percent powered by
24 renewable energy. This accomplishment was driven by
25 Republican Mayor Dale Ross. Their transition to

1 renewables was both an environmental and a business
 2 decision. It has driven down energy prices and will
 3 provide their citizens with stable prices for more
 4 than 20 years.

5 This amendment is an opportunity for Ohio
 6 to take steps towards a similar leadership role. I
 7 ask you to join me in its support, and I challenge
 8 you to continue to support renewable energy in the
 9 future. Thank you.

10 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

11 Thank you.

12 Trampas Puckett.

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 16 and address.

17 - - -

18 TRAMPAS PUCKETT

19 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 20 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT TESTIMONY

22 MR. PUCKETT: My name is a Trampas
 23 Puckett. My address is 2909 Euclid Avenue, West
 24 Portsmouth, Ohio.

25 I'm here -- I'm here in support of AEP's

1 proposal for the solar field. I'd also like to thank
2 all of you for taking the time out of your day to
3 hear everybody's testimony, and hopefully this will
4 persuade you guys to move forward with helping AEP
5 move this forward. I'm here on behalf -- I am the
6 Board Chair for the Scioto Community Action
7 Organization of Southern Ohio.

8 As you all have heard from all of the
9 other testimony, I'm going to be brief about it
10 because everything has pretty much been covered by
11 other people up here.

12 The thing is, in southern Ohio, we all
13 need the renewable energy resources that they're
14 willing to put out there for us. We all know that
15 live down in that area, the coal jobs aren't what
16 they used to be; they're no longer available. The
17 steel mills aren't in the area any longer. We
18 actually had two coal-fired power plants close down
19 here within the last year.

20 Renewable energy is the only way to go in
21 the long run. The cost of that, just like has been
22 stated earlier, the technology is increasing, it's
23 getting better, the cost will get cheaper over the
24 long run for the residents of Ohio. And AEP is
25 meeting their commitment of renewable energy.

1 The other part of it is the jobs that it
2 will create in Highland County. Just simply put,
3 building the plant will create a lot of construction
4 jobs in the short term. Long term, it will have
5 people working on those plants, keeping them up,
6 keeping everything moving, keeping the power flowing.

7 The other part of it is, looking a little
8 deeper into this project, the manufacturing side of
9 it, getting the manufacturing facility that will
10 create these solar panels to be used. Those
11 projects, along with other projects throughout the
12 United States, throughout the world, to help create
13 the need for jobs in southern Ohio is very much
14 needed.

15 I know a lot of counties down there rank
16 highest among the state in unemployment, among
17 poverty. And with that being said, getting these
18 projects moving forward, getting the manufacturing
19 put down there somewhere in southern Ohio, will
20 definitely help the economy, for all the people
21 involved in it.

22 And on the same note, it will help all
23 the residents in Ohio have more efficient renewable
24 energy to look forward to. And hopefully we have
25 your support going forward to move AEP's proposal.

1 Thank you.

2 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions for
3 Mr. Puckett?

4 All right. Thank you.

5 Tim Wagner.

6 Please raise your right hand.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
9 and address.

10 - - -

11 TIM WAGNER

12 presented himself as a public witness, and being
13 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 DIRECT TESTIMONY

15 MR. WAGNER: My name is Tim Wagner. I
16 live at 1376 Melrose Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

17 I'm here to speak in support of AEP's
18 proposed big step into renewable energy, and my point
19 of view is improving public health. And over my
20 lifetime, I've seen extreme degradation in our water
21 supply, our air supply, an extreme increase in
22 radiation in our environment, and all of these are
23 contributing to our health crisis and our
24 skyrocketing health costs. Part of the cause of
25 these degradations are the emissions from these power

1 plants, both coal-burning and nuclear power, and
 2 renewable energy is a very health-conscious approach
 3 to replacing these sources of electricity.

4 I applaud AEP for taking this big step,
 5 and I encourage the PUCO to be in support of this
 6 proposal. Thank you.

7 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

8 All right. Thank you.

9 Will Koehler.

10 Please raise your right hand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 13 and address.

14 - - -

15 WILL KOEHLER

16 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 17 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 MR. KOEHLER: Will Koehler. 55 West
 20 Weisheimer Road, W-e-i-s-h-e-i-m-e-r, Columbus, Ohio
 21 43214.

22 Thank you for hearing my testimony. I'm
 23 a power customer, and I want the power I use to come
 24 from clean, renewable sources, because it makes me
 25 feel good. Just like recycling, buying locally, it

1 makes me feel good because I know that my actions are
2 contributing to a sustainable future. I'm a resident
3 of the state, and I want as many people as possible
4 to get their energy from renewable sources because it
5 means my air and water are cleaner.

6 I own an electric car. I don't want to
7 buy a fossil -- I don't want to drive a
8 fossil-fuel-powered car; that's why I bought the
9 electric car. I like my electricity to come from
10 renewable sources; wind and solar. Sometimes I like
11 to say I drive a wind-powered car.

12 And I work in technology, and I recognize
13 that technology companies want their data centers and
14 other facilities to be powered by renewable sources.
15 Amazon, when they located their first three data
16 centers in central Ohio, had to go to Indiana for
17 their wind power. They're looking at expanding to 15
18 additional data centers. They should be able to buy
19 that wind power and solar power locally.

20 And I think other people have made the
21 case very well that renewables are the future. And
22 working in technology, I like cool stuff, I like the
23 future, and I'm excited to see that renewables mean
24 more renewables being available. And I want to thank
25 AEP for making this investment in our future, and I

1 fully support it.

2 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

3 All right. Thank you.

4 Stacie Hutton.

5 MS. HUTTON: Good morning.

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Good morning. Please
7 raise your right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 EXAMINER PARROT: State your name and
10 address, please.

11 MS. HUTTON: Stacie Hutton. My address
12 is 995 Ballater Drive, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

14 - - -

15 STACIE HUTTON

16 presented herself as a public witness, and being
17 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 MS. HUTTON: Well, thank you for this
20 opportunity, and I thank all of you, Your Honors, for
21 your service.

22 I am on the Board of Trustees at the
23 University of Rio Grande in southern Ohio, and I have
24 been an educator for over two decades.

25 When I first heard about this project, I

1 was so excited because I could imagine the degree
2 programs that could evolve, you know, for instance,
3 solar-technician-type degree programs that would be
4 good for not only a traditional college student but
5 also for adult learners. And I also imagine some
6 fantastic opportunities for workforce development.
7 And so, I couldn't help but get excited about this.

8 But I have to be honest with you, I also
9 thought about my mom. I grew up in southern Ohio.
10 And my mom was a single parent. And it was -- it was
11 a time in America when there wasn't a whole lot of
12 jobs. And we didn't have a whole lot of money, so
13 she had a lot of used cars that were unreliable, and
14 sometimes we would make it to our destination and
15 sometimes we wouldn't. But my mom was always the
16 smartest person in the room, and so she invented this
17 coat hanger/clothespin contraption that would somehow
18 start the car. Remember cars that used to be
19 carbureted? The engine was carbureted where you had
20 to pump the gas? Remember that? Anybody? Okay, I'm
21 showing my age here.

22 So mom would have me come up to the
23 driver's seat and she'd say, "Now, Stacie, when I
24 stick this in, I want you to pump the gas." And see,
25 I'm a little kid, I thought it was fun, right, so I'd

1 be pumping the gas. And sometimes that car would
2 come on and we would get there, and sometimes we
3 wouldn't.

4 Now, eventually my mom figured out that
5 this was not the most reliable way to get a job and
6 this was not going to get her to where she needed to
7 be, but an education would. So you know what my mom
8 did, she went to the local career center and she got
9 a six-week certification as a clerk typist, and she
10 got a job at Public Debt in Parkersburg, West
11 Virginia, and things got a lot better for us, and she
12 bought a car with a fuel-injection engine and that
13 thing would start and I loved it.

14 What does my mom have to do with this
15 project? My mom has everything to do with this
16 project. You see, she made the connection between
17 jobs and education, and education and jobs, and
18 because she made that connection, I made that
19 connection. So I watched her get a job -- excuse
20 me -- get an education, get a job, and how that
21 impacted our lives. And so, you know what, I went
22 into the Army, I went to ROTC, and I went to Rio
23 Grande, and I got an education, and here I am.

24 I want others to make that connection,
25 and I am not confident that is happening in the

1 southern Ohio region that I love so much.
 2 Nationwide, 65 percent of kids go on to higher
 3 education. In southern Ohio, that's hovering around
 4 35 percent and that's a shame.

5 With the potential for 4,000 jobs that
 6 this could create, the degree programs it could
 7 spring up, the workforce development that could
 8 happen, I think others will make the connection, that
 9 my mom and I did, between jobs and education.

10 I thank you all for listening and for
 11 your support. Thank you.

12 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

13 Any questions?

14 All right.

15 Brian Damant.

16 MR. DAMANT: Good morning.

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Good morning.

18 MR. DAMANT: My name is Brian Damant.

19 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right
 20 hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 EXAMINER PARROT: All right. Name and
 23 address, please.

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BRIAN DAMANT

presented himself as a public witness, and being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MR. DAMANT: I'm located at 947 Goodale Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

I'm the Chapter Manager of the Central Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Our association holds bargaining rights with five locals of the IBEW. Through this relationship, we've created a business model that both benefits the employer as well as the electrician, and through this relationship, also, the employers fund a highly-qualified, highly-recognized apprenticeship program that does comprehensive training for the electrician through their whole career so it's not just a four-year or five-year program.

Part of this is for the Hecate project in Highland County is supported -- or, that area is supported by Local 575 which we have a relationship with. The Local Union that serves that area, we have probably 25 employers as well as a strong workforce of 300-plus electricians. We are ready to meet the needs of AEP and the customers for this project, and

1 we think the project should be constructed and get
2 the energy on the grid that will service the southern
3 Ohio area. With that, I will answer any questions.

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions from the
5 Company? Anybody else?

6 MR. DAMANT: Thanks.

7 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

8 Alan Stockmeister.

9 MR. STOCKMEISTER: Good morning.

10 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right
11 hand.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
14 and address.

15 MR. STOCKMEISTER: My name is Alan
16 Stockmeister. My address is 213 Redondo Drive in
17 Jackson, Ohio.

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

19 - - -

20 ALAN STOCKMEISTER

21 presented himself as a public witness, and being
22 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 DIRECT TESTIMONY

24 MR. STOCKMEISTER: I've been a lifelong
25 resident of Jackson. Jackson, as you know, is a city

1 in southeastern Ohio; part of the region known as
2 Appalachian Ohio. In fact, over one third of our
3 counties in Ohio are in the Appalachian region; 32
4 counties in all. In development terms and
5 infrastructure terms, Appalachian Ohio is widely
6 recognized and designated as a distressed and
7 high-risk region.

8 I am, in fact, second-generation, and my
9 son, who is behind me in the audience, is
10 third-generation of a family that has been involved
11 in many businesses and business ventures, developing
12 and creating jobs in Appalachian Ohio. For over 72
13 years, we have put our belt on the line to be
14 successful. Successful not only meaning in dollars,
15 but also in creating jobs for our friends, neighbors,
16 and residents of southeastern Ohio.

17 I followed the motto from James A.
18 Rhodes, the former governor, four-term governor from
19 Jackson, whose mission was jobs, jobs, jobs, and who
20 also, like the last one of the previous speakers,
21 another motto was for education, to put a diploma in
22 one hand and a job in the other.

23 As a Member and Trustee of the Foundation
24 for Appalachian Ohio, and as Chair of the
25 Southeastern Ohio Economic Initiative, a group of

1 which is a group of Appalachian CEOs, I'm here today
2 to represent those organizations and support the AEP
3 solar project and to advocate for Appalachia.

4 This solar project is critical to the
5 future of our community. The economic development
6 resulting from this solar project will ensure that
7 the region has access to competitively-priced solar
8 energy and that it will remain at the forefront of
9 America's energy and industry.

10 With October unemployment rates in the
11 other two-thirds of our county -- the counties in the
12 other two-thirds of our state running as low
13 2.7 percent, ours in the Appalachian counties are
14 pegged at 6.5 percent. Five of these counties exceed
15 6 percent. A report from ARC stated that the poverty
16 rate in Appalachian Ohio was 19.2 percent, which is
17 25 percent higher than Ohio's average and 34 percent
18 higher than the U.S. average. Income levels is
19 21 percent less. Philanthropy in our counties is 10
20 times less than in the other counties representing
21 Ohio.

22 Going back to poverty. The best way to
23 measure poverty and to improve poverty is jobs. The
24 more jobs, the less poverty. It's a pretty simple
25 equation. I can go on and on and on, but just think

1 and dream. This project means 150 sustainable
 2 manufacturing jobs in Appalachian Ohio, in addition
 3 to roughly 4,000 jobs created and sustained through
 4 construction phases in the two solar projects. It
 5 means industry can follow, actually be attracted.
 6 Clean renewable energy. Again, more development of
 7 industry means more jobs and less poverty. In our
 8 lovely rural, forested areas, renewable energy. This
 9 is a tremendous project for our Appalachia, a real
 10 winner. It is our future and it is in your hands.
 11 Please, please, please.

12 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

13 Mark Johnson.

14 Please raise your right hand.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 17 and address.

18 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Mark Johnson. I
 19 reside at 330 Red Bud Road, Chillicothe, Ohio.

20 EXAMINER PARROT: Go ahead.

21 - - -

22 MARK JOHNSON

23 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 24 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

1 MR. JOHNSON: I'm the Business Manager
2 for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades.
3 We will represent the construction workforce that
4 could perceivably build this project.

5 I may reside in Chillicothe, Ohio, but I
6 live in Appalachia. My office is based in Ashland,
7 Kentucky. I commute there many, many mornings.
8 There's some mornings our region goes from Logan,
9 Ohio, to Logan, West Virginia, to Hazard, Kentucky,
10 to Hillsborough, Ohio, and everything in between.
11 All 33 counties are in Appalachia.

12 I want to be clear: Our people are
13 suffering. When I first got this job in 2009, we had
14 seven large coal-fired power-generating facilities.
15 Today, I've got three left burning coal. These
16 provided millions and millions of manhours for our
17 people. And not only that, the demise of the coal
18 industry is the demise of our region, and no one has
19 seen it any more than I have.

20 I would challenge any of you to go down
21 to Logan, West Virginia, or to Holden, West Virginia,
22 or Williamson, West Virginia, or Paintsville,
23 Kentucky, or Salyersville, Kentucky, and look those
24 people in the eyes. It's a forgotten land and those
25 people need help, but this project is one of the

1 first bright spots as far as the new economy jobs to
2 ever come to Appalachia, and I stand and
3 wholeheartedly support this project.

4 I represent 20,000 construction workers
5 and 16,000 active members. Across America,
6 construction is booming, there is a need for workers,
7 and we, in our area, don't have that, it's not that
8 way in our region. What we do is export our people.
9 If you want to see a mass exodus every morning, just
10 go north of Chillicothe on Route 23. It's
11 bumper-to-bumper traffic. It's mostly our people
12 coming here to work.

13 I, myself, I'm a native of Portsmouth,
14 Ohio. The reason I have a home in Chillicothe, Ohio
15 is because I spent my working career right here in
16 this town. In Portsmouth, Ohio, I still own a home,
17 but it's not the same as it once was. They have the
18 highest -- lowest median income, the highest opioid
19 addiction rate.

20 Huntington, West Virginia is another
21 town. It's the same thing. It's suffering from the
22 coal industry. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was
23 founded there in Huntington. Just last year, they
24 pulled up -- the CSX pulled up their headquarters
25 there in Huntington. 300 jobs gone. West Virginia

1 and eastern Kentucky is number one in moving railroad
2 tracks.

3 And the opioid addiction is rampant and
4 it's all because of lack of opportunity, and these
5 people need help, and this is just one glimmer of
6 hope in that help.

7 In the manufacturing sector of this
8 project, I would wholeheartedly recommend those go to
9 those counties that have the highest unemployment and
10 the lowest median incomes. And it just breaks my
11 heart when I look at these people in the eyes. We
12 have families of our own, our own members. You know,
13 I would say out of the 16,000 active members, at a
14 minimum, 8,000 are living outside their home in a
15 motel tonight. And I can't say enough about that,
16 about the need down there.

17 This is a Veterans Initiative, and every
18 project that the Building Trades Union has is a
19 Veterans Initiative. We have an organization called
20 the Helmets to Hardhats. For people that aren't
21 aware of the Helmets to Hardhats, it offers careers
22 to honorably-discharged veterans and that's how we're
23 going to put these veterans to work on this project,
24 and it has a website for people that's not aware of.
25 There's no test to get into the building trades

1 unions if you're an honorably-discharged veteran.

2 The test is have a DD-214 in your pocket.

3 And we roll out the red carpet, we offer
4 careers and opportunities for people that's down and
5 out. And yeah, you may not live in your home or get
6 to sleep in your home every night, but we offer
7 careers to people. Once this project is completed,
8 these people will not just be put out to pasture
9 somewhere; they will have careers elsewhere. Big
10 chance they may be driving to Cincinnati or Columbus
11 or wherever the work is at. It seems like corporate
12 America has forgotten about Appalachia. We would
13 welcome the manufacturing sector and I'd definitely
14 roll out the red carpet for this project.

15 And I want to be clear: We are for all
16 means of producing energy. Our people are suffering
17 and we need to work. And I just can't say enough of
18 how much we support American Electric Power. They
19 used to be the biggest customer of our membership.
20 Today, that's no longer true. Probably the biggest
21 customer is Marathon Petroleum at the refinery there
22 in Catlettsburg. But anyway, they have always been a
23 partner to us, and they have worked well to see that
24 this project went to southern Ohio, and I just can't
25 say enough that we support this project. Thank you.

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.
2 Any questions for Mr. Johnson?
3 Okay. John Molinaro.
4 (Witness sworn.)

5 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
6 and address.

7 - - -

8 JOHN MOLINARO
9 presented himself as a public witness, and being
10 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. MOLINARO: John Molinaro. I reside
13 at 87 University Estate Boulevard, in Athens, Ohio
14 45701.

15 I also serve as the President and CEO of
16 Appalachian Partnership, Incorporated. I'm here,
17 today, representing Appalachian Partnership and its
18 subsidiary, Appalachian Partnership for Economic
19 Growth, which is the Jobs Ohio Network Partner for 25
20 of the Appalachian counties in Ohio, including the
21 area where this project would be sited. The two
22 organizations are business-led. They're led by at
23 least 80 percent of the board members must be members
24 who are leaders in the region's business community.

25 And I'm here to talk in support of these

1 filings. There are many reasons we support these
2 filings. I'll highlight just three of the most
3 significant. Our region has lost literally thousands
4 of coal-powered-generation jobs, including a major
5 layoff this year in Adams County immediately to the
6 south of the project area.

7 The jobs that would be created by this
8 project are ideal bridge jobs for those workers.
9 They're directly transferable in terms of the
10 employment skills of many of the workers from those
11 power plants. They're located close enough that the
12 commute is reasonable. And we need bridge jobs. We
13 can do our job of helping that county recover and
14 bringing new jobs, but that takes time. The bridge
15 jobs are absolutely essential to that effort.

16 This proposal also creates 150 permanent
17 manufacturing jobs as part of the commitment of the
18 larger of the two solar providers that would be
19 working with AEP. Those jobs would also -- are also
20 committed for Appalachian Ohio and it would be a very
21 good source of permanent employment and very well
22 within our mission to help ensure that those occur.

23 And finally, this -- our Appalachian
24 Partnership for Economic Growth subsidiary, and I
25 think perhaps others in the Jobs Ohio Network,

1 regularly run into barriers in attracting e-commerce
2 and foreign firms to Ohio because of the lack of
3 renewable-energy resources available and sourced in
4 Ohio to offer those firms. Most of the e-commerce
5 ventures require renewable energy. Many of the
6 foreign direct-investment projects we see require
7 renewable energy and we lose those opportunities when
8 we can't provide that from Ohio generating sources.
9 So we are very strongly in favor of this project.

10 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

11 Thank you.

12 I would just note that Commissioner Tom
13 Johnson has now joined us, as well, up here.

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I just wanted to
15 say to John, thank you for testifying. He's a friend
16 of mine.

17 MR. MOLINARO: Thank you.

18 EXAMINER PARROT: All right. Our next
19 witness is Randy Drewyor.

20 Please raise your right hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
23 and address.

24 - - -

1 RANDY DREWYOR

2 presented himself as a public witness, and being
3 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 MR. DREWYOR: Randy Drewyor. 44 North
6 High Street, Mowrystown, Ohio 45155.

7 I'm the Treasurer and CFO of the Bright
8 Local School District. On behalf of Bright Local, I
9 would like to express my appreciation to the PUCO for
10 the opportunity to participate in this hearing.

11 Bright Local School District is a small
12 district in southern Highland County. We have about
13 700 students spread out over 120 square miles. The
14 real estate valuation in our district consists of
15 less than 1 percent commercial real property and the
16 rest equally split between residential and
17 agriculture. This is not an unusual situation for
18 many school districts in Appalachian Ohio, including
19 the other districts in my area that will be directly
20 impacted by these projects.

21 We work very hard to be good stewards of
22 our taxpayers' money. Due to our limited tax base,
23 every day consists of decisions that involve
24 tradeoffs between vital educational services. For
25 example, to replace an aging bus fleet or replace an

1 aging roof or do we hire needed staff.

2 In our district, 1 mill of levy tax only
3 produces about \$95,000 in revenue. By contrast, on
4 average, in an Ohio school district, 1 mill of levy
5 tax generates about \$400,000. Needless to say, we
6 need to watch every penny and look for every
7 opportunity to save money and generate additional
8 revenue.

9 We view these projects as a way to help
10 future-proof our district, providing a revenue stream
11 that is not tied to agricultural or residential
12 property values.

13 In addition to the district -- the direct
14 impact to the district, the economic development
15 potential is huge in an area where employment
16 opportunities is limited.

17 The presence of these projects is a
18 symbol of hope and progress in an area that has seen
19 very little. There are very many good reasons to
20 support these projects.

21 The bottom line for the Bright Local
22 School District is these projects have the potential
23 to provide financial security without providing
24 additional financial pressure on our local taxpayers
25 and the state budget.

1 Vice-Chair, and its 8,132 LEED-certified
2 professionals. Really, it's three things:

3 No. 1, okay, the U.S. Green Building
4 Council, what we're about is creating green jobs, all
5 right, you're talking about this is going to create
6 jobs, all right, in excess of a thousand jobs
7 overall, both temporary and the 115 manufacturing
8 jobs that would be permanent.

9 No. 2. the cost, it's been analyzed, it
10 will save over \$200 million for the consumers.

11 And 3., this a great kickoff to the
12 PowerForward Initiative. I mean, when you talk about
13 a bell-cow project that everyone is going to be
14 looking at, not just here in Ohio but all over the
15 states, so.

16 Could I -- could I ask your permission?
17 Could I ask the people back here to go and stand up
18 if they support the project?

19 EXAMINER PARROT: I think it's clear that
20 the crowd is in favor of these projects.

21 MR. PAOLILLO: There you go. All right.
22 Thank you.

23 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you. Anything
24 else? I didn't want to cut you off.

25 MR. PAOLILLO: No, that's all right.

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Okay.

2 Any questions?

3 Thank you very much.

4 Patricia Marida.

5 Good morning. Please raise your right
6 hand.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 EXAMINER PARROT: All right. State your
9 name and address, please.

10 MS. MARIDA: Patricia Marida,
11 M-a-r-i-d-a. 1710 Dorsetshire Road,
12 D-o-r-s-e-t-s-h-i-r-e, Road, Columbus, 43229.

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please go ahead. Thank
14 you.

15 - - -

16 PATRICIA MARIDA

17 presented herself as a public witness, and being
18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 MS. MARIDA: Okay. Commissioners, Your
21 Honors, I'm here, I want to thank American Electric
22 Power for their proposal to add 900 megawatts of wind
23 and solar to the grid in Ohio.

24 I volunteer with the antinuclear
25 community at the state, national, and international

1 level. They are working with Canadians for the
2 protection of our Great Lakes from the threats of
3 nuclear accidents.

4 I wish to remind AEP, as well as the
5 PUCO, that affirming this proposal will be a great
6 leap forward in transitioning from unsustainable
7 fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewables and
8 efficiency.

9 Now, Ohio needs a plan for this
10 transition. All of the above, and catch as catch
11 can, are not plans. Ohio cannot arrive at a clean,
12 sustainable energy grid without careful analysis and
13 implementation of the measures needed to accomplish
14 this goal. New solar, especially in communities
15 where jobs are badly needed, will be part of such a
16 plan as well as new wind.

17 A report released on November 23rd this
18 year, by the U.S. Global Change Research Program,
19 found that climate change is affecting the natural
20 environment, agriculture, energy production and use,
21 land and water resources, transportation, and human
22 health and welfare across the United States and its
23 territories.

24 The United Nations Intergovernmental
25 Panel on Climate Change just released its special

1 report on global warming, stating that the world has
2 12 years to turn things around. Limiting temperature
3 increase will require unprecedented changes in
4 society but will have huge benefits.

5 We can and must do this for ourselves and
6 our kids and our grandkids. So in light of these two
7 reports, adding 900 megawatts of wind and solar in
8 Ohio is hardly a radical idea.

9 So, here are some recent headlines:

10 November 19th. "solar and wind now the
11 cheapest power source," says Bloomberg New Energy
12 Finance, and they go on to say "Unsubsidized solar
13 and onshore winds are now the cheapest source of new
14 bulk power in all major economies, except Japan,
15 thanks to falling technology costs."

16 On November 23rd, in Business World, the
17 headline was "Green Jobs Boost: China Leads the Way
18 as Renewable Energy Employment Set to Top 28 Million
19 by 2050." And that article goes on to say, "Last
20 year, global renewable energy employment reached 10.3
21 million." That's across the world. "A 5.3 percent
22 increase over the previous year."

23 On November 26th, in Clean Technica, the
24 headline is "Solar and Storage Minigrids are
25 Electrifying Towns Across the Philippines." And the

1 article goes on to say "These are towns that
2 previously had unreliable electric at best."

3 And on that same day, November 26th, in a
4 report from The Energy Mix, the headline was "Solar,
5 Wind, Storage Become 'Default Choice' for U.S.
6 Utilities." And that article goes on to say that
7 "Trends have become even more pronounced in the last
8 two years and have nearly knocked gas from the
9 California queue entirely."

10 So I'd like to invite the people that are
11 here also to come to the Statehouse hearings on the
12 wind and solar setback rule -- on the wind setback
13 rule. Because it's one of the strictest setbacks,
14 it's really limited wind development in Ohio, and we
15 need to oppose that and get that rule overturned.

16 So, in the light of the serious
17 consequences of inaction, as well as the benefits to
18 Ohioans and society as a whole from cheaper,
19 innovative, far-less-polluting wind and solar, how
20 can the Public Utilities approve -- not approve --
21 excuse me -- how can the Public Utilities Commission
22 not approve this plan. Thank you very much.

23 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

24 Any questions?

25 Okay. Thank you very much.

1 Dan Shirey.

2 Good morning.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
5 and address.

6 - - -

7 DAN SHIREY

8 presented himself as a public witness, and being
9 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MR. SHIREY: My name is Dan Shirey. 2602
12 Tick Ridge Koenig Hill Road, Otway, Ohio 45657.

13 I'm the Business Manager of the
14 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
15 Local Union 575. Our jurisdiction encompasses 10
16 counties in Ohio, including Highland County in which
17 this project would be located.

18 I come before you today to give full
19 support for this project. This project would support
20 approximately 400 living-wage jobs for the membership
21 that I represent alone. This is also a
22 veteran-preferred project that would employ those
23 that have served this country.

24 The part of the state that this project
25 would be located desperately needs the economic

1 impact this project would create. Wouldn't it be
 2 great if southern Ohio could be known for one of the
 3 largest solar arrays east of the Mississippi, rather
 4 than overdose deaths per capita.

5 Again, I urge the Commission to approve
 6 this project. Thank you.

7 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

8 All right. Thank you.

9 Ned Ford.

10 Good morning.

11 MR. FORD: Good morning.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 14 and address.

15 - - -

16 NED FORD

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 MR. FORD: My name is Ned Ford. I live
 21 at 9533 North Cincinnati-Columbus Road, in
 22 Waynesville, Ohio 45068.

23 I have spent the last 35 years promoting
 24 cost-effective clean energy in Ohio. Up until five
 25 years ago that meant that I worked on energy

1 efficiency.

2 Five years ago there was a hearing before
3 the legislature in which one of the wind-industry
4 advocates came forward and said that wind was sold in
5 Ohio, in 2012, for 4.2 cents a kilowatt-hour. Now, I
6 need to put that in context because I don't think
7 everybody knows what we pay for electricity.

8 Wholesale prices are set by auctions that
9 are conducted by the Ohio utilities under a process
10 that's been created over the last five or six years,
11 and there are probably 15 or 20 contracts in effect
12 right now, the cheapest of which is 4.2 cents per
13 kilowatt hour, and the most expensive is 6 cents.
14 I'm afraid I do not know what AEP's contracts are
15 for, but it's in that range.

16 A year ago, I wouldn't have thought that
17 I would be here supporting a solar project in Ohio;
18 wind, yes. There's a utility in Colorado called
19 Xcel. Xcel has, like AEP, about a 14-state service
20 footprint and it is about the same size as AEP as
21 utilities go. They put out a request for proposals
22 for about 2,000 to 2,600 megawatts of power, not
23 specifying what type it was. They received
24 18,000 megawatts of proposed resources, most of which
25 were wind and solar.

1 And the reason I'm bringing this up is
2 because in a brilliant move, unparalleled anywhere
3 else in this country, somebody figured out that you
4 cannot put those prices out before the public so
5 everybody can see them. What they did was they
6 averaged them, and so somehow the public was able to
7 learn that the average price of the wind bid was 1.9
8 cents a kilowatt-hour and the average price of the
9 solar bid was 2.9 cents a kilowatt-hour. Now,
10 Colorado has better wind and solar than Ohio. I
11 don't have any access to prices like that here in
12 Ohio other than the reference to 2012.

13 In this case, you could do something like
14 that. You could figure out some way to give the
15 public some information that they sorely need,
16 because some of the witnesses here, who are in favor
17 of this project, are doubtful about the
18 cost-effectiveness. We have a State agency, putting
19 a handout on the table outside in the hallway,
20 denying the cost-effectiveness of this project.

21 I know for a fact that we have the
22 ability to build an infinite amount of wind and solar
23 in Ohio, and it will reduce the cost of electricity
24 all the way, but I cannot give you public references
25 to those facts. I work in this area, I talk to

1 people, I see things that I'm not able to report to
2 the public; you do too.

3 The most important thing here is that
4 this isn't one project. This is the cutting edge of
5 a revolution in the electric industry unlike anything
6 that has existed in this country or the world for
7 over 60 years. 60 years ago was the last time there
8 was an opportunity to lower rates by building new
9 power plants. We now have three technologies, not
10 just one, that will do that.

11 What you do in this case will affect the
12 State of Ohio. And before the 2014 legislation that
13 slowed down renewable energy in Ohio, Ohio was the
14 second-largest or the largest manufacturer of wind
15 and solar technology in this country. We have been
16 hurt by that legislation. This is the first
17 opportunity, I've seen in a while, to set us back on
18 the right path.

19 There is over a half-trillion dollars,
20 that's a thousand times a half-billion dollars, to be
21 spent on clean energy in this country in the next 20
22 years. Ohio can be, should be, needs to be one of
23 the leading manufacturing states, and this project
24 will help us all understand that.

25 Now, I could talk all day and I won't.

1 The one thing I want to seal this with is I attended
2 a hearing in Preble County. If you want to know
3 where Preble County is, look to Indiana, it's there.

4 They had a Power Siting Board table at
5 the hearing, by the developers there, who were
6 proposing a solar project. The Power Siting Board
7 has received 1,290 megawatts of proposed new
8 utility-scale solar this year. That is seven times
9 the amount of solar that is already existing in Ohio
10 all together. Every single one of those projects is
11 going to lower the price of electricity, and we could
12 be building that much every six months for the next
13 20 years.

14 So I beg the Commission and the Company
15 to do what is right here and make this happen. Thank
16 you.

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions for
18 Mr. Ford?

19 All right. Thank you very much.

20 I believe it's Kaniz "Siddi."

21 MS. SIDDIQUI: "Saddiqui."

22 EXAMINER PARROT: Sorry. Good morning.

23 MS. SIDDIQUI: Good morning.

24 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right
25 hand.

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(Witness sworn.)

EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name.

- - -

KANIZ SIDDIQUI

presented herself as a public witness, and being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MS. SIDDIQUI: My name is Kaniz Siddiqui, and my address is 5043 Catalpa Creek Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

I'm here -- we have heard enough here why solar and wind energy is absolutely an essential part of the energy in this country. I'm here to support AEP for their wonderful projects and in the right location because we know that solar industry or wind industry is going to be one of the biggest industries in this country whether we like it not.

The way we have been dragged, from horse and buggies, to the car industry, we will be, whether we like it not, we will be in the sustainable and renewable energy field because that's where we have a source that's absolutely clean, doesn't affect the heart or atmosphere or the health of the population, so that is the way to go.

But one thing I really appreciate also

1 that AEP, whatever their consideration, they have
 2 decided to do it in an area that needs economy boost
 3 in Ohio, you know, state, and so I full-heartedly
 4 support the AEP project and that's why I'm here.
 5 Thank you.

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

7 Any questions?

8 Kelsey Starr.

9 Please raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 12 and address.

13 - - -

14 KELSEY STARR

15 presented herself as a public witness, and being
 16 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MS. STARR: My name is Kelsey Starr. My
 19 address is 115 North Ogden Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
 20 43204.

21 I come to represent myself, and the
 22 interests of my peers, and my children who are not
 23 old enough yet to advocate for themselves. I'm
 24 honored to be present at this time in history to have
 25 the opportunity to speak my heart on this issue, so

1 thank you.

2 I feel deeply emotionally invested in the
3 future of energy. With advancements in technology
4 and innovation, the degree and risk of pollution to
5 our land, water, and air by conventional methods is
6 no longer necessary or sustainable.

7 I support the initiative of this project.
8 I have an appreciation for the ways the fossil-fuel
9 industry of the past grew our way of life into what
10 it is now with great sacrifice.

11 I grew up in Ohio. My family has been
12 established in the Appalachian region for at least
13 since the early 1600s, according to my genealogical
14 records. My own paternal grandmother, able to relate
15 to that classic country song, "A Coal Miner's
16 Daughter." My own biological great-grandfather died
17 in a coal-mining accident long before I ever got to
18 meet him.

19 We, as a society and a species, are
20 learning. And as countless research continues to
21 show how critical it is that we make a societal
22 paradigm shift, I believe it is our moral obligation
23 to the future generations to move forward with
24 initiatives now which support and create a
25 sustainable future.

1 Fracking, pipelines, coal mines, these
2 are all ways of the past that represent finite
3 resources with dire consequences that our children
4 and grandchildren are left to deal with. I do not
5 need to restate other testimony offered regarding the
6 devastation that pollution and carbon emissions have
7 on our health and our future.

8 It was once said to me that we are the
9 ancestors of the future and what we do now will
10 change the landscape of the future generations. And
11 this is the time for action to dissolve our
12 dependence on energy sources that are poisoning the
13 land which all life depends on, and take actions we
14 can be proud of. Thank you.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

16 All right. Thank you.

17 Steven Heyman.

18 MR. HEYMAN: Hello.

19 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right
20 hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
23 and address.

24 MR. HEYMAN: Steven, S-t-e-v-e-n, Heyman,
25 H-e-y-m-a-n. 341 East Dunedin Road, Columbus, Ohio.

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

2 - - -

3 STEVEN HEYMAN

4 presented himself as a public witness, and being
5 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT TESTIMONY

7 MR. HEYMAN: As the son of an
8 environmental health scientist, who got his Ph.D. in
9 air and water pollution in 1964, and was way ahead of
10 the curve, unfortunately he's not here so he could
11 speak for himself. As a child, we'd go fishing, and
12 we went down to Lake Hope and we were trying to fish
13 and there were no fish. I asked my dad why. He
14 said, well, it's the acid runoff from the coal mines.
15 There's sulfur in coal and the sulfur is converted
16 into sulphuric acid. Obviously that's not very good
17 for anything but rhododendrons and hydrangeas.

18 There are a lot of different compounds
19 that cause problems with the combustion of coal. It
20 causes carbon monoxide which will combine with our
21 blood cells and keep us from collecting any oxygen
22 and then we die. Carbon dioxide, nitric oxide,
23 sulphuric acid, arsenic, mercury, and lead.

24 Arsenic, mercury, and lead end up in the
25 ground, they end up in our waters, they end up in

1 Lake Erie, they end up in all the streams, they end
 2 up in the fish, and none of those things are healthy
 3 for us.

4 I very much approve of AEP's renewable
 5 energy, both solar and wind.

6 I'm a sailor. On my boat, I have both
 7 wind and solar power. One day, there was a flood on
 8 the Portage River, and the owner of the docks
 9 unplugged all the boats, and so I go there to use my
 10 boat and I can't start it. I wasn't allowed to leave
 11 my wind generator running, but it was a really windy
 12 day, about 35 miles an hour. I turned my wind
 13 generator on and, within 2 or 3 minutes, I was able
 14 to start my boat. I love wind energy.

15 Please approve this plan. And I thank
 16 you for your time.

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

18 Any questions?

19 Jerry Duke.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 EXAMINER PARROT: All right. Please
 22 state your name and address.

23 - - -

24 JERRY DUKE

25 presented himself as a public witness, and being

1 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 MR. DUKE: My name is Jerry Duke. I live
4 at 1389 London Drive, in Columbus, 43221.

5 I stand today in favor of the proposal.
6 As an average residential consumer, I am willing to
7 pay the little bit extra that may be required to
8 initiate this project and get it off the ground.

9 As a casual observer can readily see,
10 fossil fuels are not a renewable resource, they are
11 finite, and we need to develop and expand the
12 infrastructure of renewable energy so that the people
13 of Ohio can continue to have cheap, available energy
14 for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

16 All right. Thank you, Mr. Duke.

17 Barbara Kane.

18 Good morning. Please raise your right
19 hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
22 and address.

23 - - -

24 SISTER BARBARA KANE, OP

25 presented herself as a public witness, and being

1 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 SISTER KANE: I am Sister Barbara Kane.
4 I live at 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

5 I am a Dominican Sister of Peace and, as
6 a religious sister, we believe that our world is
7 sacred and a way to experience the divine. The
8 Dominican Sisters of Peace strongly support this
9 project that will provide an energy source that will
10 not damage this sacred space.

11 We believe that alternative energy can
12 attenuate the impact of climate change and reduce the
13 negative impact of disastrous climate events which
14 impact so many people around our nation right now.

15 Our world can heal, but it needs us to
16 take efforts to help it and this project is a step in
17 the right direction. We encourage the PUCO to
18 approve this project, and we encourage all Ohio
19 energy companies to invest in alternative, clean
20 energy sources. Thank you.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you very much.

22 Any questions?

23 Rachael Belz.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
2 and address.

3 - - -

4 RACHAEL BELZ
5 presented herself as a public witness, and being
6 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 MS. BELZ: My name is Rachael Belz. My
9 business address is 2330 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati,
10 Ohio 45206.

11 Good afternoon. I'm Rachael Belz. I'm
12 the Executive Director of Ohio Citizen Action. We
13 have 32,000 members throughout Ohio; nearly a fourth
14 of them reside in the AEP service territory.

15 I'm here today to provide testimony in
16 favor of American Electric Power's application,
17 18-501-EL-FOR, to add renewable generating facilities
18 to their energy portfolio.

19 Ohio Citizen Action has worked on
20 consumer and environmental community issues in Ohio
21 for over four decades. Today, because there are so
22 many speakers who've already testified to the
23 environmental benefits, the jobs benefits, the
24 benefits to the region and many other needs, for the
25 sake of brevity I'm going to keep my comments

1 strictly to the consumer need for these projects. We
2 also reserve the right to add to these comments in
3 the official docket at a later time.

4 Ohio Citizen Action, from the very
5 beginning, founded as Ohio Public Interest Campaign,
6 fought for the consumer and oftentimes against what
7 the largest utilities in the state wanted. That was
8 under regulated markets, deregulated markets, the
9 hybrid of regulation and deregulation we have now.
10 We've had to fight so many utility battles over the
11 years because we felt that what the utilities were
12 often proposing was most unfair often to the most
13 modest energy users.

14 But this proposal for American Electric
15 Power to add renewable generating facilities to their
16 mix is a good deal for their customers, first and
17 foremost. Why? Because with renewable prices
18 falling globally, we should be investing in some of
19 the least expensive and most sustainable technology
20 out there. And pragmatically, we should be vying for
21 investing in it in nearly every way we can think of:
22 utility-scale, rooftop solar, rural co-ops,
23 municipals and cities investing directly in
24 renewables, and on and on and on. While there
25 certainly needs to be smart guidance, the

1 opportunities are more abundant than we've seen in a
2 decade or more.

3 As our organization has worked on issues
4 over the decades, involving Ohio's fleet of old and
5 uneconomic coal and nuclear plants, it's clear to see
6 that we're a lot closer to retiring most of the rest
7 of the fleet than has really been discussed. This
8 means we're a lot closer to needing these projects,
9 and more just like them, than we've been planning.

10 It's pretty obvious that the legislature
11 does not have a realistic grasp of energy policy in
12 Ohio. Will the incoming administration? Who knows?
13 These issues are too big to be cast to the political
14 winds every election cycle.

15 So what does that mean for right now?
16 What does that mean for the proposal AEP has in front
17 of you? It means we ask you to be bold. You need to
18 really listen to the will of the AEP customers here
19 today, and those sending in written comments who
20 couldn't come, as well as interested parties
21 throughout the state, who are finally in agreement
22 with at least one big utility project in Ohio. And
23 not just in agreement. Actually really excited. I
24 can't tell you how many people we've talked with
25 about AEP's proposal, who are thrilled to be able to

1 be for something, instead of always having to fight
2 against things of which they don't agree.

3 We understand that in order to make these
4 investments, customers will likely be paying a small
5 amount more on their energy bill. Many of our
6 members have expressed they would like to see that
7 type of an investment even if that's the case.

8 That being said, we will continue to
9 watch these and all investments that Ohio energy
10 customers are being asked to fund, just like we
11 always have. But this proposal makes good business
12 sense. It's forward-looking and it would bring jobs
13 and benefits to parts of the state that everybody
14 here says needs it more than any other place in the
15 state, and I agree.

16 These proposals are smart investments
17 that would help give certainty to renewable energy
18 developers that Ohio is finally moving into just the
19 21st century. It will enable us to take advantage of
20 the cleanest, cheapest, and the most sustainable
21 energy investments ever proposed in our state, and
22 then hopefully do that over and over and over again.
23 Thank you.

24 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

25 Thank you, Ms. Belz.

1 Michael Wathen.

2 Please raise your right hand.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
5 and address.

6 - - -

7 MICHAEL WATHEN

8 presented himself as a public witness, and being
9 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MR. WATHEN: It's Michael Wathen. 1357
12 Hillcrest Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.

13 I am -- I have rooftop solar, I have net
14 metering, I have an electric car, and I also live
15 downwind from some of the most polluting plants,
16 coal-fired plants in that southwest region of Ohio.
17 I would like to see them gone, I really would, just
18 for the sake of the air.

19 Also, my wife, she -- about every six
20 months she changes energy suppliers because of the
21 way the Ohio law is set up that you can change your
22 electric supplier. And some of the claims that these
23 energy suppliers say, I wonder how -- how accurate it
24 is that they're getting sustainable energy which is
25 what we look for and, if it is sustainable energy,

1 it's probably coming across, not from Ohio, but from
2 Indiana or someplace else like that. So I would like
3 to see this very close to Cincinnati and that's why
4 I'm in favor of the proposal. Thank you.

5 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

6 Thank you.

7 I believe it's maybe Gary Neshan --
8 Neshon.

9 FROM THE AUDIENCE: It's "Guy."

10 EXAMINER PARROT: Address is 4800 . . .
11 Please raise your right hand when you're
12 ready.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
15 and address.

16 MR. NESHON: Guy Neshon. 4800 Balboa
17 Place, Westerville, Ohio.

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please proceed.

19 MR. NESHON: Huber Ridge.

20 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

21 - - -

22 GUY NESHON

23 presented himself as a public witness, and being
24 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

1 MR. NESHON: I've been listening to the
2 entire meeting -- well, there's a lot more left. I'm
3 from --

4 EXAMINER PARROT: I'm sorry to interrupt.
5 Would you mind stepping over to the microphone. I'm
6 seeing folks, at the back, waving that they're not
7 able to hear. Right there to your left.

8 MR. NESHON: I don't have a right eye, so
9 I make mistakes because I don't see most of it.

10 Can you hear me?

11 Good.

12 I've been impressed with this meeting and
13 at least a hundred people very eager to express their
14 interest in what the meeting is about. I have seen
15 you working hard to find more people and more ways to
16 do what you're trying to do. I would like to see
17 more people doing more things like this, and I could
18 see that this state would grow again. This state has
19 spent the last 100 years growing, but there has been
20 a slow going downhill with what's going on in the
21 last 30 years, 40 years, but now people are trying to
22 make it grow again and, if you only want to see, just
23 look out there and you can see this area grow.

24 I was here when I first came here, and
25 you've grown a lot, and I -- I -- I am impressed. I

1 would like to see more happen. Is there anything
 2 that I can say? Well, where did I come from?
 3 England, Belgium, and then America. And in going --
 4 living through three countries -- well, I'm still
 5 living in one -- it's amazing what's happened in Ohio
 6 and will happen in Ohio and that much I have seen is
 7 that in Ohio things will happen. This state was
 8 built to do exactly what it's doing. The history of
 9 Ohio is very long and just keeps growing. Thank you
 10 very much and I'm honored to sign up. Thank you.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

12 Any questions?

13 Thank you very much

14 MR. NESHON: Thank you. Thank you.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Jeff Sunday.

16 Please raise your right hand.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 19 and address.

20 - - -

21 JEFF SUNDAY

22 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 23 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MR. SUNDAY: Jeff Sunday. 5600 Norcross

1 Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

2 That's a bit of a hard act to follow, but
3 I'm going to try.

4 Kudos to you. Thank you for being able
5 to sit here this long, through this whole process.
6 Also, thank you for having us here.

7 Again, my name is Jeff Sunday. I'm an
8 Ohio -- AEP Ohio customer.

9 Well, I already probably have a parking
10 ticket by now, so I'm going to try and keep my -- I
11 was going to keep my comments short, but I already
12 got the ticket so I'm just going to go with it.

13 So, I'm sure it comes as no shock to
14 anyone in this room that these days the things which
15 make national news are teaming with controversy. The
16 one I want to reference today, which I feel is most
17 relevant to this public hearing, is the release of
18 the Fourth National Climate Assessment. Now, I said
19 it was controversial because the news makes money for
20 calling it that, but really it was compiled by more
21 than 1,000 people, including 300 of the field's
22 leading scientists.

23 It's relevant because it predicts the
24 dire consequences of our future, affected by how we
25 power our world, and it concludes that there is "no

1 convincing alternative explanation other than human
2 activities, especially emissions of greenhouse
3 gases." Additionally, 80 to 90 percent of publishing
4 scientists agree with the findings that climate
5 change is anthropogenic.

6 So what makes this relevant? Why is this
7 -- why is a national report relevant to why we are
8 here?

9 Well, we are here today to talk about AEP
10 Ohio's proposal to develop 400 megawatts of solar
11 energy projects in Appalachian Ohio. A proposal for
12 solar and wind renewables which, if you haven't
13 guessed already, I am in favor of, as all Ohioans
14 should be.

15 I'm a resident here in Columbus, I grew
16 up in this area, and have been living in Ohio almost
17 my entire adult life. I am so deeply proud of this
18 state and its contributions to this great nation.

19 We, as Americans, have always been
20 innovators; people looking for answers to problems
21 that affect our society. We are the ones pushing
22 progress and take the bold step forward when no one
23 else will.

24 As Ohioans, I believe we have been at the
25 forefront of this progress. It was an Ohioan who was

1 the first person in space. It was an Ohioan who was
2 the first person to step foot on the moon. It was an
3 Ohioan to first give us electric light. And yes, it
4 was even an Ohioan who was the first and
5 currently-only person to win two Heisman trophies.
6 Sorry; a Buckeye fan.

7 Now it is Ohio's turn to lead again. I
8 can only try to convince -- I could try to convince
9 you with more scientific data, talk numbers until the
10 rest of my time is up, but I don't think that is what
11 will persuade you to approve this proposal.

12 I would venture a guess that many of us
13 here in this room have children to whom we want to
14 leave a better world. I, myself, have a two-year-old
15 daughter. These projects are our way of ensuring
16 that we take that most crucial next step forward,
17 leaving them a world with cleaner water -- cleaner
18 air and water, and a better environment in which to
19 grow up. Thank you for your time.

20 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

21 Thank you, Mr. Sunday.

22 Catherine Hope-Cunningham.

23 Please raise your right hand.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name

1 and address.

2

- - -

3

CATHERINE HOPE-CUNNINGHAM

4

presented herself as a public witness, and being

5

first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6

DIRECT TESTIMONY

7

MS. HOPE-CUNNINGHAM: My name is

8

Catherine Hope-Cunningham. 667 Ridenour Road,

9

Columbus, Ohio 43230.

10

I am sitting in the back of room where

11

it's kind of hard to hear and so I hope it's okay if

12

I use my teacher voice. I was a middle school

13

teacher. I haven't been a teacher since 2005, but,

14

nevertheless, my teacher voice.

15

I want to thank you for the opportunity

16

to speak. I am the owner of a 5.8-kilowatt

17

residential system, and I'm also an ETA-certified

18

solar energy consultant, but it's not me or my

19

residential solar system that I'm here to testify

20

about.

21

I'd like to tell you about a much-loved

22

family member who lives in a state north of Ohio, a

23

state that has 12 percent less average sunlight than

24

Ohio does. He has had a very hard life. In 40

25

years, I've never seen this family member smile.

1 He's had health problems, which then led to
2 employment problems, money problems, layered on with
3 more health problems, and he was caught in a cycle of
4 helplessness.

5 Four months ago, for the first time ever,
6 I saw him smile. He had posted a video of himself
7 working on an installation crew for a megawatt
8 project in New York. I cried when I saw this image.
9 Then I saw another post of another megawatt
10 installation somewhere else in New York. And then
11 another. And then one in Pennsylvania. And then
12 another. When the source of energy is freely
13 available, the projects could be endlessly
14 replicable.

15 What used to be posts of despair and
16 feeling lost, are now replaced with posts of purpose
17 and posts of pride. We've never seen him this happy.
18 After decades of chronic problems, he's now traveling
19 the east coast, working in the outdoors, hauling and
20 installing solar panels. He's gainfully employed,
21 has money, purpose, improved health, and a reason to
22 hope. There are not words to describe this
23 transformation or my gratitude in witnessing it.

24 It's worth noting that when I took my
25 solar certification class, of those 12 people in that

1 class, 3 of them were from southeastern Ohio, they
2 were people who had lost their jobs in the coal
3 industry. The solar industry is providing jobs for
4 unemployed in Ohio. By extension then, more solar
5 projects translates to more jobs for Ohioans.

6 I think we can all agree that we'd like
7 to see Ohio be a leader in energy. Right now, we're
8 falling behind a state that has 12 percent less
9 average sunlight than we do in Ohio.

10 I support a path forward that includes
11 renewable energy as a much greater portion of Ohio's
12 energy portfolio, making Ohio more competitive in the
13 energy industry. Thank you.

14 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

15 Thank you.

16 Michael Campbell.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
19 and address.

20 - - -

21 MICHAEL CAMPBELL

22 presented himself as a public witness, and being
23 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Michael Campbell. 64 West

1 Rich Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

2 I'm here to advocate for the AEP
3 proposal. I think it takes us in the right
4 direction.

5 A little bit of a personal note on my
6 end. I am an Ohioan by marriage, not by birth. My
7 wife's family is from Alliance, Ohio. What I've
8 seen, since she and I have been married for a number
9 of years, is her family has needed money in the past
10 and they've signed lease agreements to pipelines that
11 have gone through their land of which have leaked
12 once.

13 Her sister, who also lives in Massillon,
14 Ohio, can't drink her water; so they rely on bottled
15 water full-time. And I'm not going to debate the
16 merits of why they can't drink their water, but they
17 have a lot of fracking. They have an active mine
18 right across from their house.

19 And it only takes enough of this evidence
20 before I hope you, as Commissioners of this great
21 state, start to think of new ways to change the state
22 for the better. I have a lot of stats that have
23 already been, you know, issued by folks in this room
24 earlier, so I won't echo those same claims of job
25 growth, revenue, et cetera, health, yadda yadda, but

1 I really want us to move forward in leading states by
2 example, rather than following and being okay with
3 the past and with what we currently have in place
4 today.

5 Ohio takes about 53 percent, I believe,
6 still of coal for their net electricity generation in
7 the state. About 3 percent of that is renewables.
8 If you look at neighboring states like Michigan,
9 where they've gone from above 50 percent in coal down
10 to 37 percent, and upped their renewables closer to
11 10 percent, with more aggressive goals than we have
12 by this plan by this Commission, they're going to far
13 exceed our percentages from net electricity
14 generation by renewables by 2020 as our goal here by
15 2027.

16 I'm asking for this Commission to
17 consider more aggressive timelines to improve those
18 numbers. By all the benefits you hear from this
19 group before you today and everyone who is for this,
20 to try to do better for this state and make us a
21 leader not a laggard in this area.

22 With that, again, I reiterate I approve
23 of AEP's proposal, and I thank you all for your time.

24 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

25 Any questions?

1 All right. Thank you very much.

2 Jim Hartman.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
5 and address.

6 - - -

7 JIM HARTMAN

8 presented himself as a public witness, and being
9 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MR. HARTMAN: It's Jim Hartman. 196
12 South Grant Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

13 The very first speaker who came up here,
14 mentioned the low cost of the proposed Green Power
15 Tariff. And I wanted to tell the Commission that I
16 am getting my electricity from the City of Columbus.
17 You know, they have their own power system, I believe
18 they get their power from AEP, and they offered us a
19 chance to sign up for a renewable energy surcharge on
20 our electric bills. I jumped at the chance. It was
21 sort of an opportunity to reduce my moral hazard
22 associated with keeping my downtown condo warm.

23 And I wanted to point out that the cost
24 of this, you know, this sort of green add-on is
25 insignificant. It's -- I think it's like a dollar.

1 So, you know, all of -- all of the testimony I'm
 2 hearing, sounds good to me, and I support the
 3 proposal. Thanks.

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

5 Any questions?

6 Thank you very much.

7 Darin Hadiger -- Hadinger.

8 Sorry.

9 MR. HADINGER: It's okay.

10 EXAMINER PARROT: I'm not the best at
 11 translating handwriting.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 14 and address.

15 - - -

16 DARIN HADINGER

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 MR. HADINGER: Darin Hadinger. 2443
 21 Edgevale Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

22 Thank you, Commissioners.

23 I have a unique perspective; perhaps
 24 maybe more than most people in this room. I've
 25 worked on all sides of this. I've worked on over

1 5-billion worth of pollution controls for AEP. I
2 designed, I engineered, I built, I managed, I started
3 them up. In doing that for AEP, I can tell you the
4 cost. I cleaned coal. The inside of my hardhat was
5 pitch black. Imagine what my lungs look like. I
6 remember one day, being on top of a platform after
7 19-1/2 hours in, and seeing coal just dropping and
8 not stopping. I stopped dead in my tracks, going
9 "What the hell am I doing? How is this helping my
10 daughter moving forward?"

11 This is not to cut on AEP. AEP is a
12 great company, and I'm in full support of them.
13 They're an active veteran supportive company. I just
14 think it's time to make this transition. If the Coal
15 Museum in Kentucky can put solar on there, I think
16 that sends a very clear message.

17 While, certainly, there's not just one
18 form of energy that's going to serve us. I'd like to
19 quote something fun. Vice Admiral Denny McGinn who
20 said, you know, there's not a silver bullet, but
21 there's a lot of silver buckshot. This is part of
22 the silver buckshot approach.

23 This allowed me to transition into the
24 clean energy economy for a very personal and, you
25 know, professional reasons, but I've also had the

1 advantage of teaching after that. I've taught in
2 Appalachia. I've had people on meth, I've had people
3 on pain pills, I've had veterans, I've had foster
4 kids. You know what I taught them? Renewable
5 energy. Some people refer to it as alternative
6 energy. I'll just call it renewable, sustainable
7 building.

8 I've watched those people when they come
9 out of there, some who had spent jail-time, some who
10 had the sweats in my class, come out of there working
11 in the field as business owners, project managers,
12 and developers within three to six months and their
13 lives turn around.

14 So, do I know it can happen? Absolutely.

15 Is it needed down there? Absolutely.

16 I spent a lot of time in Appalachia at
17 all those plants, some of them which are being closed
18 down now. The time to put solar is now.

19 I have a company now, Pivot Solar. We
20 have a program, Solar by Soldiers, and we have one,
21 Second Chance Solar. The latter focuses on
22 incarcerated and restored citizens. With Solar by
23 Soldiers we'll be working, if this project moves
24 ahead, along with IBEW and Helmets to Hardhats, in
25 training and employing veterans. I have five other

1 states that I'm putting them in right now; I should
2 be putting them in Ohio.

3 So I encourage you to consider this so we
4 can keep this work base here and we can keep it
5 without the, you know, hills and valleys that we've
6 had, and let's make it sustainable. Thank you.

7 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

8 All right. Thank you.

9 Kathy McGlone.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
12 and address.

13 - - -

14 KATHY McGLONE

15 presented herself as a public witness, and being
16 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MS. McGLONE: Kathy McGlone. 4754
19 Widner, W-i-d-n-e-r, Court, Columbus, Ohio 43220.

20 I'm here for the Keep Wayne Wild and the
21 Columbus Bill of Rights. AEP should be commended on
22 their solar wind project and it should be approved by
23 the PUCO. With the detrimental affects of global
24 warming, we need clean energy more now than ever.

25 This project will create 3,900

1 DIRECT TESTIMONY

2 MR. STEERE: My name is Michael Steere.
3 I live at 1671 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights,
4 44118.

5 Thanks for your time. Thanks, everyone,
6 for being here.

7 I am not from Ohio. I came here to study
8 engineering at Case Western Reserve University, and
9 I'd like to remain here, but Ohio needs to change for
10 that to happen.

11 Not only is this project the first
12 necessary step in adapting to the challenges for
13 tomorrow, but Ohio will see direct benefits in the
14 process of this. So, needless to say, the threat of
15 climate change is looming and the impacts are
16 imminent.

17 The U.S., as many people know, is the
18 second-largest emitter of fossil fuels; second only
19 to China. And according to the EPA, Ohio is the
20 fifth-largest emitter in the country; releasing 229
21 million metric tons in 2014. So approval of this one
22 project, 900 megawatts, would reduce that number,
23 that emissions number, by 5 to 10 million tons, by
24 replacing coal, which is our state's primary energy
25 source right now.

1 Some people have brought up the National
2 Climate Assessment, released a week ago by the White
3 House, which shows that in Cleveland, where I live,
4 we'll see an increase in summer temperatures of
5 5.3 degrees by 2050. That, alone, will drive up
6 demand for electricity as we cool our homes and the
7 source of that energy should not exacerbate the
8 situation; so we need to ensure it comes from
9 renewable sources.

10 The best part about this shift in energy
11 generation is that renewable energy development
12 relies less on tech and more on labor and
13 manufacturing which offers us more jobs in the
14 present while protecting the future.

15 Compared to the coal industry which the
16 Census Bureau's Business Patterns Program cited as
17 providing only 76,000 jobs nationwide in 2014,
18 renewables vastly outperformed.

19 The Federal Government's Office of Energy
20 Efficiency and Renewable Energy reports 100,000 jobs
21 provided by the wind industry alone, and 260,000
22 provided by solar.

23 Beyond that, the Bureau of Labor
24 Statistics reports that the fastest-growing
25 occupation in the country is, in fact, wind power

1 technician, with projected growth of 108 percent by
 2 2024; just six years from now.

3 Here, in Ohio, we have huge potential for
 4 these developments and a great demand for the jobs,
 5 as many people have mentioned. And people all over
 6 the country, and even the world, see Ohio as a sample
 7 and cross-section of the United States; so our
 8 actions here have even greater implications than
 9 their direct effects. There's no reason we should
 10 not become a leader in the industry, and approving
 11 this project will be a major move toward a better
 12 future for Ohio and beyond. Thank you.

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

14 Any questions?

15 All right. Thank you.

16 Anastazia Vanisko.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 19 and address.

20 - - -

21 ANASTAZIA VANISKO

22 presented herself as a public witness, and being
 23 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MS. VANISKO: I'm Anastazia Vanisko,

1 A-n-a-s-t-a-z-i-a. I live at 2666 East 128th Street,
2 No. 3, Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

3 Hello, Commissioners. Thank you so much
4 for your time.

5 So, I'm here, continuing with the current
6 trend in support of AEP's proposal. I believe Ohio
7 should be moving toward using more renewable energy
8 sources as a state, especially as we see our
9 neighboring states surpass us in their own renewable
10 energy development.

11 This proposal if approved -- and again, I
12 think it should be -- would set a precedent in the
13 state that I want my own electricity provider,
14 FirstEnergy, to follow and to take note of and then
15 use it as encouragement to build renewable energy
16 facilities of their own.

17 And as a young professional, something on
18 my mind recently is if Ohio is somewhere I want to
19 stay in the long-term, and whether or not my energy
20 comes from renewable sources is a factor in that
21 decision, and that's important to me because there's
22 a lack of jobs in the coal industry as well as the
23 evidence that continuing to use coal hurts both our
24 health and our wallets.

25 And on the note of our wallets, I did

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SARAH SAVRON

presented herself as a public witness, and being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MS. SAVRON: Sarah Savron. 2565 Bethany Lane, Hinckley, Ohio 44233.

So, I'm from a small town in Medina County, and I came out to testify today because, frankly, I'm concerned about the people and the state of the country in general and that's because of climate change. Current trend, I'm supporting renewable energy coming to Ohio.

And also, as we heard earlier, the Fourth Climate Assessment -- National Climate Assessment came out a couple of weeks ago by the Trump Administration, and that took 13 federal agencies and thousands of people, scientists, coming together to make that, and it covered many different concerns and short-term and long-term effects of climate change.

So, Donald Trump says he doesn't believe the report that his own administration has put out, and I fear that really we're not -- the people in this room particularly are not being represented well in this democracy and that's why we're all here.

So, there's been a lot of coverage of

1 economic, ecological, and health-related issues with
2 climate change. I want to remind you guys also about
3 and draw your attention to the changes to energy
4 infrastructure.

5 A quote in the article said that there
6 will be more frequent severe heat waves and other
7 extreme effects in many parts of the United States
8 and it will -- those will be expected to increase
9 stresses on the energy system, amplifying the risk of
10 more frequent and longer-lasting power outages and
11 fuel shortages. And current infrastructure is
12 typically designed for historical climate conditions,
13 therefore, they don't -- the development patterns of
14 them don't typically account for a changing climate
15 which is happening; so they're extremely vulnerable
16 to those future risks from weather extremes and
17 climate change.

18 Plus, the report goes on that the
19 infrastructure's age, and deterioration, make failure
20 and interrupted service from extreme weather even
21 more likely. And it's expected -- climate change is
22 expected to increase the cost of maintaining,
23 repairing, and replacing infrastructure.

24 So I paraphrased that and condensed it,
25 so I'll leave the quote for you.

1 But going along with that, Ohio's coal
2 and nuclear plants particularly were built several,
3 several decades ago, and are already costing us more,
4 so there's just no way they're going to last through
5 this.

6 So I want to say that people my age, I'm
7 21, Millennials in general suffer a lot of issues
8 with depression. Suicide rates are very high with
9 us. And I can tell you that myself, and a lot of
10 people I know, stay up at night, wondering why we
11 were thrown into this situation. And I just hope
12 that when you guys make decisions like this that
13 affect all of us and future generations, that you
14 think about how the next 50 years will look.

15 And I hope you recognize that this is a
16 really big chance for you guys to prove that the
17 government is here to help us and represent us, and
18 that your decision today will possibly help the next
19 generation deal with the biggest climate shift in all
20 of human history.

21 Really, the time was a long time ago.
22 Yesterday. But as others have been saying, let this
23 be the catalyst for something bigger.

24 And I'll leave behind the report for you
25 guys because there's so many relevant details in it,

1 and I hope you look at that, I couldn't specify
 2 because there's too many people here. And that's it.
 3 Thank you.

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

5 MS. SAVRON: Are we putting things here?

6 EXAMINER PARROT: Yeah, you can leave it.
 7 There's a stack right there. Thank you.

8 I believe it's Laurel "Hobson."

9 Please raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 12 and address.

13 - - -

14 LAUREL HOBDEN

15 presented herself as a public witness, and being
 16 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MS. HOBDEN: Laurel Hobden. 946 Joos
 19 Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

20 Last year, Ohio released over
 21 133-million pounds of air pollutants, ranking us
 22 No. 1 in all of the states. Cincinnati and Cleveland
 23 are ranked amongst the 25 most-polluted cities in the
 24 U.S. The Natural Resources Defense Council ranked
 25 Ohio 2nd out of the 20 states highest in toxic

1 emissions from the U.S. electric-production sector.
2 So it's not surprising that Ohio ranked 4th in the
3 nation for states with the highest level of health
4 issues related to pollution. A study by the American
5 Thoracic Society also determined that more than 1,500
6 deaths a year, in Ohio, are due to air pollution.
7 Fossil-fuel use is killing us. We can do better.

8 Solar generates jobs and clean energy.
9 In 2017, solar-energy use employed 373,000 workers,
10 creating 2 percent of the energy used last year in
11 the United States. Whereas, in 2017, natural-gas use
12 employed 362,000 workers in the U.S., creating
13 43 percent of the energy used. And coal energy
14 production employed 163 and created 25 percent of the
15 energy used.

16 The United States Energy Information
17 Administration has stated fossil fuel production is
18 declining 25 percent per year; whereas, employment in
19 the renewable-energy sector is estimated to grow by
20 25 percent per year.

21 Solar projection -- solar production is
22 job intensive, with jobs that can't be outsourced.
23 Solar is a growing industry that should be supported.

24 Our national climate scientists have
25 stated that global temperature rise must be halted in

1 the next 12 years if we want to have a habitable
2 planet.

3 A 2018 Sierra Club poll found that 70
4 percent of Ohioans support Ohio going to 100-percent
5 renewable energy by 2030.

6 The question is simple: Do we want
7 growth and health, or death and decline?

8 Let's choose renewable energy, build the
9 solar projects, and make this just the beginning.
10 Help Ohio become a Midwest leader in renewable energy
11 production. Thank you.

12 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

13 Thank you.

14 Cathy Cowan Becker.

15 Please raise your right hand.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
18 and address.

19 - - -

20 CATHY COWAN BECKER

21 presented herself as a public witness, and being
22 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 DIRECT TESTIMONY

24 MS. COWAN BECKER: Cathy Cowan Becker.

25 My address is 4275 White Spruce Lane, Grove City,

1 Ohio 43123.

2 So, thank you, all, for giving me the
3 opportunity to testify today and to listen to this
4 long line of people wishing to testify on this
5 proposal.

6 I am a volunteer with the Ready for 100
7 Columbus campaign. The Ready for 100 campaign is a
8 campaign to ask the City of Columbus to commit to
9 transitioning to 100-percent renewable energy by 2050
10 or before.

11 Across the country, 99 cities, including
12 Cleveland, along with seven counties and two states,
13 have committed to getting 100 percent of their energy
14 from renewables by 2050 or before. Six cities are
15 already there. Mayors in more than 200 additional
16 cities, including Cincinnati, have pledged support
17 for a community-wide transition to 100-percent
18 renewable energy.

19 I am here to strongly support AEP's
20 proposal to build 400 megawatts of solar energy in
21 Highland County. According to AEP's filings, the two
22 Appalachian solar projects will create 3,900 jobs and
23 at least 113 permanent jobs. This will provide
24 opportunity for an area of Ohio that needs it most.

25 When completed, the 300-megawatt Highland

1 solar project and the 100-megawatt Willowbrook solar
2 project will be the two largest solar-generation
3 facilities in Ohio history. These projects will make
4 Ohio a solar leader in the Midwest, with more solar
5 generation than any of our surrounding five states.

6 These clean-energy projects are what AEP
7 customers want. AEP polled its own customers and
8 found 86 percent of residential customers think it is
9 important for the company to increase its renewable
10 energy production. This is also consistent with a
11 March 2018 poll by the Sierra Club that found that
12 70 percent of Ohioans support transitioning to
13 100-percent renewable energy by 2030.

14 According to the Bureau of Labor
15 Statistics, the fastest-growing jobs in the country
16 are wind turbine service technician and solar panel
17 installer. Why would we not want these jobs in Ohio?

18 If AEP can build facilities to produce
19 400 megawatts of solar energy and 500 megawatts of
20 wind energy in Ohio, Ready for 100 will have a much
21 easier time persuading the City of Columbus and other
22 cities to commit to transitioning to 100-percent
23 renewable energy.

24 This would provide a lot more direct
25 renewable energy for these cities to use, as opposed

1 to buying renewable energy certificates, which other
2 speakers have spoken to, that come from out of state,
3 often a long way away. This would build our industry
4 for solar energy right here in Ohio and to be used
5 directly here in Ohio. It would be an investment in
6 our state that a lot of cities are really ready to
7 start using.

8 It is crucial that cities across the
9 country make the commitment to 100-percent renewable
10 energy. Currently, we have no federal leadership in
11 addressing climate change, but, even if we did,
12 cities would still have to do their part because
13 70 percent of carbon emissions come from urban areas.

14 Science tells us we are running out of
15 time to take the action necessary to deal with
16 climate change. Already, carbon emissions have
17 raised global temperatures by over 1-degree Celsius.
18 In order to hold global temperature rise to
19 1.5-degrees Celsius, which is what the most recent
20 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
21 Change calls for, we have to get to zero emissions by
22 2050 or before.

23 It's going to take people using all
24 tactics in all areas of the world to deal with global
25 climate change, but we, in Ohio, must do our part.

1 Our industrial state has lagged in addressing carbon
 2 emissions and our state legislature has tried to get
 3 what little -- has tried to gut what little we have
 4 done.

5 The Appalachian solar facilities,
 6 proposed by AEP, would turn Ohio from a laggard to a
 7 leader on climate, while creating jobs and
 8 strengthening our economy. There's no downside.
 9 Let's allow AEP, a forward-looking utility, to help
 10 lead Ohio into the 21st century.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

12 Rubin Craft. Sorry. "Robin."

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 16 and address.

17 - - -

18 ROBIN CRAFT

19 presented herself as a public witness, and being
 20 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT TESTIMONY

22 MS. CRAFT: Robin Craft. 8678 U.S.
 23 Highway 42 North, Plain City, Ohio 43064.

24 I'm here, like so many others, in support
 25 of this proposal. I am an AEP customer. I'm a small

1 business owner. I'm also an electric-car owner. I'm
2 a healthcare professional, namely a pharmacist, and
3 I'm someone who is trying to do small things daily to
4 ebb the looming threat of global climate change. One
5 of my small things today include showing up to this
6 hearing, to express my support for AEP's investment
7 in renewable energy and to state that I, as a
8 consumer, want clean-energy projects in Ohio.

9 All of the latest reports, as many people
10 have mentioned, show that we must mobilize if we hope
11 to prevent portions of our earth from becoming
12 uninhabitable, if we hope to stop more and more
13 natural disasters and the loss of untold lives, if we
14 hope to slow the extinction of species that may well
15 include us; ironically, the ones who are doing all
16 the damage.

17 While the scientific reports may seem
18 grim, I cannot lose hope because I love my home.
19 AEP's investment in renewable energy also gives me
20 hope. And I applaud AEP's efforts to move forward to
21 make the Buckeye State green, clean, and healthy. We
22 need to support this project and more projects that
23 move us toward renewable energy, and I would ask the
24 Commission to please support this project. Thank
25 you.

1 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.
2 Any questions?
3 Laura Dailey.
4 Chelsey Miller.
5 Chelsey Miller.
6 Carolyn Harding.
7 I'm sorry, is that . . .
8 Chelsey?
9 MS. MILLER: (Nods head.)
10 EXAMINER PARROT: Okay. Please raise
11 your right hand.
12 (Witness sworn.)
13 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
14 and address.
15 - - -
16 CHELSEY MILLER
17 presented herself as a public witness, and being
18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:
19 DIRECT TESTIMONY
20 MS. MILLER: My name is Chelsey Miller.
21 I live at 5640 Reservoir Road, in Lima, Ohio 45801.
22 I had a longer testimony but, after
23 listening to everybody, I've kind of changed it.
24 I'm going to start out by saying that
25 climate change is scary. I don't know about you, but

1 I lay awake a lot at night with anxiety; anxiety
2 about our future as humankind. Every time it snows,
3 I wonder if it's going to be the last time I see it.
4 That might be farfetched, but it's really not,
5 because it's coming.

6 I live across the street from Procter &
7 Gamble. Did you know that they strive to be
8 environmentally-friendly? They receive 100-percent
9 of their energy from a wind farm in Texas.

10 I have two kids and I am currently a
11 college student. In fact, I have a final today at
12 3:30. I found it imperative to be here, to lend my
13 voice in honor of AEP's proposal.

14 It would be a letdown to the impoverished
15 area of Appalachia, it would be a letdown to
16 ourselves, our families, our future, if we cannot let
17 this opportunity -- we cannot let this opportunity
18 slip through our fingers. Now is the time to act.
19 Thank you for letting me be a part of this place in
20 history.

21 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

22 Thank you.

23 Carolyn Harding.

24 MS. HARDING: Hi.

25 EXAMINER PARROT: Please raise your right

1 hand.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
4 and address.

5 - - -

6 CAROLYN HARDING

7 presented herself as a public witness, and being
8 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 MS. HARDING: Carolyn Harding. 156 North
11 Roosevelt Avenue, Bexley, Ohio 43209.

12 Thank you, Commissioners, for hearing us.

13 I'm Carolyn Harding. I'm a Columbus-area
14 citizen activist and organizer with Radioactive Waste
15 Alert, and the local ballot initiative, the Columbus
16 Community Bill of Rights, to keep fracking and
17 frack-toxic radioactive waste out of Columbus water
18 and out of our water supply, and I'm here to support
19 the AEP renewable energy projects.

20 Ohio has put far too much money, time,
21 and power into the oil and gas industry. And in this
22 arena, Ohio is on the wrong side of history. Coal
23 and natural gas fracking energy has huge toxic and
24 radioactive waste streams that harm our kids, our
25 families, our communities, our livestock, our water

1 supplies, and all natural communities.

2 The people -- you good people -- the
 3 people of Ohio want clean and safe water, air, soil,
 4 and jobs. The people of Ohio want the right to
 5 protect our communities. We want to have a voice
 6 regarding all facilities that impact our communities.

7 With local self-governance in mind, the
 8 AEP renewable and sustainable energy project will be
 9 a sea change for a thriving, smart, 21st-century
 10 Ohio.

11 Public Utilities Commissioners, the three
 12 out of the five that are here, listen to the people,
 13 take leadership, and support the AEP renewable energy
 14 projects. Thank you.

15 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

16 Thank you.

17 MS. HARDING: Thank you.

18 EXAMINER PARROT: John McDermott.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
 21 and address.

22 - - -

23 JOHN McDERMOTT

24 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 25 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 DIRECT TESTIMONY

2 MR. McDERMOTT: John McDermott. 910 West
3 Rich Street, Columbus, Ohio 43222.

4 I want to thank everybody, I'm probably
5 one of the last testimonies, for sticking around, so
6 I appreciate that.

7 So I'm an apprentice electrician in Local
8 IBEW 683. I'm just working right down the street at
9 Nationwide, so I was glad this meeting was so
10 convenient.

11 But anyway, I just wanted to say I'm very
12 supportive of renewable energy projects, but I'm
13 extremely critical of their implementation, and I
14 invite everybody in the audience and all ratepayers
15 to do the same, because all that money in savings,
16 it's unclear to me how that's actually going to be
17 spent. Especially the \$607 million in tax savings
18 that AEP received, and initially they asked to send
19 that money to their investors. The PUCO said no. So
20 they got to give it back to us. That's just one
21 example of being critical of these types of savings.

22 And so, with that said, I wanted to
23 mention that as a Union member, maybe it's kind of
24 controversial to say something like this, but Unions
25 are good for living wages. Also, part of our wages

1 goes to training and schooling to make sure that we
2 have great electricians in the future to keep doing
3 this type of work.

4 In order to reduce projects -- the
5 fastest part of how, you know, if you talk about soft
6 costs like permitting, and hard costs like materials,
7 the fastest way to reduce the cost on a utility, on a
8 solar or renewable project, is to make sure you have
9 plenty of labor and you get the job done on time
10 because you can deliver the power faster and you can
11 adhere to the contract. So making sure that we have
12 enough great electricians and construction people
13 will drive down these costs in the future. And by
14 supporting Unions and living-wage jobs, you know, you
15 can afford that training and afford to live in that
16 industry.

17 And so, my big questions are about
18 payback period and revenue schedule because at least
19 in residential it takes about 7 to 10 years to pay
20 back on a system but then the system operates at
21 100-percent efficiency for another 5 years, so about
22 15 years is how long and then it starts degrading a
23 little bit. So I'd love to see how they're going to
24 be paying back these things and how this money, after
25 however many years and it still generates the

1 electricity, where those revenues are going to go to,
2 because I'd like to know.

3 And so, I'd also like to hear about the
4 payback period on this. You know, how long is it
5 going to take for these systems to pay for themselves
6 and then, additionally, where does that money go.

7 And so, another big question is how will
8 tax break money be spent. You know, the ones for
9 higher tax brackets and for companies of this nature
10 that generate this much profit, that tax break is
11 permanent. So there will be \$600 million, you know,
12 plus or minus however-many-million every year. So,
13 you know, how will that money go back to us, the
14 ratepayer?

15 You know, because, you know, to the
16 gentleman that talked about the Colorado projects
17 being cheap, I'd say people in Bowling Green, Ohio,
18 and those who live next to Lake Erie and Highland
19 County for solar, would disagree and say Ohio is
20 pretty cheap to build things here too. So let's do
21 it here. Instead of a company in Lima, buying their
22 energy from Texas, the energy credits, let's have
23 them get it from here.

24 And so with that, with that tax break,
25 there's \$263 million that's going to go to automatic

1 rate reductions over six years, and then there's
2 going to be a \$278-million credit over the next 20
3 years that will go towards distribution equipment and
4 then system upgrades. So there's about \$150 million
5 that's unaccounted for in this current tax savings.
6 How will that tax savings be spread out for the rest
7 of its duration as law, as federal law?

8 So my last things where I'm going to end
9 are policy suggestions. I'd like us to double-down
10 on energy efficiency which is about half of the
11 renewable portfolio standard required. And so, if
12 you look at this, the lights in this room, about
13 20 percent or less is LED. You'll notice these are
14 all LED lights, and then in the PUCO room, the rest
15 of them are not. So you have a lot of energy savings
16 potentially in this room alone.

17 And then my big question about policy
18 suggestions is, you know, how will storage be
19 implemented. If we want to have 100-percent
20 renewable, we got to have storage, and there's been
21 no talk about this for these current projects.

22 And so, with that said, our fracking, the
23 way fracking is taxed and all that natural gas that
24 we're pumping out of the ground is taxed, it's one of
25 the lowest rates in the country. So my suggestion

1 there is to increase that tax. I know that's not on
2 your side but, if it comes across your desk, maybe
3 you encourage it in order to use that additional tax
4 revenue to support the transition to renewable energy
5 and especially storage research and development.

6 The last policy suggestion that I would
7 like to mention is to encourage some type of program
8 that locks in the current rate that municipals spend
9 now. So they buy so many megawatts of electricity a
10 year, and by starting to generate their own
11 electricity through renewable energy projects they
12 begin to buy less electricity which makes their rate
13 per kilowatt increase; so it de-incentivizes a city
14 like Columbus which does this.

15 I've talked to Erin Prosser, from the
16 City of Columbus, and she said we have no interest in
17 doing renewable energy generation projects in the
18 City of Columbus and that's because by generating
19 electricity their rate would increase, and so for the
20 average customer who is also paying for all the
21 street lighting in the city, all those municipal
22 customers, they have to, you know, generate
23 electricity with renewable energy and then pay more
24 for the electricity they buy.

25 Well, if AEP and other utilities worked

1 out a deal and said, hey, you guys can generate your
2 own electricity because we're going to have a
3 substantial demand, especially with electric
4 vehicles, if you could -- if they could lock in that
5 current price and buy less electricity in the future
6 but be able to generate some additionally, I think it
7 would encourage cities like Columbus, who have no
8 intention to generate electricity, to do so.

9 So those are my three suggestions, so
10 thanks.

11 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

12 All right. Thank you.

13 All right. That concludes the list of
14 individuals that have signed up to testify. Is there
15 anyone I missed or anyone else that's wishing to
16 speak? I see a hand.

17 Please raise your --

18 MR. KREPS: Good morning.

19 EXAMINER PARROT: Good morning. Well,
20 good afternoon. Please raise your right hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state your name
23 and address.

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TIM KREPS

presented himself as a public witness, and being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

MR. KREPS: Tim Kreps. 10185 Juliana Circle, Powell, Ohio.

I've been listening to a lot of comments. I didn't sign up, at first, to testify because I figured everything would be said. We've been hearing about things along follow the money, along that theme. That's important that you look at that, following the money, where things can be saved, jobs in the future, all of those wonderful things that were spoken about earlier.

As a retired teacher, way back in 1969, on the first Earth Day, I helped organize and implement things for our school system. Looking at all of the statistics and all of the science that was told to us then about what would happen in the future, I know some of you aren't that old to be able to look back and take a look at those things, but what I've noticed is that many of those things that were suggested that might happen in the future, have happened.

It was hard for me to believe while

1 teaching, in 1969, the population of the world would
2 double in 35 years. That was an amazing piece of
3 information that was just hard to wrap our heads
4 around and, yet, it did.

5 So I would challenge the PUCO to look at
6 the science, to read those articles, and be aware of
7 the information that is out there that has already
8 taken place, the global warming, the raising of the
9 water table, the warming of climate as we're coming
10 into this country here, and it's going to change the
11 production of food; these things have happened as
12 stated in the National Climate Assessment.

13 Please consider the past, the information
14 that is true today, and where we are heading in the
15 future, for us and for my grandkids. Thanks very
16 much.

17 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

18 Any questions for Mr. Kreps?

19 Thank you, Mr. Kreps.

20 Is there anyone else who would wish to
21 offer testimony?

22 MS. COWAN BECKER: I've already
23 testified, but can I testify -- say one more thing?

24 EXAMINER PARROT: Quickly, please.

25 MS. COWAN BECKER: Okay.

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CATHY COWAN BECKER

presented herself as a public witness, and being previously duly sworn, further testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY (CONTINUED)

MS. COWAN BECKER: So again, my name is Cathy Cowan Becker, with the Ready for 100 Columbus campaign. I just wanted to clarify some things that were said about the City of Columbus in earlier testimony.

We have been talking in regular communication with City officials and energy officials in Columbus, and they absolutely are interested in having solar energy generation within Columbus.

The recent Franklin County Energy Study recommends building a gigawatt of solar in Franklin County. It talks about how almost over 90 percent of the money that people in Franklin County spend on energy goes out of the county because there are no renewable energy generations here in the county and they want to build that here.

And Columbus agrees with that, and they have actually made several new hires within the Sustainable Columbus Department of the Public

1 Utilities Program. One of those hires will be
 2 actively inventorying land in Columbus that the City
 3 owns, land and buildings, as to where they can put
 4 solar energy generation.

5 So the City is moving forward with this
 6 but, you know, obviously that wouldn't be enough to
 7 power directly 100 percent even if they put solar
 8 panels on all of the City land. So that's why we
 9 really support the AEP proposal because we want to
 10 get solar energy across Ohio that Columbus and other
 11 cities can use to be powered directly with solar
 12 energy. Thank you.

13 EXAMINER PARROT: Thank you.

14 Anyone else that hasn't yet stepped up to
 15 the podium and wishes to do so?

16 Please raise your right hand.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 EXAMINER PARROT: Please state and, if
 19 necessary, spell your name, and provide your address.

20 - - -

21 AARON JONES

22 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 23 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 MR. JONES: Aaron Jones, A-a-r-o-n

1 J-o-n-e-s. I am a lead volunteer in a community
2 garden and I have been for a few years, so I come
3 before you as a resident in Columbus, Ohio, and as a
4 human being on earth.

5 In just my short 30 years, my observation
6 of how climate has changed:

7 As a child in Michigan, I would regularly
8 have cancelation of school days for blizzards at like
9 6, 7, 8. And by age 9, we had less. We had less of
10 that. And less by 10, 11, 12. I went to school just
11 outside of our small town, right in farm country for
12 most of my time;

13 And by the 5th grade in elementary, by
14 5th grade, I went and I moved to a city school, and I
15 found it rather difficult to breathe in the winter,
16 as all of the molecules from the car emissions were
17 filling my lungs.

18 So just in my own experience and what my
19 body is telling me, fossil fuels clearly aren't the
20 answer. They clearly affect us.

21 And as somebody who is studying to be an
22 herbalist, I know that from my teacher and her
23 experience that respiratory issues are very high in
24 Ohio in general because of the valley region and how
25 all of the emissions settle in in Ohio.

1 So, clearly, renewables is the way to go,
2 and I fully support this with AEP's initiative, and I
3 hope you do too. Thank you.

4 EXAMINER PARROT: Any questions?

5 All right. Thank you.

6 Anyone else?

7 Okay. Well, I wish to thank everyone for
8 your attendance and participation today. The
9 Commission appreciates your time and your thoughts on
10 these projects. The testimony that has been offered
11 will be submitted on the record for the Commission's
12 consideration in these proceedings. And, with that,
13 the hearing is continued to January 15th, 2019,
14 pursuant to the November 13th, 2018 Entry. Thank
15 you.

16 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at
17 1:07 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Carolyn M. Burke
Carolyn M. Burke, Registered Professional Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires July 17, 2023.

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in

Case No(s). 18-0501-EL-FOR, 18-1392-EL-RDR, 18-1393-EL-ATA

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the 2018 Long-Term Forecast Report of Ohio Power Company and Related Matters; In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval to Enter Into Renewable Energy Purchase Agreements for Inclusion in the Renewable Generation Rider and In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval to Amend its Tariffs, hearing held on December 4th, 2018. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Burke, Carolyn