FILE

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January 6, 2005

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2793

2005 JAN 13 AM 11:58
PUCO
RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

RE: Ohio American Rate Increase for Water and Sewer Services Provided to Service Areas – Case Nos. 03-2390-WS-AIR – Ashtabula County

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 5, 2005 we, the Ashtabula Township Trustees, passed a resolution opposing the 19 percent water and sewer increase that would generate approximately $4, 161,093 of revenue for the Ohio American Water Company. We understand that operating expenses, including security costs, management fees, acquisition of savings, depreciation and property taxes, and rates of return are rising, however at the same time jobs are being lost and wages are remaining steady. This rate increase concerns our board because eventually local residents and tax payers will be unable to pay their monthly bill. It would be a severe detriment to Ashtabula County and the surrounding local counties. Please hear our concerns on this matter because while these rates are rising, so are the other utilities; gas, cable, phone, and electric. Our county also has an estimated 40% who are retired senior citizens that are already on fixed monthly incomes. They will not be able to afford this large of an increase. One final point we would like to address on this matter is the fact that many employees in the area are losing their jobs due to downsizing and lack of funding, which depicts the fact that now more than ever families will be unable to afford this 19% increase. We hope the PUCO understands the severe impact it will place on our local residents and senior citizens.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter. If you have any questions on this letter of concern, please contact us at (440) 997-9221.

Sincerely,

Joe Pete
Chairman

Sam Bucci
Vice-Chairman

Steve McClure
Trustee

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