

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION OF OHIO

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CASE NUMBERS: 22-900-EL-SSO  
22-901-EL-ATA  
22-902-EL-AAM  
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Hearing before the Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio held on Thursday, February 2nd,  
2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Dayton Municipal  
Building, Commission Chambers, 101 W. Third Street,  
Second Floor, Dayton, Ohio 45402.

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PRESENT:

Ms. Trish A. Schabo  
Mr. Dennis Deters  
Mr. Connor Semple  
Mr. Jeff Sharkey  
Ms. Sharon Schroder  
Mr. Chris Hollon

1 MS. SCHABO: Good evening,  
2 welcome. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
3 assigned a public hearing at this time and place.  
4 The Case Number is 22-900-EL-SSO, 22-901-EL-ATA and  
5 22-0, sorry, 902-EL-AAM in the matter of the  
6 application of the Dayton Power and Light Company  
7 d/b/a AES Ohio for approval of its Electric --

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you speak  
9 up, please?

10 MS. SCHABO: Sure. The  
11 application of the Dayton Power and Light Company  
12 doing business as AES Ohio for approval of its  
13 Electric Security Plan, for approval of Revised  
14 Tariffs and for Accounting Authority. My name is  
15 Trish Schabo and I'm one of the Attorney Examiners  
16 assigned by the Commission to preside over this  
17 hearing. Here with me tonight is Commissioner  
18 Dennis Deters. Commissioner, would you like to say  
19 anything?

20 MR. DETERS: Please. Thank you  
21 everyone for being here this evening. I am Dennis  
22 Deters. I am a Commissioner on the Public  
23 Utilities Commission of Ohio. I am one of the five  
24 commissioners and us five collectively will make a  
25 final determination on this application which is

1 set for a public hearing today. I want to thank  
2 the Public Utilities staff for setting this up,  
3 most of them came down from Columbus and the  
4 parties to the case as well as the consumers and  
5 interested residents who are here tonight. It's a  
6 very important and critical piece of our process to  
7 hear from you and to take testimony so I thank you.

8 MS. SCHABO: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Deters. Also here with us this evening are  
10 Brittany Waugaman and Matt Hamrick from our Public  
11 Affairs Department. Ms. Waugaman and Mr. Hamrick  
12 are available if you have any questions concerning  
13 the Comission's process in cases such as these or  
14 about your utilities in general. At this time,  
15 I'll go ahead and take appearances of the parties  
16 and we'll go to the company.

17 MR. SHARKEY: Thank you, Your  
18 Honor, Jeff Sharkey from the law firm Faruki PLL on  
19 behalf of AES Ohio.

20 MS. SCHABO: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Sharkey. Would you be so kind as to identify the  
22 people who would be with you tonight and could  
23 answer questions about the application?

24 MR. SHARKEY: Absolutely, happy  
25 to, Your Honor. I have with me Sharon Schroder who

1 is the Director of Regulatory Operations of the  
2 company and I have Chris Hollon, Regulatory Counsel  
3 of the company. If anybody has questions, they'd  
4 certainly be ready and willing to be able to answer  
5 them.

6 MS. SCHABO: Thank you so much.  
7 Do we have any intervening parties with us going to  
8 make an appearance?

9 MR. SEMPLE: Thank you, Your  
10 Honor, Connor Semple on behalf of the Ohio  
11 Consumers' Counsel, Bruce Weston.

12 MS. SCHABO: Thank you. I will  
13 just note for the record that we do have numerous  
14 parties who have intervened in this case. In  
15 addition to Ohio Consumers' Counsel, we have other  
16 groups that are representing residential,  
17 commercial, industrial customers as well as several  
18 more generalized advocacy groups. The subject of  
19 this public hearing is AES Ohio's application to  
20 establish a standard service offer in the form of  
21 an Electric Security Plan or an ESP.

22 AES Ohio filed its application on  
23 September the 26th, 2022. The application proposes  
24 that the ESP will be in effect for a term of  
25 three years from July 1st, 2023 through June 30th,

1 2026. Tonight's local public hearing is only one  
2 aspect of the process. An evidentiary hearing is  
3 also scheduled to commence. Currently that is  
4 scheduled to start on March the 6th, 2023 and we  
5 will hold that at the Commission Office in  
6 Columbus. Our purpose tonight is to receive  
7 comments from the public regarding AES Ohio's  
8 application. This is not a question and answer  
9 session.

10 If you have questions regarding  
11 the application, please direct them to Ms. Schroder  
12 or Mr. Hollon. Tonight we are here so you can let  
13 the Commission know what you think about the  
14 application. We're here to listen and we're here  
15 to take your testimony to include in the record.  
16 Speaking of which, if you've noticed, we are  
17 transcribing this evening's hearing with a court  
18 reporter. Any testimony you give will be  
19 incorporated into the official record in this case.  
20 So when you do come up and testify, please be sure  
21 to speak clearly and at a reasonable pace so that  
22 our court reporter can go ahead and accurately  
23 reflect your comments.

24 After this evening's testimony and  
25 the evidentiary record, sorry, the evidentiary

1 hearing, we will take evidence there and then the  
2 record will close and it will be reviewed and  
3 considered by the Commission in making the final  
4 decision on the application. We do have four  
5 people that have signed up to testify. If I call  
6 your name and you decide not to testify, you may  
7 pass. If you are here and you haven't signed up  
8 and, well I will offer the opportunity to testify  
9 regardless. If you don't wish to testify but you  
10 do want to be heard, you can submit a public  
11 comment to the docket through our website and just  
12 make sure that you, I'm sorry, make sure you  
13 reference Case Number 22-900-EL-SSO on your  
14 comments.

15 So with that, we'll go ahead and  
16 start with our list. Before I give you, before you  
17 give your testimony, I will ask that you please be  
18 sworn in and I will ask you to state your name and  
19 your address for the record. After you testify,  
20 the parties and I will be permitted to ask you  
21 questions about your statement. Usually we do so  
22 only to clarify anything we don't understand. As I  
23 said, should you decide not to testify, you may  
24 always pass. We do appreciate your participation  
25 in tonight's hearing and we want everyone who

1 wishes to make a public statement have that  
2 opportunity so we will begin with Karl Biermann.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 MS. SCHABO: And can you step up  
5 to the podium? If you'd raise your right hand for  
6 me.

7 (WHEREUPON, the witness was  
8 sworn.)

9 MS. SCHABO: Go ahead and start by  
10 stating and spelling your name for the record.

11 THE WITNESS: Karl Biermann,  
12 K-A-R-L, B as in boy, I-E-R-M-A-N-N. And that's  
13 1175 Ambridge Road, Centerville, Ohio.

14 MS. SCHABO: Thank you.

15 THE WITNESS: And I thank you  
16 representatives of the Public Utilities Commission  
17 of Ohio as well as those organizing tonight's  
18 hearing. Thank you for your time and for your  
19 service. I speak against the AES Ohio Electric  
20 Security Plan as presented. It has been less than  
21 a year since AES Ohio doubled its supply rates.  
22 Since then, my family and I largely turned off the  
23 air conditioning last summer and allowed  
24 temperatures in our home to reach the low 80s.  
25 This winter, we've set the thermostat to 61 or 62

1 degrees and sometimes wear jackets and layers  
2 inside our home. We also secured an alternative  
3 electric supplier through the Energy Choice Ohio  
4 Marketplace with AES Ohio for electric delivery but  
5 worry that we may eventually find ourselves back  
6 with AES Ohio for both.

7 We are of a modest income with two  
8 college-bound students and thought we were doing  
9 everything we could to save on our rising electric  
10 bill. Now comes news of this proposed eventual \$4  
11 per month increase starting at \$1 monthly through  
12 an Electric Security Plan. This eventual \$4 per  
13 month would be added on top of the already doubled  
14 AES rates and all the other bills that seem to  
15 continue going up for everyone. This simply feels  
16 like the final straw.

17 My concern is also for the  
18 economically disadvantaged, for whom \$4 on top of  
19 the already doubled AES rates can mean the  
20 difference between paying the electric bill and  
21 buying food. I think of those who cannot find an  
22 alternative supplier in the Energy Choice Ohio  
23 Marketplace or those who do not yet have government  
24 utility aggregation as an option. I also wonder if  
25 approving this Electric Security Plan would set a



1 precedent for an ever-increasing pace of rate  
2 increase requests from AES Ohio. I believe that  
3 AES Ohio is part of the AES Corporation, a Fortune  
4 500 global power company. I understand that the  
5 AES Corporation secured at least one grant for the  
6 \$20 million AES Smart Operations Center opened in  
7 2021.

8 I ask that the PUCO allow AES Ohio  
9 the opportunity to explore other ways of funding  
10 its goals, whether with its government and economic  
11 development partners or with investors and  
12 corporate partners before turning to  
13 financially-strapped, private individual  
14 ratepayers. I ask that the PUCO reject this  
15 request for an Electric Security Plan. I also ask  
16 that the PUCO grant AES Ohio the time to explore  
17 alternative funding options by instituting a  
18 five-year moratorium on any requests to the PUCO  
19 from AES Ohio or related entities that would  
20 further increase private individual ratepayer bills  
21 in any way. Thank you for your consideration.

22 MS. SCHABO: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Biermann. Mr. Sharkey, any questions?

24 MR. SHARKEY: No questions, Your  
25 Honor.

1 MS. SCHABO: Mr. Semple?

2 MR. SEMPLE: No questions, Your  
3 Honor.

4 MS. SCHABO: Thank you, Mr.  
5 Biermann. Jeff Hoagland?

6 THE WITNESS: Jeff Hoagland,  
7 J-E-F-F, H-O-A-G-L-A-N-D, 1401 South Main Street,  
8 Suite 200, Dayton, Ohio.

9 MS. SCHABO: Would you please  
10 raise your right hand?

11 (WHEREUPON, the witness was  
12 sworn.)

13 THE WITNESS: Good evening. My  
14 name is Jeff Hoagland. I'm President and CEO of  
15 the Dayton Development Coalition. The DDC is a  
16 non-profit economic development organization here  
17 in the Dayton region. We are one of the six  
18 JobsOhio's network partners. We also support  
19 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the other  
20 federal installations in our region. The 14-county  
21 Dayton Region serves about 1.8 million people in  
22 Southwestern Ohio. Today I am here to ensure that  
23 the PUCO and interested parties involved in AES  
24 Ohio's current Electric Security Plan case are  
25 aware of the company's critical role in supporting

1 economic development in the Dayton Region. AES  
2 Ohio has worked closely with the Dayton Development  
3 Coalition since the DDC's beginning in 1994. The  
4 company's executives have collaborated with our  
5 team and other regional leaders to help build the  
6 strategy that is revitalizing the Dayton community.

7 The DDC supports the approval of  
8 AES Ohio's Electric Security Plan designed to  
9 enhance and upgrade its network and improve service  
10 reliability and importantly, continue investments  
11 in local economic development. AES has been an  
12 instrumental partner to promote economic  
13 development in the state. The utility plays a key  
14 role in meeting the electricity requirements to  
15 allow continued growth from new and existing  
16 customers. Investments by AES Ohio in the electric  
17 infrastructure ensure that customers have the  
18 reliability and capacity to meet their current and  
19 future needs and they do so with the lowest  
20 electric distribution and transmission rates in the  
21 State of Ohio.

22 Just last year, Honda selected  
23 Ohio to lead its electric vehicle production and  
24 with LG Energy Solution, a joint venture battery  
25 plant in Fayette County. Together Honda and LG

1 Energy Solution will invest at least \$4.4 billion  
2 to create more than 2,500 jobs in Ohio. AES Ohio  
3 played a critical role in securing this project for  
4 this region by offering solutions to energize the  
5 new facilities and is committed to invest \$100  
6 million in its grid.

7                   The Dayton Region needs a strong  
8 electric utility that stands ready to partner with  
9 public and private entities to sustain economic  
10 growth with affordable, reliable and resilient  
11 energy. AES Ohio needs to make further investment  
12 in the company's distribution system and can do so  
13 with minimal impact on customer bills. The plan  
14 for future provides for important economic  
15 development incentives and innovative programs to  
16 encourage energy efficiency and electric vehicle  
17 adoption.

18                   Energy resilience is topic of  
19 national importance. Businesses must have reliable  
20 power to operate. In the Dayton Region, this  
21 responsibility carries national security  
22 implications as AES Ohio is the utility provider  
23 for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. AES Ohio has  
24 been a steady energy partner, rising to the  
25 challenge during some of our community's most

1 difficult times.

2                   Moreover, AES Ohio has been  
3 involved with or invested in business retention and  
4 attraction efforts and activities throughout our  
5 shared regions for decades, including the  
6 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; the BRAC, the Base  
7 Realignment and Closure efforts; our annual  
8 Community Leader Fly-in to Washington D.C. They  
9 are a critical energy partner in attraction and  
10 expansion of projects, including a recent  
11 partnerships with the City of Dayton and Sierra  
12 Nevada Corporation.

13                   This is the first military  
14 aircraft maintenance work being done in Dayton,  
15 Ohio since World War 2. Working together, we were  
16 able to attract Fuyao Glass North America to open a  
17 factory in the abandoned GM facility; Taylor  
18 Communications retention; expansions at Cargill,  
19 Whirlpool and Fram in Greenville, NuVasive in West  
20 Carrollton, DMAX in Brookville and Pella in Troy,  
21 just to name a few. These projects have committed  
22 to more than 2,800 new jobs, retained 3,500 jobs  
23 and invested over \$525 million in our region.

24                   AES Ohio has been a tireless  
25 supporter of the Dayton Region for over a century

1 and has been instrumental in helping the Dayton  
2 Development Coalition work toward its goals of  
3 attracting new businesses, business retention,  
4 business expansion and workforce development. The  
5 Dayton Region and its business community needs AES  
6 Ohio as a strong corporate employer and a partner  
7 in the community well into the future. Thank you  
8 for the opportunity to share the Dayton Development  
9 Coalition's views. Any questions?

10 MS. SCHABO: Thank you. Counsel?

11 MR. SHARKEY: No.

12 MR. SEMPLE: I have just a few  
13 questions.

14 THE WITNESS: Sure.

15 MR. SEMPLE: Thank you for your  
16 testimony tonight. You're here on the DDC's  
17 behalf, correct?

18 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

19 MR. SEMPLE: Do you know if  
20 there's funding from the Dayton Development  
21 Coalition to support AES Ohio?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, we do.

23 MR. SEMPLE: Thank you. Do you  
24 know if there are currently AES Ohio members on the  
25 Board of the Dayton Commission?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes. We have one  
2 member, Tom Regan.

3 MR. SEMPLE. Okay. Thank you. No  
4 further questions.

5 MS. SCHABO: Thank you.

6 THE WITNESS: Great. Thank you.

7 MS. SCHABO: Kathleen Galt or  
8 Gast. Good evening.

9 THE WITNESS: I'm a little hard of  
10 hearing.

11 MS. SCHABO: I just said good  
12 evening. I will do my best. Would you raise your  
13 right hand for me?

14 (WHEREUPON, the witness was  
15 sworn.)

16 MS. SCHABO: Thank you. If you  
17 could please begin your statement by stating and  
18 spelling your name and providing your address, I  
19 would appreciate it.

20 THE WITNESS: It's Kathleen,  
21 K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N, Galt, G-A-L-T, 5066 Safeway Drive,  
22 Dayton, Ohio 45414. So I'm now on a fixed income  
23 and I'm having a really difficult time paying my  
24 utility bills. I have never turned to the state or  
25 federal government for a dime in my life and I

1 raise three daughters with the same set of values.  
2 But I am now considering turning to HEAP or PIPP to  
3 help me with my electric bill. And so when I think  
4 about that, I think about so now I would be asking  
5 the federal government or state government to  
6 subsidize a multi-billion dollar for-profit  
7 electric company. Now that just seems flat out  
8 wrong.

9 Now I spent about an hour and a  
10 half today looking through AES history, their  
11 profit margins, their stock market values, their  
12 compensation, their CEO and other employees. It  
13 makes me question who the Public Utilities  
14 Commission of Ohio is working for. Are you working  
15 for the consumers or are you working to increase  
16 the profit margins of again, a multi-billion dollar  
17 for-profit electric company? I also, when I looked  
18 at the, again my numbers may be off, but I wrote  
19 them down. AES made \$12 billion in 2022. That's  
20 clearly the larger company. The top CEO of AES in  
21 2008 made \$7,074,000. The next person in line,  
22 William Murdock, he made \$2,854,000; Victoria  
23 Harper, \$2,449,000.

24 It goes on and on down that list.  
25 So again, I ask what the purpose of the Public



1 Utilities Commission of Ohio is. Are you trying to  
2 represent consumers or are you ensuring that AES  
3 makes even more of the profits because I find it  
4 highly questionable. I know a lot of other seniors  
5 who are having a very difficult time paying their  
6 bills. I went into the HEAP office the other day.  
7 It was packed. I called the Salvation Army and  
8 they said they're receiving 50-75 phone calls a day  
9 asking for assistance with their utility bills.

10 Is that, I mean when AES has  
11 profit margins like that, is that, it's just not  
12 right. So I am going to ask the local news station  
13 to go into that HEAP office, to go into that  
14 Salvation Army and ask the people who work in there  
15 how many people they are having to call in for  
16 assistance. And I'm asking you guys to really do  
17 your jobs, to really regulate these utility  
18 companies. People are seriously not able to keep  
19 up with their bills and do we ask the federal  
20 government and the state government to subsidize  
21 AES?

22 That just seems completely wrong  
23 and I ask the public, anybody watching, I know  
24 people are intimidated to come to meetings like  
25 this. Call the Public Utilities Commission. Call

1 AES. I mean AES doesn't care. Call the Public  
2 Utilities Commission. Take these agencies to task  
3 and again, I'm asking the local news station to go  
4 into those offices and verify with people who work  
5 in there how many more people are coming in for  
6 assistance. I hope you guys do your jobs. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. SCHABO: Any questions?

9 MR. SHARKEY: No.

10 MR. SEMPLE: No.

11 MS. SCHABO: Keelie Gustin.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 MS. SCHABO: If you'd raise your  
14 right hand.

15 (WHEREUPON, the witness was  
16 sworn.)

17 MS. SCHABO: Thank you so much,  
18 please begin.

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Keelie  
20 Gustin, K-E-E-L-I-E, G-U-S-T-I-N. Address is 719  
21 South Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402. Thank you  
22 Commissioner, Your Honor, for being here this  
23 evening. I currently serve as the Chief Policy  
24 Officer at Miami Valley Community Action  
25 Partnership. I'm here as a representative of our

1 clients and our, both current and potential. As  
2 the area Community Action Agency, we administer the  
3 PIPP or LIHEAP or better known as HEAP programs in  
4 the State of Ohio. Programs designed to help  
5 households maintain utility service at an  
6 affordable rate and provide emergency intervention  
7 to those most vulnerable in the hottest and coolest  
8 months of the year.

9 I worry about our clients daily.  
10 That's part of the job. For as much good as we do,  
11 as many clients as we serve, there are thousands  
12 more that we get to assist. According to the  
13 National Energy Utility Affordability Coalition,  
14 otherwise known as NEUAC, it's an excellent  
15 non-profit from which we get a lot of our data  
16 regarding like HEAP and its progress and  
17 performance across the nation. Only 16.83 percent  
18 percent of the eligible population in Ohio received  
19 a LIHEAP benefit in 2021. Now you might say well  
20 Keelie, that sounds like a you problem.

21 That sounds like a Community  
22 Action problem, a money dispersal problem, an  
23 outreach problem. How are you not reaching these  
24 folks? And to an extent you're correct. There's  
25 always more we can do and will continue to do to

1 educate eligible customers on the programming  
2 available to help keep them and their children in  
3 safe and healthy homes. That's why HEAP help or  
4 HEAP funding is crucial. It helps in times where  
5 customers heat using dangerous instruments,  
6 kerosene heaters or even their ovens when they  
7 simply can't afford the bills or accumulated  
8 charges that were implemented that prohibit them  
9 from restoring service but it's not the final  
10 answer.

11 HEAP providers across the nation  
12 know that we are a band-aid to a much larger,  
13 larger problem. We continue to advocate and that's  
14 why we're here tonight, to bring the stories of our  
15 customers and what we're witnessing in our offices  
16 on a daily basis to agencies like the PUCO to  
17 further inform your decisions and remind you that  
18 they're based on real people. I can tell you three  
19 things today with certainty. The first is that the  
20 customers we serve are struggling. They are  
21 exhausted. They are overwhelmed and have little  
22 place to turn.

23 We see the consequences of  
24 eviction and utility disconnection playing out most  
25 severely in our local homeless shelters. St.

1 Vincent de Paul is currently housing over 600  
2 clients a night, 80 of which are children like many  
3 of us have in the room here. Unprecedented numbers  
4 in this area. While failure to pay a utility bill  
5 or a series of utility bills may not have been the  
6 only factor forcing families out of their homes, I  
7 can assure you situations like this contribute to  
8 the chaos that is poverty in the areas that AES and  
9 my agency serve.

10 To mitigate this chaos, agencies  
11 like mine, HEAP providers, have opened every  
12 available application opportunity to our clients.  
13 Online submission, phone submission, face-to-face  
14 appointments, car side appointments, drop offs,  
15 mail, fax, e-mail, if we could tie notes to the  
16 legs of a carrier pigeons, we would, any method  
17 imaginable. We work with our clients to gather the  
18 covers and paperwork which we constantly advocate  
19 for reform for at the state and federal levels and  
20 apply for the program. We utilize our HEAP staff  
21 of 20 or so to process the applications, we hire  
22 constantly. We're working as fast as possible and  
23 it's still not enough. We cannot find the valve to  
24 shut off the fire hose. Families are desperate.

25 Mothers and fathers worried about

1 keeping their homes, paying the bills to cook their  
2 family a meal and provide light for their children  
3 to complete their homework. Basic, basic human  
4 needs are at stake on a daily if not hourly basis  
5 at the agency where I work and this is happening  
6 throughout the state and throughout the nation. We  
7 are bobbing above the waterline to provide  
8 assistance with a limited staff, limited resources,  
9 overwhelming program requirements all why  
10 combatting a burnt out and unprecedented change in  
11 the workforce.

12                   You've heard this story before. I  
13 know you have. It's inherent in the world that you  
14 serve for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.  
15 If this is somehow new, I encourage you to reach  
16 out to me to connect with HEAP providers in your  
17 community. The stakes are high and we are  
18 drowning. The second thing that I can tell you  
19 today is that we don't give up. Our advocacy  
20 efforts tell the stories of our customers  
21 humanizing the number of applications I could be up  
22 here talking about right now, the ones that we've  
23 processed, the ones we have yet to process or  
24 anticipate. We will continue to resurrect  
25 awareness for the dire straits of your fellow human

1 beings.

2                   The stories will continue to flood  
3 in. They may not arrive on your desk via the  
4 PUCO's docketing system for public comments, a  
5 cumbersome system that is largely inaccessible to  
6 those we need to hear from the most. I checked the  
7 system this morning prior to this hearing and  
8 encourage you to seriously evaluate the 21 comments  
9 and hopefully counting already submitted. It only  
10 humanizes and reiterates the struggle of our  
11 community that I'm currently trying to convey.

12                   Community Action in our history  
13 since 1964 does not shy away from a challenge and  
14 more than that, our customers are resourceful,  
15 innovative and dedicated. They will not shy away  
16 from finding ways to provide for their families  
17 even if they're ways you couldn't imagine providing  
18 for your own. Homeless shelters, coming in for  
19 government assistance, waiting in lines,  
20 applications all over the place, it's something  
21 that many of us can't imagine but it's a very real  
22 reality that I deal with everyday. One way or  
23 another, we will assure you through the real  
24 struggle and the real outcomes of rate increases  
25 and service plans like the one proposed today.

1                   My final point and perhaps the  
2 most salient one is one I've become increasingly  
3 worried about and one I've had to make more often  
4 than I really thought I would have to. The clients  
5 eligible for HEAP services to mitigate their bills,  
6 their rate increases, service charges, grid  
7 infrastructure, things we're passing on to the  
8 individual consumer households, all costs the AES  
9 is attempting to pass on to consumers when there  
10 are other valuable alternatives are not the only  
11 folks that keep me up at night.

12                  What keeps me up is that with  
13 every one of those applications, there is an  
14 application of someone that I haven't met yet.  
15 There's an application for someone I cannot serve  
16 due to income restrictions or other program  
17 limitations. The family that's barely making ends  
18 meet that does not qualify for HEAP or rental or  
19 transportation or daycare assistance. The family  
20 staring down a dark, dark tunnel of a \$340 a month  
21 AES bill for their all electric home. If the PUCO  
22 and those supporting this increase cannot hear the  
23 stories of the customers we serve because after  
24 all, we have programs and funding available to  
25 assist those families, I am begging here, begging



1 you to hear the stories of those we cannot serve.  
2 Those outside of our reach.

3                   They are one missed bill, one AES  
4 payment, one disconnection notice or failed payment  
5 plan or job loss or mechanic service to a vehicle  
6 or a medical bill, away from a bed at St. Vincent  
7 de Paul. And you know what? There's not enough  
8 room left there to meet their needs. They will  
9 dwindle down their savings accounts, rack up credit  
10 cards and do whatever they can for months until  
11 their incomes are nonexistent and the suffocating  
12 debt takes over.

13                   I implore you to think about those  
14 families before you close your eyes at night. Odds  
15 are it's someone you know and love silently  
16 struggling to make ends meet. The stakes are high,  
17 the help is more than limited and we do not have  
18 easier timely or answers to help those families.  
19 For the reasons and more importantly, for the human  
20 struggles stated above, Miami Valley Community  
21 Action Partnership, a proud member of the 1,000  
22 plus agency network of Community Action agencies in  
23 this nation respectfully requests the PUCO deny  
24 AES's proposed Electric Security Plan and rate  
25 increase proposals. Thank you.

1 MS. SCHABO: Thank you. Any  
2 questions?

3 MR. SHARKEY: (Nodding head.)

4 MR. SEMPLE: (Nodding head.)

5 MS. SCHABO: Seeing none. I  
6 failed to mention in my preliminary but if you have  
7 testified this evening and you have written  
8 comments, that you could provide a copy of those  
9 comments to the court reporter. They will not  
10 become an exhibit to the transcript or anything but  
11 it will help her ensure that she accurately  
12 transcribes your statements. I do have one more  
13 name, Clayton Luckie. Good evening.

14 THE WITNESS: Good evening.

15 MS. SCHABO: If you could raise  
16 your right hand for me, please.

17 THE WITNESS: Clayton Luckie, oh,  
18 I' sorry.

19 MS. SCHABO: That's okay.

20 (WHEREUPON, the witness was  
21 sworn.)

22 THE WITNESS: Clayton Luckie, 69  
23 Horace Street, Dayton, Ohio. That's H-O-R-A-C-E  
24 and it's L-U-C-K-I-E, Dayton, Ohio 45402. I'm here  
25 to ask you not to approve AES rate increases and I

1 need to give you some background to tell you why.  
2 I was a state legislator for eight years. I know  
3 how you guys work. I know you work for the, you  
4 don't approve everything but you need to know the  
5 background. Before you approve anything for AES, I  
6 ask you, to ask you to look at the past history on  
7 how did they improve the power grid in the Dayton,  
8 Ohio area.

9 Just last week, we had a surge of  
10 energy, electric go through a pole, burned the pole  
11 down on an elderly lady's house and she's totally  
12 out of her home now because they did not keep up  
13 with their transmission lines. The other things  
14 that we need to look at is when AES uses their own  
15 electric when a person does not sign up for it,  
16 they should be required to give them the lowest  
17 rate as possible when the rate increases. That's  
18 automatically offset what they're asking for now  
19 because they go for a higher rate when they supply  
20 it themselves.

21 And normally individuals with less  
22 means don't have computers, don't have the  
23 know-alls to sign up for Choice Ohio, Apples to  
24 Apples that runs it all the time. When I was in my  
25 office, I used to help individuals sign up for

1 lower energy costs because they didn't have the  
2 computers for doing them. Our staff would do on  
3 the phones. I have people back at their churches  
4 showing them how to do it.

5 AES would be required to give the  
6 lowest rate possible when they're forced upon. The  
7 other thing, AES does not have a site where you can  
8 walk up to and pay your utility bill. You have to  
9 go to a gas station with cash, go find a money  
10 order and things like that. They should be  
11 required to have payment centers, not self  
12 contractors, what they run and own and do not  
13 charge to pay utility bills. Also, when a  
14 third-party tries to pay into those utility bills,  
15 they say that they cannot do it so that the law has  
16 to be changed.

17 Please let the community know that  
18 we would get our state legislator to change the law  
19 to allow them for a third-party to pay the utility  
20 bill. They say that right there. We cannot accept  
21 payment from a third-party. So if a church tries  
22 to pay a utility bill, they would have to go get a  
23 money order then take it to one of the pay centers,  
24 pay an extra \$1.50 to \$2 to \$3 to pay that bill.  
25 That does not help the individuals who cannot

1 afford it. And I do stuff purposely when I call in  
2 to AES and things and ask questions because things  
3 are recorded.

4 Let me tell you about a scenario.  
5 When Governor DeWine signed an executive order to  
6 let individuals to get on payment plans during the  
7 COVID scenario, they let businesses and everything  
8 go there to sign up. Well I owned a business so I  
9 signed up. They did not tell me I had to call my  
10 supplier to let them know I was on a payment plan.  
11 So what happened was when the payment went into  
12 AES, they paid themselves first before they paid  
13 the supplier. Then the supplier sent me a letter,  
14 we are going to disconnect you because you have not  
15 been paying.

16 Well I was on a payment plan. I  
17 called in, I said I'm on a payment plan. Why am I  
18 getting this disconnection notice from my supplier.  
19 They go well you had to call your supplier. They  
20 never told me that when I signed up so I went  
21 through the process just to get it on recording and  
22 things like that. I had the \$300 to pay the  
23 deposit and all that. That was not a problem. So  
24 the person I called to and complained to, she says,  
25 well I have no problem with this because I work for

1 Governor DeWine. I work for the Governor's office.

2 This is their regulatory arm of  
3 AES so they're not telling individuals the full  
4 story when they call. So that's what I'm trying to  
5 say. The transmission lines are deplorable in the  
6 Dayton area. Poles are leaning over. When storms,  
7 a simple storm goes through, they can be out for  
8 24 hours. They could be out for 48 hours. When  
9 the fire happened, they turned it off to 2,000  
10 customers. They didn't tell folks there was a  
11 power surge. They had to turn it off because of  
12 the fire. They just said that you're out of luck.  
13 Businesses were closed down.

14 Residents in the cold had no  
15 electric until they got that problem situated.  
16 Also on that, transmission lines, economic  
17 development, but when folks come up here and they  
18 talk about well AES gives economic development,  
19 they only give residents \$75 for their old  
20 refrigerator, \$50 for when they upgrade but how can  
21 you upgrade when you can't afford to buy a  
22 refrigerator? How can you upgrade when you can't  
23 buy a freezer or a stove upgrade? You have to have  
24 that money to upgrade to get those economic  
25 benefits.

1                   So I'm asking you guys to deny the  
2     rate increase, to make sure they give you history  
3     of what improvements have they done or completed  
4     especially in the inner-city neighborhoods that  
5     they serve and ask them how come they don't have  
6     programs on Saturdays and if they're going to give  
7     somebody \$75 for an old refrigerator when they  
8     upgrade, have them to sign them up for the lowest  
9     possible price on Apples to Apples Energy Choice.  
10    Thank you. Any questions?

11                   MS. SCHABO: Any questions?

12                   MR. SHARKEY: (Shaking head.)

13                   MR. SEMPLE: (Shaking head.)

14                   THE WITNESS: Nice to finally see  
15    you in-person.

16                   MS. SCHABO: That completes the  
17    list of the people that signed up ahead of time to  
18    testify. Is there anyone here that would like to  
19    testify that did not sign up? Seeing none. I'll  
20    just thank you all for coming out this evening.  
21    The Commission will consider everything that was  
22    said. If you wish to submit further comments, you  
23    may do so online or by mail. Again, just be sure  
24    to reference the Case Number 22-900-EL-SSO. Have a  
25    good evening. We are adjourned. Thank you.

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(WHEREUPON, hearing concluded at  
6:40 p.m.)



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Brittany R. Montour, a Court  
Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing is a full, true and correct  
transcript of my notes taken in the above-styled  
case and thereafter transcribed by me.

*Brittany R. Montour*



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Brittany R. Montour

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# Public Utilities Commission

## PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date: 2/2/23

Case No: 22-900-EL-SSO

Page 1 of 2

No.	Name	Address
1.	KARL BIERMANN	1175 AMBRIDGE ROAD, CENERVILLE, OH
2.	JEFF Hoagland	1401 S. Main ST, suite 200, Dayton OH
3.	KATHLEEN GALT	5066 APERWAY DR. DAYTON
4.	Keelie Gustin	719 S. Main St. Dayton, OH
5.	PENNIST	
6.		
7.		
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EXHIBIT

A

	Name	Address
23.	Clayton Luckie	69 Horace St D/O 45402
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28.	22-900-EL-SSO	local public hearing p 2 of 2
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Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**2/10/2023 3:00:42 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 22-0900-EL-SSO, 22-0901-EL-ATA, 22-0902-EL-AAM**

Summary: Transcript of Local Public Hearing held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Dayton Municipal Building, Commission Chambers electronically filed by Ms. Mary E. Fischer on behalf of Brittany R. Montour, Court Reporter, Britton & Associates