

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

Industrial Energy Users—Ohio et al.	:	Case No. 06-1594
	:	
Appellant,	:	Appeal from the Public
	:	Utilities Commission of Ohio
vs.	:	
	:	
The Public Utilities Commission	:	
of Ohio,	:	
	:	
Appellee.	:	Public Utilities
	:	Commission of Ohio
	:	Case No. 05-376-EL-UNC

**AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL #972, PARKERSBURG-MARIETTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AFL-CIO AND IRONWORKERS LOCAL #787 IN SUPPORT OF INTERVENING APPELLEES COLUMBUS SOUTHERN AND OHIO POWER COMPANIES**

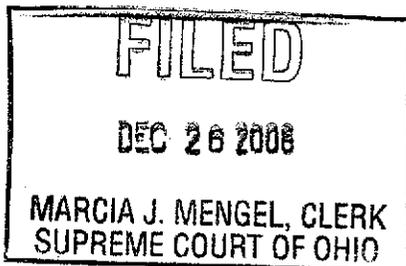
Thomas L. Rosenberg  
(0024898)  
Counsel of Record  
Jessica L. Davis  
(0075487)  
Roetzel & Andress  
155 E. Broad St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 463-9770--Telephone  
(614) 463-9792—Facsimile  
troseberg@ralaw.com

*Attorneys for Amicus Curiae  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local #972,  
Parkersburg-Marietta Building  
and Construction Trades Council  
AFL-CIO and Ironworkers Local  
#787*

James Petro  
(0022096)  
Attorney General of Ohio  
Duane W. Luckey  
(0023557)  
Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Thomas W. McNamee  
(0017352)  
Counsel of Record  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Utilities Section

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 E. Broad St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793  
(614) 644-8698--Telephone  
(614) 644-8764--Facsimile  
duane.luckey@puc.state.oh.us  
thomas.mcnamee@puc.state.oh.us

*Attorneys for  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio*



Janine L. Migden-Ostrander  
(0002310)  
Consumers' Counsel

Jeffrey L. Small  
Counsel of Record  
(0061488)  
Kimberly W. Bojko  
(0069402)

Office of the Ohio Consumers'  
Counsel  
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*Attorneys for Appellant  
Office of the Ohio Consumers'  
Counsel*

Samuel C. Randazzo  
(0016386)  
Counsel of Record  
Lisa G. McAlister  
(0075043)  
Daniel J. Neilsen  
(0076377)  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
21 East State Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*Attorneys for Appellant Industrial  
Energy Users—Ohio, Inc.*

Kathy Kolich  
(0038855)  
Counsel of Record  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

*Attorney for Appellant FirstEnergy  
Solutions*

David Boehm  
(0021881)  
Counsel of Record  
Michael Kurtz  
(0033550)  
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry  
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 2110  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

*Attorneys for Appellant Ohio Energy Group*

Marvin I. Resnick  
(0005695)  
Counsel of Record  
Kevin F. Duffy  
(0005867)  
American Electric Power  
1 Riverside Plaza, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*Attorneys for Intervening Appellees,  
Columbus Southern and Ohio Power  
Companies*

David C. Rinebolt  
(0073178)  
Counsel of Record  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
231 West Lima Street  
P.O. Box 1793  
Findlay, Ohio 45839-1793

*Attorney for Amicus Curiae  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy*

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL #972,  
PARKERSBURG-MARIETTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL  
AFL-CIO AND IRONWORKERS LOCAL #787**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #972 (“Local #972”), Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO (“Buildings Trades Council”) and Ironworkers Local #787 (“Local #787”) (collectively the “Unions”) are unions representing thousands of trade workers including, but not limited to, electrical workers, plumbers, pipefitters and ironworkers in both the Southeast Ohio and Parkersburg, West Virginia area. The Unions submit the following in Support of Appellees Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company (collectively the “Companies”) Brief and Arguments to this Court.

Accordingly, the Unions adopt the introduction outlined in the Companies’ Merit Brief.

## **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The Unions also adopt the Statement of Facts as outlined in the Companies’ Merit Brief. Because of the very limited role the Unions had in the underlying action, the Unions can not verify the status of the case below or each and every fact referenced by the Companies’ in their Merit Brief.

The Unions fully support the efforts of the Companies to construct and operate an integrated gasification combined cycle (“IGCC”) electric generating facility in Meigs County, especially in light of the overwhelming positive economic impact it will have in Meigs County and the Ohio Valley. Construction and operation of the IGCC facility by the Companies stands to positively impact the current unemployment rate in Meigs County and other areas of the Ohio Valley, boost the overall health of the Meigs County and Southeast Ohio economy and positively effect the Southern Local School District.

The Companies address the economic impact of the IGCC plant in their Statement of Facts. To elaborate, however, the unemployment rates in the Southeast Ohio counties, including Meigs County, are the highest in the state of Ohio. Specifically, Meigs County, the location selected by the Companies for construction and operation of the IGCC facility, has the highest unemployment rate in the state. (See Testimony of Mick Davenport, President of the Board of the Meigs County Commissioners presented at the Meigs County Hearing, Supplement at 7). Similarly, surrounding counties also have unemployment rates in the double digits. (See Davenport Testimony, Supplement at 8). It is for that reason, and others, that the Meigs County Commissioners, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, the CIC Commissioners from Gallia, Athens and Vinton County supported the Companies' Application before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. (*Id.*)

The construction and development of the IGCC facility over the estimated four-year construction phase will create approximately 1200 construction jobs, 125 permanent jobs, and boost the overall health of the economy in Meigs County, the Ohio Valley and all of Southeast Ohio. Money earned by the workers on this project will be spent locally in the community on groceries, health care, entertainment and the like.

The impact this commerce could bring to this area of Ohio was referenced by bipartisan elected and community representatives. Ohio House of Representative for the 93<sup>rd</sup> District and resident of Washington County, Representative Jennifer Garrison explained:

The impact of this plant on our community will be far reaching. Money paid to the construction workers and employees hired to work at the plant will be spent locally on groceries, in our stores, restaurants, theaters and elsewhere. The entire community will reap the benefit.

(See Testimony of Representative Jennifer Garrison, Ohio House of Representatives 93<sup>rd</sup> District presented at the Meigs County Hearing, Supplement at 21).

Similarly, Senator Joy Padgett testified in support of the AEP Companies' Application. While explaining what the AEP Companies' Application truly means to Meigs County and the surrounding areas she testified, "it's also about the trucking industry, about, as said earlier, the corner groceries and gas stations and all the other local businesses that can benefit from a healthy economy in the region." (See Testimony of Senator Joy Padgett, Ohio Senate 20<sup>th</sup> District presented at the Meigs County Hearing, Supplement at 32). Senator Padgett also noted in her testimony, "[t]his plant is about the families of the region, and about the future of the region, and also the future of Ohio. It's looked at as an investment into the future." (Padgett Testimony, Supplement at 31).

The Southern Local School District has and continues to be depressed. Superintendent Grieser of the Southern Local School District testified that the Southern Local Schools Board of Education passed a resolution supporting the construction of the IGCC facility. (See Testimony of Bob Grieser, Superintendent of the Southern Local Schools presented at the Meigs County Hearing, Supplement at 68). He explained:

We have been losing students at the rate of about 20 per year. [T]here were around 1,400 [students] and now about 750. Two out of three students are on free or reduced lunch. Our teachers of 612 school districts are the lowest paid teachers in the entire state of Ohio...the school has dipped into the State loan fund for seven consecutive years...no other district has come close to that.

(*Id.*) The benefit the Southern Local School District stands to receive from the construction and operation of the IGCC facility can not be ignored.

### **III. ARGUMENT**

The Unions adopt the Argument and Propositions of Law as stated and argued in the Companies' Merit Brief. The Unions support the efforts of the Companies to bring this plant to Meigs County because it will create jobs and boost the economy. It should be noted, that in supporting the Companies' argument, the Unions have not undertaken an analysis or review of the Companies' legal support for each argument.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The overall positive economic impact construction and operation of the IGCC facility will have on Meigs County and the surrounding areas is far too great to be overlooked.

As Senator Padgett noted in her testimony at the public hearing in Meigs County, "nothing changes until the pain of remaining the same becomes greater than the pain of change." (See Padgett Testimony, Supplement at 30). The citizens of Meigs County and the surrounding areas have spoken, specifically at the Meigs County Public Hearing and they are ready for a change.

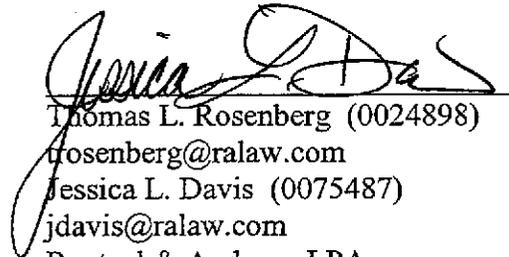
The Companies' Application to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio received remarkable bipartisan support. As referenced by Representative Jimmy Stewart:

You have heard tonight from Democrats, Republicans, people employed, people who are unemployed, people underemployed, people from a union and non-union. It's not every day we all agree on something, something that is good for Meigs County and southeast Ohio, and we feel the whole state of Ohio.

(See Testimony of Representative Jimmy Stewart, Ohio House of Representatives 93<sup>rd</sup> District presented at the Meigs County Hearing, Supplement at 50).

It is because this project is truly good for Meigs County, the Ohio Valley and the surrounding areas that the Unions support the Companies' Application and legal position presented to this Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Rosenberg (0024898)

trosenberg@ralaw.com

Jessica L. Davis (0075487)

jdavis@ralaw.com

Roetzel & Andress, LPA

National City Center

Twelfth Floor

155 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43215

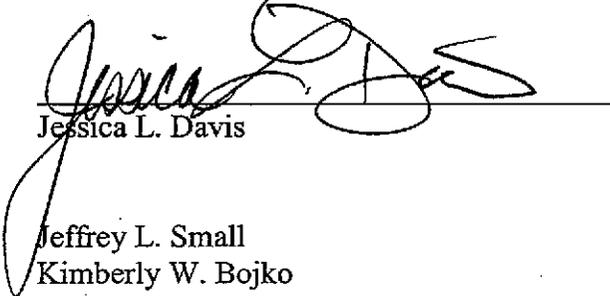
Telephone: 614.463.9770

Facsimile: 614.463.9792

*Attorneys for International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local #972, Parkersburg-Marietta  
Building and Construction Trades  
Council AFL-CIO and Ironworkers  
Local #787*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Amicus Curiae Brief of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #972, Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO and Ironworkers Local #787, was served upon all parties to this proceeding via regular US Mail on this <sup>21<sup>st</sup></sup> day of December 2006.



Jessica L. Davis

Thomas W. McNamee  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Utilities Section  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Jeffrey L. Small  
Kimberly W. Bojko  
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

David Boehm  
Michael Kurtz  
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry  
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 2110  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Samuel C. Randazzo  
Lisa G. McAlister  
Daniel J. Neilsen  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
21 East State Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Marvin I. Resnik  
Kevin F. Duffy  
American Electric Power  
1 Riverside Plaza, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Kathy Kolich  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

David C. Rinebolt  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
231 West Lima Street  
P.O. box 1793  
Findlay, Ohio 45839-1793

**SUPPLEMENT  
AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF  
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PARKERSBURG-MARIETTA BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL  
AFL-CIO AND IRONWORKERS LOCAL #787**

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of the Application:  
of Columbus Southern Power :  
Company and Ohio Power Company :  
For Authority to Recover Costs : Case No.  
Associated with the Construction: 05-376-EL-UNC  
and Ultimate Operation of an :  
Integrated Gasification Combined:  
Cycle Electric Generating :  
Facility. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Steven D. Lesser, Attorney Examiner, held  
at the Meigs High School, 42091 Pomeroy Pike,  
Pomeroy, Ohio, on Thursday, August 4, 2005, at  
6:00, P.M.

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Armstrong & Okey, Inc.  
185 S. Fifth Street, Suite 101  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481  
Fax - (614) 224-5724

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## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 American Electric Power Service Corporation  
3 By Mr. Marvin I. Resnik  
4 and  
5 Ms. Sandra K. Williams  
6 One Riverside Plaza  
7 Columbus, Ohio 43215

8 On behalf of Columbus Southern  
9 Power Company and Ohio Power  
10 Company.

11 NcNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC  
12 By Ms. Lisa Gatchell McAllister  
13 and  
14 Mr. Thomas L. Froehle  
15 21 East State Street, 17th Floor  
16 Columbus, Ohio 43215

17 On behalf of the Industrial  
18 Energy Users - Ohio.

19 Janine L. Migden-Ostrander  
20 Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
21 By Ms. Kimberly W. Bojko  
22 Assistant Consumers' Counsel  
23 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800  
24 Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Office of  
Consumers' Counsel.

Roetzel & Andress, LPA  
By Mr. Thomas L. Rosenberg  
and  
Ms. Jessica L. Davis  
National City Center  
155 East Broad Street, 12th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
Building Trades' Council of Marion  
and Parkersburg, and the Plumbers  
and Pipefitters Union.

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IDENTIFIED

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9

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1 Thursday Evening Session,

2 August 4, 2005.

3 - - -

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Today's hearing  
5 is in the matter of the application of Columbus  
6 Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company  
7 for authority to recover costs associated with  
8 the construction and ultimate operation of an  
9 integrated gasification combined cycle electric  
10 generating facility.

11 This is Case No. 05-376-EL-UNC.  
12 This is the public hearing in this case. My  
13 name is Steven D. Lesser, I am an Attorney  
14 Examiner with the Commission and I have been  
15 assigned to hear the case. At this time I am  
16 going to ask for appearances from the parties.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Your  
18 Honor. On behalf Applicant, Columbus Southern  
19 Power Company and Ohio Power Company, Sandra K.  
20 Williams and Marvin I. Resnik, One Riverside  
21 Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

22 MR. ROSENBERG: On behalf of the  
23 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
24 Building Trades' Council of Marion and

1 Parkersburg, and the Plumbers and Pipefitters  
2 Union, Thomas L. Rosenberg and Jessica Davis,  
3 Roetzel & Andress, 155 East Broad Street,  
4 Columbus 43215.

5 MS. BOJKO: Thank you. Appearing on  
6 behalf of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Janine L.  
7 Migden, and Kimberly W. Bojko, 10 West Broad  
8 Street, Suite 1800, Columbus, Ohio.

9 MS. MCALLISTER: Thank you. On  
10 behalf of the Industrial Energy Users - Ohio,  
11 McNees, Wallace & Nurick, Lisa Gatachell  
12 McAllister and Thomas L. Froehle, 21 East State  
13 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: As was  
15 discussed off the record before, this is an  
16 opportunity for sworn or unsworn public  
17 testimony in this case. I have a signup sheet  
18 for witnesses. I will go through the signup  
19 sheet first. If you are not signed up you will  
20 still be given an opportunity.

21 The first name I have is Mick  
22 Davenport. Sworn or unsworn?

23 MR. DAVENPORT: Sworn.

24 (WITNESS SWORN)



1 notice that Meigs County is number one. And it  
2 is a category that we do not want to be number  
3 one, that is unemployment rate. In the State of  
4 Ohio Meigs County is No. 1. One of the highest  
5 percentage, double digit unemployment rates in  
6 the State of Ohio.

7           The proposed plant and the building  
8 of this plant would mean so much for our county  
9 I can't begin to tell you. The largest employer  
10 in this county was Southern Ohio Coal mines  
11 which is now closed down. Since that time this  
12 county has struggled, industry has been on  
13 the decline, and it has been especially felt in  
14 Meigs County.

15           We have not just taken it sitting  
16 down. We have formed a partnership in this  
17 county with the County Commissioners, with our  
18 newly formed CIC, and with the local government  
19 and the Job & Family Services to try and pull  
20 together and change the unemployment rate. And  
21 the task at hand is to put Meigs County back  
22 where it was at the turn of the century.

23           We have fought together to get new  
24 roads in this county, which many people in the

1 county fought for years and years. That finally  
2 came to fruition and new roads have been built  
3 in the county. But we have been trying to  
4 attract new jobs for the people of the area. We  
5 have tried to do this. We have tried to improve  
6 the infrastructure in Meigs County so we can  
7 attract new business and new industry in  
8 the county.

9 The cost recovery of the plant we  
10 believe is vital to the building of this IGCC  
11 and is not only good for Meigs County, but we  
12 believe it is good for the entire region. There  
13 will be approximately 2000 construction jobs in  
14 the building of this plant. That is not only  
15 going to benefit Meigs County, that is going to  
16 benefit the region as a whole.

17 If you don't believe that I have  
18 this folder with some letters of support from  
19 Washington County Chamber of Commerce, CIC  
20 Commissioners from Gallia County, from Athens  
21 County, from Vinton County we have received.  
22 And there are other organizations that are in  
23 support of this with us.

24 So we stand together in the region

1 to try to approve this plant and get the IGCC  
2 technology in place so industry can make a  
3 comeback in this area and Meigs County.

4 I attended a PUCO discussion in  
5 Columbus where the question was raised do  
6 the people in Meigs County, are they able to  
7 provide training for the people to work in these  
8 plants. Anybody in this area knows that the  
9 people in this area are skilled at working in  
10 power plants. They have built power plants all  
11 over the area.

12 In furtherance of that the Gallia  
13 County Commissioners and Rio Grande University,  
14 which is located in Gallia County, branch in  
15 Meigs County, have already started to try to  
16 develop curriculum for power plant workers so we  
17 will be ready for this building to have people  
18 trained and in place so that we will be able to  
19 provide the workers they need to run the  
20 operation of the facility.

21 On a broader basis, even bigger than  
22 the region, this plant is good for Ohio. This  
23 cost recovery plan is proactive. This is  
24 something I believe our state needs to be. I

1 think cost recovery before the plant becomes  
2 operational is going to save money in the long  
3 run.

4 I think that it is something that we  
5 are committed to doing. 1.3 billion for the  
6 project will go a long way in attracting new  
7 business and industry back to Ohio and competing  
8 against states around us which we are sorely  
9 coming in second. We have the river and we have  
10 good friends across the river in West Virginia,  
11 but we do realize how much emphasis they put on  
12 attracting industry and business. And they are  
13 hard competitors.

14 A 1.3 billion project could turn  
15 that around for Ohio and say if we do this cost  
16 recovery that we want business and we want the  
17 industry. And we need the jobs in this state,  
18 not just this county, not just this region.

19 Another benefit is our coal mines  
20 are closed here in Ohio. Coal had been on the  
21 decline. The IGCC technology could open the  
22 door for Ohio coal to be used. This will be  
23 further good news for our county, for the whole  
24 region, as another industry comes back to be

1 used with the IGCC technology plant.

2 I think it's been said that the  
3 consumers in other parts of the system are going  
4 to bear the price of this, but not get  
5 the benefit. People in our area paid for stuff  
6 in another part of the state before without us  
7 getting a benefit. The people in Franklin  
8 County largely due to AEP and the workers in  
9 this region, coal mines, the people that built  
10 these plants, and the people who operate these  
11 plants enjoyed some of the lowest rates in the  
12 country for quite sometime.

13 We believe it's time to pay us back.  
14 This is something that we as a county feel so  
15 strongly about because consumers in the long run  
16 are going to benefit because this technology  
17 even though we are going to pay for it now is in  
18 the long run going to cost less and going to  
19 keep the rates low.

20 The last thing I want to mention is  
21 the environment. This technology is clean, it's  
22 the cleanest technology that is going to be  
23 available. This could be the start of a whole  
24 new system of plants being built. I think it's

1 good for our county, good for the environment,  
2 and good for Ohio coal, and good for workers in  
3 my region I want to put back on the job.

4 And the only thing I have to say is  
5 I hope that a year from now I will be coming  
6 back and testifying so that we can not only do  
7 one 600 megawatt, we can put another 600  
8 megawatt right beside it and build both here in  
9 this county. Thank you for the time.

10 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Any  
11 questions? Thank you. William Schneider.  
12 Sworn or unsworn?

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Sworn.

14 (WITNESS SWORN)

15 - - -

16 WILLIAM SCHNEIDER

17 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
18 testified as follows:

19 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
20 your name and address for the record, then  
21 provide your testimony.

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: William Schneider,  
23 385 Huntington Street, Newport, Ohio. I am  
24 Chairman of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local

1 168 apprenticeship and training committee. This  
2 committee has three members from contractors and  
3 three members from labor.

4 We select and are training  
5 apprentices. Our apprenticeship is a five-year  
6 program with 8,500 hours on-the-job training and  
7 1,230 hours in a classroom. The program also  
8 has had over 1000 hours of journeyman upgrade  
9 training last year. There are courses in OSHA  
10 safety, heavy rigging, math, drafting, blueprint  
11 reading, leadership, supervision and CPR.

12 They are qualified on 32 welding  
13 procedures leading up to a minimum of six ASME  
14 Section 9 welding certifications. The program  
15 is self-funded. Every hour an journeyman works  
16 35 cents is paid into the training fund. It is  
17 nationwide. Our International training fund was  
18 over \$120 million last year. Our budget for  
19 2004 was over \$200,000.

20 We currently have 30 apprentices.  
21 However, 10 apprentices never started to work  
22 because of the lack of work in the Ohio Valley.  
23 We need steady employment to attract men and  
24 women to our trade and ensure a highly trained

1 workforce in the future.

2 The Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
3 supports this project. Thank you.

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Sam  
5 Davis. Sworn or unsworn?

6 MR. DAVIS: Sworn.

7 (WITNESS SWORN)

8

- - -

9

SAM DAVIS

10 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
11 testified as follows:

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
13 your name and address for the record.

14 MR. DAVIS: Sam Davis. I live at  
15 1117 Greene Street, Marietta, Ohio. I have  
16 lived and worked in the local area for 55 years.  
17 I have been the Business Agent for the local  
18 building trades for the past 14 years. And our  
19 relationship with AEP goes back a long ways.

20 We have been working with AEP since  
21 1917 at one of their first super power plants at  
22 Wheeling, West Virginia to supply power for  
23 Canton, Ohio. So, you know, we have been there  
24 for a long time.

1                   In 1932, which it was American Gas  
2 and Electric/AEP we built one of their three  
3 largest stations at Philo, Ohio in southeastern  
4 Ohio. In the '40s and '60s we worked with them  
5 to build four units, and then added the fifth  
6 unit at the Muskingum River site in Beverly,  
7 Ohio. I worked there eight years myself.

8                   AEP has been building power plants  
9 and power lines in the Ohio Valley for many  
10 years. This work has contributed to the high  
11 skill level of our workforce in the Ohio Valley.

12                   We have helped to maintain all their  
13 sites for many years with our local crafts  
14 people at very well paid jobs. The relationship  
15 with AEP has been a long one, a very good one,  
16 and we would like to see it continue with the  
17 building of this unit in Meigs County.

18                   Now, in 2005 we need work like this  
19 work to add to our workforce for their skills  
20 for tomorrow. The hands-on work we gain on  
21 projects like a power house is invaluable to our  
22 apprenticeship programs and to the honing of our  
23 journeymen skills.

24                   The question is always asked do we

1 have the skilled people to do this work. My  
2 answer is always yes because of the work we have  
3 had in the past with owners like AEP and many  
4 more in this area. We have the people and the  
5 skills available to build this power house. The  
6 majority of these people will come from the  
7 local area putting back into the community what  
8 they have earned.

9 We will also gain thousands of small  
10 jobs, if not directly involved with the building  
11 of the power plant then in other ways, support  
12 for the people that are working there, building  
13 of small restaurants and grocery stores, housing  
14 and all the supplies that will be needed to  
15 build this power plant.

16 And also, creating all kinds of  
17 other jobs in the community and the surrounding  
18 areas. I am sure that this will keep other  
19 businesses in the area that may be ready to  
20 close or leaving. I see it as a win-win for all  
21 of us in Meigs County and surrounding areas of  
22 Meigs County.

23 Our return on our investment is a  
24 whole lot greater than giving tax breaks or

1 credits to people like Wal-Mart. The  
2 Parkersburg and Marietta Building and  
3 Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO represents  
4 roughly 10 to 12,000 crafts people in 14  
5 counties, which Meigs County being one of them,  
6 along with 17 crafts. We have laborers,  
7 boilmakers, bricklayers, carpenters, cement  
8 masons, electricians, iron workers, operating  
9 engineers, painters, pipefitters, plumbers and  
10 roofers, sheet metal men and teams.

11 But all these counties will benefit,  
12 and all local unions will benefit from the  
13 building of this project. And the recovery  
14 costs, we are willing to share in the recovery  
15 cost of this project, or projects like this one.

16 Our local building trades and  
17 skilled people of the building trades are very  
18 proud of our skilled level of training, and we  
19 turn out very skilled people. We put on 10  
20 hour, 30 hour OSHA training classes. We have  
21 4,000 to 5,000 people go through them classes.

22 We are a drug-free workforce. We  
23 drug test all our people. We have joint  
24 labor/management committee that has been in

1 place for probably 14 to 15 years. And very  
2 successful. It works very well. We are very  
3 involved in our communities like little league  
4 to our churches.

5           Once again all the work with owners  
6 like AEP contributed to the things mentioned  
7 above. And projects like this one will see to  
8 it that it continues.

9           It is a partnership and  
10 responsibility of the owners, the contractors,  
11 the owners and building trades to have a skilled  
12 workforce available for projects like this when  
13 they come up. We need work like this one. And  
14 we support it 100 percent. Thank you.

15           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. The  
16 next is State Representative Jennifer Garrison  
17 presented by Tom Rosenberg.

18           MR. ROSENBERG: My name is Tom  
19 Rosenberg and I gave my address before. I was  
20 asked to present this statement on behalf of  
21 State Representative Jennifer Garrison.

22           "I am Jennifer Garrison, State  
23 Representative from the Ohio House of  
24 Representatives 93rd District and a resident of

1 Washington County. Due to another legislative  
2 commitment, I cannot be present this evening.  
3 However, I welcome the opportunity to express my  
4 strong support for the AEP's proposal to bring a  
5 clean coal technology plant to Meigs County and  
6 and southeast Ohio.

7           It is well known that southeast Ohio  
8 suffers from high unemployment, under-funded  
9 schools and the exodus of people leaving our  
10 area for jobs and opportunities elsewhere.  
11 Constantly the efforts of elected officials such  
12 as myself, business and community leaders is on  
13 how to confront and stop these problems. One of  
14 the primary ways is to bring good, well paying  
15 jobs to the area. This is what the AEP plant  
16 will do. This is why I support it.

17           I have been advised that the plant  
18 will create more than 1,500 construction jobs  
19 and more than 125 permanent jobs once it is  
20 operational. It will also afford an opportunity  
21 for more jobs related to maintenance and support  
22 to the plant. These will be well paying jobs  
23 with health and other benefits. We cannot allow  
24 these jobs to go elsewhere. I know there will

1 be no shortage of workers available to meet this  
2 need. The benefits of these jobs to our local  
3 construction unions and to our efforts to  
4 recruit and keep people here cannot be ignored.

5 The impact of this plant on our  
6 community will be far reaching. Money paid to  
7 the construction workers and employees hired to  
8 work at the plant will be spent locally on  
9 groceries, in our stores, restaurants, theaters  
10 and elsewhere. The entire community will reap  
11 the benefit.

12 Most important is the impact this  
13 will have on the Southern Local School District.  
14 This district is one of the most economically  
15 challenged districts in the state. It embodies  
16 all the reasons why school funding needs to be  
17 fixed in Ohio. In Columbus and in my district I  
18 am a leading proponent of the need to address  
19 the funding problems that beset public schools  
20 in southeast Ohio and elsewhere.

21 While we struggle in Columbus with  
22 adopting a fair and proper resolution, we must  
23 continue to attract industry to our communities  
24 that will pump money into our school systems.

1 This project does it. The revenue this plant  
2 will provide to the Southern Local School  
3 District is great. It is great. It is needed.

4 Let me briefly comment on the  
5 surcharge. As we know, AEP wants to recover its  
6 cost of construction and operations from  
7 residential users in the Columbus and Southern  
8 as well as Ohio Power Company regions. This  
9 includes most, if not all of us in southeast  
10 Ohio. I leave it to the PUCO to determine if the  
11 surcharges are justified and reasonable.

12 I know that there are many people in  
13 my district that cannot afford increased  
14 electric bills. It is for this reason I urge  
15 the PUCO to look at this very carefully and make  
16 a decision that benefits all of us.

17 I serve on the Ohio Coal Technology  
18 Advisory Committee and the Public Utilities and  
19 Energy Committee. In these positions I am  
20 working to promote the development of clean coal  
21 technology so that the coal mines that we have  
22 can be used to produce energy.

23 I believe clean coal can be the wave  
24 of the future and if successful, this plant may

1 only be the tip of the iceberg on what is to  
2 come. This plant has the opportunity to lead in  
3 the development of clean coal for use as an  
4 energy source. We must do everything we can to  
5 give AEP the opportunity to be successful,  
6 because if it is, then the entire region will  
7 benefit.

8 Finally, Meigs County has the  
9 highest unemployment in the State. Following  
10 closely behind it are many neighboring counties.  
11 We need to support a project like this that will  
12 bring so many good paying jobs.

13 For this reason and the others I  
14 have expressed I support this project and urge  
15 the PUCO to approve it." Thank you.

16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
17 Ed Sams. Sworn or unsworn.

18 MR. SAMS: Sworn.

19 (WITNESS SWORN)

20 ED SAMS

21 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
22 testified as follows:

23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
24 your name and address for the record.

1 MR. SAMS: Ed Sams. I live at  
2 Highland Road, New Marshfield, Ohio. For those  
3 of you who don't know where I am at, we are in  
4 the neighboring county of Athens.

5 I have been a member of the  
6 pipefitters local for 24 years. So you can  
7 probably tell I am going to be in favor of this  
8 not only because I am going to reap the  
9 benefits, but I want to touch on some subjects  
10 that other people touched on too. I think that  
11 is going to be the benefits to other people in  
12 Meigs County and Athens County, Washington  
13 County because of the gas stations, more need  
14 for more motels, grocery stores. This is going  
15 to have a ripple effect.

16 And as everyone said, unemployment  
17 in the counties. I was probably unemployed more  
18 in the last three years than I have in the 24  
19 years being a pipefitter. I have had to travel  
20 to Indianapolis, traveled to Ashland, Kentucky,  
21 Toledo, places like that just to find work.

22 And I will tell you, I sure make a  
23 good dollar, but paying rent or paying a house  
24 payment at home and paying the same thing again

1 on the road, motels, and take that kind of  
2 payment out of it and the motel bill too.

3 So I hope you people give lots of  
4 thought and realize that it is not only me who  
5 is going to benefit, but other people out of the  
6 county and surrounding counties are going to  
7 benefit also. I think that is about all I have  
8 say. But, I hope you really give it some  
9 consideration.

10 I also see the point of people on  
11 fixed income, and I hope the PUCO does give some  
12 consideration. But again, I am in favor for  
13 this to happen in our neighborhood. Thank you.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank  
15 you. James Thomas.

16 MR. THOMAS: I will submit something  
17 in writing.

18 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Are you going to  
19 submit it now or are you going to submit it  
20 later?

21 MR. THOMAS: I will send it in  
22 later.

23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
24 Robert Ward.

1 (WITNESS SWORN)

2 - - -

3 ROBERT WARD

4 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
5 testified as follows:

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
7 your name and address for the record.

8 MR. WARD: Robert Ward, 290  
9 Cornerville Road, Reno, Ohio 45773. I would  
10 like to take this opportunity to thank the  
11 Commission for giving us the opportunity to  
12 speak here this evening and the great turnout we  
13 had.

14 I would like to thank all those in  
15 attendance who came here to discuss this very  
16 important matter. Again I am Robert Ward, I am  
17 a 35-year member of Plumbers and Pipefitters  
18 Local Union 168, Marietta Ohio.

19 I am a current Business Manager for  
20 Local 168, a position I have held for five and a  
21 half years. And I am here tonight to speak in  
22 favor of the AEP proposal.

23 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 168  
24 currently has 375 members primarily in

1     southeastern Ohio.  Washington, Meigs, Monroe,  
2     and Athens County.  And we have a few members  
3     that live in West Virginia also.  Local 168's  
4     jurisdiction includes Meigs and Washington  
5     Counties, and also part of Morgan and Monroe  
6     Counties.

7                     Starting in 2001 we were fortunate  
8     to have two combined cycle power houses under  
9     construction at the same time in Washington  
10    County.  These projects were completed in 2002  
11    and 2003.  At that time we were able to help  
12    craft people from our area as well as people  
13    from all over the State of Ohio and the rest of  
14    the region.

15                    These power houses are similar to  
16    the one proposed for Meigs County with the  
17    addition of the coal gasification process.  The  
18    Meigs County project will produce upwards of  
19    1900 good paying construction jobs over a period  
20    of three to five years.  These are jobs that are  
21    dearly needed in southeastern Ohio where the  
22    tradesmen as you heard have had 30, 40 and 50  
23    percent unemployment rates in recent years.

24                    During the initial construction of

1 this project a conservative estimate of the wages  
2 that construction workers could earn would be  
3 \$2,000,000 a week. That is wages only. That  
4 would be at peak employment. That would be  
5 spent in the counties in southeastern Ohio.

6 If you add the benefits to this  
7 conservative statement, you add benefits that  
8 include health care and pensions, money for drug  
9 and safety programs that assure drug-free and a  
10 safe workplace for our people. Money also that  
11 would pay into the training program to enable  
12 the building trades to add new apprentices to  
13 learn their respective crafts, which helps us to  
14 build and maintain a highly skilled workforce in  
15 the future, a workforce that can earn a living  
16 wage in a time when our counties in the area are  
17 losing good manufacturing jobs.

18 Upon completion of this project the  
19 trades members will also have an opportunity to  
20 work on maintaining this new facility for many  
21 years to come. Also this project as the project  
22 nears completion, there will be over 100  
23 permanent jobs in the plant, jobs created.  
24 These are also good paying jobs with good

1 benefits.

2           Currently in the county we have the  
3 highest unemployment rate in the State of Ohio.  
4 These are jobs that have positive effects on the  
5 communities. And the company encourages  
6 employees to become involved in community  
7 affairs. It will also certainly attract other  
8 economic development that creates other  
9 opportunities for members and also citizens in  
10 and around Meigs County.

11           We have a great opportunity here  
12 that we should not let slip away. We have an  
13 opportunity to partner with power companies to  
14 establish a better future for Meigs County, for  
15 the southeastern Ohio region, and for the entire  
16 State of Ohio.

17           I respectfully ask the Commission to  
18 look at all aspects of AEP's request and to  
19 weigh all the evidence and make a decision that  
20 is both beneficial to the residents of Meigs  
21 County and the State of Ohio. In closing may I  
22 again say the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 168  
23 is a strong proponent of this project.

24           We look forward to working with AEP

1 in developing this power house. And I also want  
2 to thank the Commission for coming to beautiful  
3 southeastern Ohio and allowing me to speak.  
4 This concludes my testimony.

5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank  
6 you. Senator Joy Padgett.

7 (WITNESS SWORN)

8

9 SENATOR JOY PADGETT

10 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
11 testified as follows:

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
13 your name and address for the record.

14 MS. PADGETT: I am Joy Padgett, 871  
15 Walnut Street, Coshocton, Ohio.

16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

17 MS. PADGETT: Thank you. I want to  
18 particularly thank the Commission for taking  
19 time to come down to have this public hearing.  
20 I think the turnout is certainly a testimony to  
21 how welcome you are to come down for this.

22 You know, I learned long ago that  
23 nothing changes until the pain of remaining the  
24 same becomes greater than the pain of change.

1 And change is about hope. And I am so proud of  
2 Meigs County.

3 I know for years I have been working  
4 with them as I have watched them say now we are  
5 not going to do it this way, we are going to  
6 come together as a team, going to come together  
7 as partners, we are going to change Meigs County  
8 so that we can have more hope for the citizens,  
9 the children can chose whether they are going to  
10 live here or go elsewhere.

11 This plant is about the families of  
12 the region, and about the future of the region,  
13 and also the future of Ohio. It's looked at as  
14 an investment into the future. And I can assure  
15 you that Meigs County is open for business, and  
16 certainly open and ready for this particular  
17 facility.

18 You know, Ohio can only be as strong  
19 as the economy of each of its 88 counties.  
20 Counties that don't have the strongest economies  
21 weaken the entire state. It was stated earlier  
22 and quite well that the benefits with this plant  
23 reaches up and down the valley. It is about  
24 construction jobs. Again 1,500 to 2,000 jobs in

1 construction. And you heard the gentleman speak  
2 about construction jobs.

3 I remember that -- I remember when  
4 my dad was an ironworker and worked on the  
5 Columbus Southern Conesville plant, and what  
6 that meant to our family because he would go for  
7 a long period of time without working prior to  
8 that.

9 These jobs are about families,  
10 families being able to stay together. There are  
11 other jobs. As mentioned, you can't forget  
12 the coal jobs. I serve on the Clean Company  
13 Technology Committee. I did when I was in the  
14 House, and serve again in the Senate. Just a  
15 tremendous effort to make sure that we are going  
16 to be able to burn Ohio's coal, and this plant  
17 is set up to be able to do that.

18 But it's also about the trucking  
19 industry, about, as said earlier, the corner  
20 groceries and gas stations and all the other  
21 local businesses that can benefit from a healthy  
22 economy in the region.

23 But it is even more than just  
24 the region. It is about being a state supplier.

1 It's about being a national supplier. And we  
2 all know that Ohio is in a perfect position to  
3 be an exporter of energy, and that is what this  
4 plant would be able to do, it would allow us to  
5 not only use energy here at low cost, but also  
6 to export out nationally.

7 Again, an engine that is going to  
8 drive a lot of permanent jobs. At least 125 I  
9 am told. The plant is going to be built here or  
10 going to be built across the river somewhere.

11 And I just want to mention, Meigs  
12 County is not a in my county. Not in my  
13 backyard. We hear that so often. Meigs County  
14 embraces the opportunity for this plant.

15 I will close with saying that chance  
16 favors a prepared community. And we are, Meigs  
17 County, the region, is prepared to work with  
18 AEP, work with the PUCO in every way that we can  
19 to become partners to benefit lots of people.  
20 This plant located in Meigs County can do a  
21 great amount of good for a great amount of  
22 people and over a great period of time. And we  
23 are prepared and ready to welcome you.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank

1 you. Jason Wittekind.

2 (WITNESS SWORN)

3 JASON WITTEKIND

4 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
5 testified as follows:

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you give  
7 you name and address for the record?

8 MR. WITTEKIND: Jason Wittekind,  
9 6487 State Route 821, Whipple, Ohio. I am a  
10 member of the IBEW Local 972 out of Marietta. I  
11 live in Whipple, Ohio, Washington County.

12 As a lot of people I see in the  
13 room, I am part of the statistics that this  
14 would provide a lot of jobs for a lot of people.  
15 I know friends and family, it would put people  
16 back to work and get the coal mines open and  
17 build the school system up to better train our  
18 people or kids, give them an opportunity of  
19 things maybe we didn't have growing up. I am in  
20 support of this.

21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
22 Loraine McCosker.

23 MS. MCCOSKER: I will send in my  
24 testimony.

1                   ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
2 David Mills.

3                   (WITNESS SWORN)

4                   - - -

5                   DAVID MILLS

6 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
7 testified as follows:

8                   ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
9 your name and spell it and give your address for  
10 the record.

11                   MR. MILLS: David Mills, 41327 East  
12 Shade Road, Reedsville, Ohio 45772. I have  
13 been a resident of Meigs County, Ohio for 42  
14 years and now also Business Representative for  
15 the Ohio and Vicinity Regional Council of  
16 Carpenters. Also a member of Local 356 and  
17 represent roughly 3,500 carpenters throughout  
18 southeastern Ohio.

19                   As everybody before me, and probably  
20 what you are going to hear after me, is good  
21 jobs will be coming from this plant. And I  
22 would just like to go on public record as myself  
23 personally as a resident of this county for 42  
24 years I personally support the power plant.

1           And also I would like to state  
2 publicly my organization, the carpenters, also  
3 support this project. And we have had a good  
4 relationship with AEP, that was mentioned  
5 before, and I would like to see that  
6 relationship continue. And I think it will.

7           And I think the project itself as a  
8 whole will benefit not only Meigs County, but  
9 for all of southeastern Ohio. Thank you.

10           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Dale Dutton.

11           (WITNESS SWORN)

12           - - -

13           DALE DUTTON

14 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
15 testified as follows:

16           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you please  
17 state your name and address for the record?

18           MR. DUTTON: Dale Dutton, 28318  
19 Apple Grove Road, Racine, Ohio. As a member of  
20 Local 650 I support it. My children are going  
21 to the Southern Schools and they will support  
22 it.

23           And I lived in Meigs County for 10  
24 years. I don't know anybody around that don't

1 support it. Thank you.

2 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

3 Robert Chubb.

4 (WITNESS SWORN)

5 - - -

6 ROBERT CHUBB

7 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
8 testified as follows:

9 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
10 you name and address for the record.

11 MR. CHUBB: Robert Chubb, 418  
12 Popular Street, Nelsonville, Ohio. I am a  
13 member of IBEW Local 972. I am here tonight  
14 because I do support jobs. And I do support  
15 jobs, but also support people in southeast Ohio.

16 I have been a resident of Athens  
17 County my whole life. Also worked in Meigs  
18 County. And I noticed just now getting new  
19 roads into the area, building new  
20 infrastructure. This has been years in the  
21 making.

22 As a construction worker I have been  
23 down in the area, been down the back roads,  
24 witnessed first hand this area. Just having a

1 good job instills hope in people.

2 As a juvenile corrections officer I  
3 deal with many juveniles. And 95 percent of  
4 them didn't have fathers. Their fathers  
5 couldn't find a good job for different reasons.  
6 They walked out on the family. It's just  
7 inconceivable to think that a good job does not  
8 mean a lot. It instills pride in a person.

9 I think the power house will give  
10 the people of Meigs County something to be proud  
11 of. We obviously need hope in our lives to be a  
12 member of society, to be a taxpayer, to put our  
13 kids through school, values, moral integrity.  
14 Those are the reasons I support the power house.  
15 Thank you.

16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

17 Steve Crum.

18 (WITNESS SWORN)

19 - - -

20 STEVE CRUM

21 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
22 testified as follows:

23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
24 your name and address for the record, please.

1 MR. CRUM: My name is Steve Crum. I  
2 reside at 46242 Township Road 138, Caldwell,  
3 Ohio.

4 I am the Business Manager/Financial  
5 Secretary of International Brotherhood of  
6 Electrical Workers Local Union No. 972. Our  
7 business address is 50 Sandhill Road, Reno, Ohio  
8 45773.

9 It is my pleasure to represent 207  
10 conduit running, cable pulling, light fixture  
11 hanging, transformer tapping, wire nut twisting,  
12 switch and receptacle mounting, and panel  
13 terminating journeyman and apprentice, men and  
14 women union electricians in Athens, Meigs,  
15 Monroe, Morgan, Noble and Washington Counties.

16 We too have experienced the shortage  
17 of work that the other business managers have  
18 spoken of earlier. We also have the ability to  
19 supply AEP with the necessary skilled manpower  
20 pool that is essential to construct a billion  
21 dollar electric generating station. So I will  
22 try not to be redundant in that matter.

23 Tonight I would like to address the  
24 concerns of some of the opposition. Let's start

1 with the surcharge. Data taken from the Ohio  
2 Consumers' Counsel's website suggests that the  
3 surcharge for a residential customer using 850  
4 Kw per month utilizing power from Columbus  
5 Southern Power, the most expensive of the two,  
6 would pay an additional \$5.88 a year in 2006,  
7 \$3.60 a year in 2007, \$17.04 a year in 2008,  
8 \$33.00 a year in 2009 and \$39.48 a year in 2010.

9 Over the five-year period a consumer  
10 can expect to pay only an additional \$99.00  
11 total on their electric bill.

12 Folks, that averages out to \$19.80 a  
13 year. We are not talking about an unreasonable  
14 hardship to any of the Columbus Southern Power  
15 or Ohio Power consumers for the benefits that  
16 this project can bring to Meigs County, the  
17 school districts, the local economy as well as  
18 central and southeast Ohio.

19 If I were to ask you to invest  
20 \$99.00 for a possible return over the next five  
21 years of around \$400,000, would you make that  
22 investment? That is what you are asking the  
23 Buildings Trades members to do and that is why  
24 they are undoubtedly in favor of this project.

1           A \$99.00 investment in their  
2 electric bill could return over \$400,000 in  
3 wages and fringe benefits, that includes pension  
4 and insurance, for them and their families.  
5 Take in consideration that the money earned  
6 locally will turn over an average of seven times  
7 and the surcharge appears even more minuscule  
8 when offset by the benefits to the community and  
9 to the area.

10           So to the Ohio Consumers' Counsel,  
11 and their peer groups, I appreciate your efforts  
12 and have supported many of them myself. We need  
13 watchdog groups to protect the consumer from  
14 greedy corporations.

15           However, as I stated earlier, I  
16 don't feel this request is unreasonable or that  
17 American Electric Power is overly greedy in this  
18 case.

19           I ask that if the Public Utilities  
20 Commission of Ohio approves this application  
21 that the fight ends there. Do not take this  
22 fight to the Supreme Court, which would only  
23 delay all the great benefits to the good people  
24 of Meigs County and southeast Ohio.

1                   To the Sierra Club and other  
2 environmental protection groups, I too applaud  
3 your efforts in preserving and improving our  
4 environment.     Because of your efforts and  
5 awareness campaigns we do have a better  
6 atmosphere in which to live. American Electric  
7 Power and all other power companies are reducing  
8 harmful emissions like nitrogen oxide, sulfur  
9 dioxide, carbon dioxide and mercury.

10                   This technology also provides work  
11 for many of my union electricians and ensures  
12 that we raise our families in a safer  
13 environment. I would encourage you to continue  
14 to work with these power companies to improve  
15 their emissions and to continue to research and  
16 develop new technology such as the Integrated  
17 Gasification Combined Cycle technology and to  
18 explore solar, wind and water and future  
19 alternatives.

20                   I would also suggest that you take  
21 your efforts abroad to create a level playing  
22 field of environmental standards. The United  
23 States can no longer afford to continue to lose  
24 industry to countries with little or nonexistent

1 environmental standards.

2 To First Energy, Calpine, Dayton  
3 Power and Electric, Cynergy and all the others  
4 who fear this electric generating station will  
5 put them at an unfair competitive disadvantage,  
6 I don't claim to understand how the whole  
7 electric auction works. But I do know that if  
8 my competitor has an advantage, I am going to  
9 find out what that advantage is and try to  
10 utilize it or improve it myself.

11 From someone on the outside looking  
12 in, I view this as an opportunity. If this  
13 application is approved, I see this as a  
14 potential avenue in which we can upgrade our  
15 entire power generating system in Ohio by all  
16 power companies. Most of our power plants were  
17 built between the 1950s and the late 1970s. All  
18 of those have outlived their life expectancies  
19 thanks mainly to the highly skilled Building  
20 Tradesmen who built and maintained them for the  
21 past 50 years.

22 But you can only put bandaids on for  
23 so many years. Think of what rebuilding our  
24 power system would mean to the economic

1 development of this state. We, the working  
2 people, surely understand that we need it.

3 To our friends at American Electric  
4 Power, I want to publicly thank you for the  
5 relationship that the IBEW has enjoyed with AEP  
6 for many decades. You have been loyal employers  
7 of the Building Trades for the same amount of  
8 time and we really do appreciate that. Although  
9 we do not have a formal commitment in writing, I  
10 understand that it is your intent on utilizing  
11 the IBEW and the Building Trades to do this  
12 project. If not, I take back everything I have  
13 said.

14 You have a responsibility to your  
15 consumers. Monitor the generation rate  
16 surcharge. If it is making more money than is  
17 needed, reduce it. Start the surcharge when you  
18 say you will and take it back off when you say  
19 you will.

20 Mandate your contractor of choice to  
21 cooperate with the Building Trades. Encourage  
22 them to buy locally and to use Ohio made  
23 products whenever possible. Meet often and  
24 early during the design and bid process as well

1 as during construction. We want the same thing  
2 you do. A top quality project done on time and  
3 under budget with every worker going home at  
4 night the same way he or she came in that  
5 morning. And near the end of this 600 MW  
6 project we want you to announce that you are  
7 going to dovetail another 600 MW to the nearly  
8 complete unit because we did you such a good  
9 job.

10 And finally to the PUCO, this  
11 proposal has bipartisan support. Both  
12 Republican and Democrat elected officials who  
13 represent southeastern Ohio are in favor of the  
14 application. No one can argue the benefits that  
15 this new power plant can bring to the area.

16 With the highest unemployment rate  
17 of any county in the state, no one can argue  
18 that Meigs County doesn't deserve it. We really  
19 only have the surcharge issue. Again, I feel  
20 that the surcharge is minimal and is  
21 overwhelmingly offset by the benefits.

22 Having said all of that, I wish to  
23 state for the record that IBEW Local 972 is in  
24 complete support of the application by AEP to

1 the PUCO. I also respectfully request that the  
2 PUCO, upon reviewing all the testimony grant  
3 approval for the application. Thank you for  
4 your attention.

5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Mary Beth  
6 Lohse.

7 (WITNESS SWORN)

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9

MARY BETH LOHSE

10 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
11 testified as follows:

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you state  
13 your name and address for the record?

14 MS. LOHSE: Mary Beth Lohse. My  
15 address is 33070 Cotterill Road, Pomeroy. My  
16 name is Mary Beth Lohse and I am a resident of  
17 Meigs County. Although I do not necessarily  
18 oppose building the IGCC plant in Meigs County I  
19 have read this application and I can't support  
20 it in its current form.

21 There is too many unanswered  
22 questions about the fairness of the financing  
23 scheme, about the overall impact, environmental  
24 impact of the plant and what the real economic

1 benefits are likely to be. I have a list of  
2 specific questions and comments, and in the  
3 interest of time I would like to submit them in  
4 written form as my sworn testimony. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank  
7 you. Charles E. Williams.

8 (WITNESS SWORN)

9

10

CHARLES E. WILLIAMS

11

called as a witness, being first duly sworn,

12

testified as follows:

13

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
14 your name and address for the record.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Charles E. William,  
P.O. Box 321, Rutland, Ohio. My name is  
Charles Williams and I am a resident of Rutland  
in Meigs County. I am here to speak on my  
behalf. Also I got a call from Senator Charlie  
Wilson's office and he asked me to speak for him  
also. Senator Wilson has been in the Ohio  
legislature since '97 and the whole time he has  
been here he has worked with coal companies and  
in that eight years worked trying to get a power

1 plant in southeastern Ohio. So that is telling  
2 you that you have got all his support.

3 This power plant, I am hearing about  
4 the cost, what it is going to add to it. If you  
5 stop and look at it, \$99 for five years -- I am  
6 on fixed income, my electric bill, it would be  
7 kind of tough, but not unbearable. And if it  
8 creates jobs for our children in the future I  
9 think it's well within our interest. I think it  
10 should be considered.

11 The coal technology that is going to  
12 be in this plant somewhere in the area, or  
13 somewhere in the United States, that plant is  
14 going to be built. They are looking at a site  
15 in West Virginia, they are also looking at a  
16 site in Kentucky. And if we can invite them in  
17 here and get a plant in Meigs county and going  
18 to help Meigs County, but if we want to fight  
19 this and punch it out, it will make things in  
20 Meigs County a lot harder for the children.

21 What we need to do is look to the  
22 future, not just what it is going to cost us  
23 today. And the other gentleman stated it's not  
24 that big of an investment. So with that for

1 myself, from the UMWA, and for Senator Wilson I  
2 would like to go on record requesting the PUCO  
3 to allow this recovery cost. And that is all.

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
5 Representative Jimmy Stewart.

6 (WITNESS SWORN)

7 - - -

8 REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY STEWART  
9 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
10 testified as follows:

11 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
12 you name and address for the record.

13 MR. STEWART: State Representative  
14 Jimmy Stewart, 42995 School Lot Road, Albany,  
15 Ohio 45710.

16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

17 MR. STEWART: Thank you. Okay. I  
18 would like to begin by thanking each  
19 and everyone for coming out tonight. I know  
20 there were other things we could have been doing  
21 or places we could be. This is very important.  
22 Thank all of you for coming out tonight.

23 Secondly, I would like to reaffirm  
24 the testimony of, well, Steve Crum from IBEW

1 Local 972, and Senator Joy Padgett, and State  
2 Representative Jennifer Garrison and the Meigs  
3 County Commissioners for giving their support.

4 You have heard tonight from  
5 Democrats, Republicans, people employed, people  
6 who are unemployed, people underemployed, people  
7 from a union and non-union. It's not every day  
8 we all agree on something, something that is  
9 good for Meigs County and southeast Ohio, and we  
10 feel the whole State of Ohio.

11 I would like to touch on some  
12 environmental concerns. The power to serve this  
13 nation and this state and this region is going  
14 to come from somewhere. Do you want it to come  
15 from Ohio? Do you want it to come from this new  
16 technology that is cleaner than what we are  
17 currently using in coal fired generating plants  
18 in this region?

19 Would you like it to come from West  
20 Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana? Or maybe you would  
21 like it to come from another country. So, this  
22 is bigger, much bigger than Meigs County, it is  
23 bigger than southeast Ohio, certainly much  
24 bigger than \$99 dollars.

1           It is a fact that there is an  
2 additional and will be additional demand for  
3 electricity in this nation in the years to come.  
4 I don't think AEP wants to build a new power  
5 plant just for the heck of it. They think there  
6 is going to be a demand for this power.

7           I submit to you folks that they are  
8 not the only electric utility in Ohio who is  
9 considering building another plant. However,  
10 they are the one looking at this case to see  
11 whether or not they will be building any future  
12 production in Ohio, or if they will build it in  
13 Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia  
14 or somewhere else. Take your pick.

15           It will come, it will be built. Do  
16 you want it here? Do you want it somewhere  
17 else? This is one instance that it is  
18 considerably cleaner than what we are using now.  
19 I think that is a good thing. I think we all  
20 agree that is a good thing.

21           I would encourage my friends in the  
22 various movements to continue working, as Mr.  
23 Crum said earlier, to come up with even better  
24 ways of cleaning the existing plants that we

1 have now.

2 Again I want to thank you all for  
3 coming out this evening. And again it's not  
4 every day we can all agree on these issues.  
5 It's important that we have generation capacity  
6 not just here in southeast Ohio, but in Ohio so  
7 we can remain competitive with what  
8 manufacturing we still have. And unfortunately,  
9 that is less and less as every month goes by.

10 So, I would urge the PUCO to review  
11 the application thoroughly, and I would urge  
12 them to especially pay attention to the proposed  
13 rate increase and decide what is fair, decide  
14 what is not fair. I don't understand the  
15 numbers. That is their job. I hope that they  
16 come up with something that is fair to all  
17 parties involved and helps this region. Thank  
18 you all for coming out.

19 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

20 Elisa Young.

21 (WITNESS SWORN)

22 - - -

23 ELISA YOUNG

24 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,

1 testified as follows:

2 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
3 your name and address for the record.

4 MS. YOUNG: Elisa Young, 48360  
5 Carmel Road, Racine 45771. I will not be the  
6 most popular person in the room. I have lots  
7 of concerns about the power plant and I have  
8 been trying for almost six months to get answers  
9 from AEP. And I have talked to the people they  
10 directed me to and they did not return phone  
11 calls or e-mails.

12 I understand about jobs. I used to  
13 work at Ohio University. My job was outsourced  
14 and I go to Columbus, Ohio every day. That is a  
15 heck of a commute. So, I understand about that.

16 When I first moved to Meigs County  
17 my family had been here, been on the farm for  
18 about seven generations and moved after my  
19 grandmother died. And I worked in the medical  
20 field for almost 20 years. And one of the  
21 things that jumped out immediately was how many  
22 friends were getting sick and dying from cancer.

23 This is just a little county map of  
24 the township. And within about half to one mile

1 radius I lost 10 neighbors in the last three  
2 years.

3                   With the IGCC plant there is going  
4 to be a lot less concern. I understand that  
5 the way the energy industry operates is if they  
6 open a cleaner facility they are allowed to  
7 release more pollutants from the existing and  
8 older facilities. And I am also concerned for  
9 children. I live near the village of Racine,  
10 and I can't believe the number of children with  
11 asthma and respiratory problems. And my kids  
12 had some.

13                   So I asked AEP about their, you  
14 know, what is going to happen if they build a  
15 cleaner facility, are they going to release more  
16 from the older facilities, what is going to be  
17 our total exposure. And I could not get a  
18 response.

19                   My assumption is a positive response  
20 would have come back to me. Their answer is  
21 forthcoming. It's been many, many months and I  
22 called them over and over to try and get an  
23 answer.

24                   One of my concerns reading over

1 the permit was that I am happy things are going  
2 to be removed, but my concern is where will they  
3 be stored. Is it going to be stored in a  
4 landfill along water? Will we see mercury in  
5 our drinking water? Because after our drinking  
6 water wells there are no other drinking wells  
7 around for us to go to.

8 I called the water company and they  
9 say they check the mercury every three years,  
10 and if they get a positive response they do  
11 additional testing. I have a real concern about  
12 what mercury exposure is doing to children. If  
13 it doesn't come through the air it will come in  
14 the landfill is what I have been reading. That  
15 stays with us for a long time.

16 I wonder if there was some kind of  
17 environmental impact study on Ohio coal and how  
18 much Ohio coal is high sulfur content coal. And  
19 I would like to know what AEP or the mining  
20 companies is going to do to protect us and the  
21 streams and water from that high sulfur content  
22 coal.

23 These are concerns that jumped out  
24 at me. If 1.6 billion dollars that is raised is

1 going onto our bills I have to say I am opposed  
2 to this. If for some reason the plant is not  
3 built how will the money be spent or  
4 reimbursed? I would like to know what that  
5 would be.

6 And what about conservation  
7 measures? I have heard that we can reduce our  
8 energy consumption up to 46 percent simply by  
9 investing in things that conserve the amount of  
10 energy we are using now in our home and  
11 businesses. That also would create a lot of  
12 jobs.

13 I am worried about the power lines.  
14 When I lost my job at OU one of the positions I  
15 have taken now is working from home. And we  
16 always have lots of static on the phone line.  
17 There is a power line that comes over. And the  
18 telephone company told me nothing can be done  
19 about that. That is just how it is.

20 And I can't keep my computer  
21 connected. And we tried a different computer,  
22 tried all different things. And finally the  
23 phone company came out. And like radiation  
24 comes off the power lines. My computer can't

1 stay connected.

2 Three friends of mine died of brain  
3 cancer in the last two years. It is a sparsely  
4 populated farming community. So it really is a  
5 concern for me, this big power plant, biggest  
6 power plant in the United States.

7 I asked AEP what this clean coal  
8 technology will do to protect us from that  
9 electrical radiation. There was not a response.

10 And so I don't know if these are  
11 questions or things that can be answered through  
12 this process, but I haven't had any success in  
13 getting answers. So maybe that could be  
14 something that could come out of this.

15 I understand there are other  
16 deregulated investment programs that people  
17 invest in to provide alternative energy with  
18 wind, solar or geothermal. And I would like to  
19 request that AEP look at some of these other  
20 technologies. Let's purchase those. I  
21 understand they have programs in North Carolina  
22 and Tennessee and this also creates a lot of  
23 jobs.

24 Then I don't totally understand the

1 Public Utilities Commission process, but I  
2 wonder why other states that are benefiting from  
3 this can't also share in the cost of the  
4 construction.

5 As far as the technology being clean  
6 and proved safe, I tried to look at that. I  
7 found that the majority of power plants that use  
8 this technology are overseas because of  
9 environmental problems. So I contacted AEP to  
10 ask them what the problems were, what they will  
11 do to protect our community. And I did not get  
12 any response.

13 I would like to know where the other  
14 power plants are and what the problems were,  
15 what AEP is doing to improve that and keeping us  
16 safe.

17 And another question that I will  
18 submit that hasn't been answered yet is once the  
19 new power plant comes on line will any power  
20 plants be taken off line? And I would like to  
21 know if health studies have been done, people  
22 monitor to see how much radiation is coming off.  
23 Because somebody did come to my house in a van  
24 with equipment to do some monitoring but would

1 not give me any information. The van didn't  
2 have any identifying name on it.

3 And said it was an independent  
4 study, but wouldn't give me more information.  
5 So I said, well, send me information. I would  
6 be glad to participate in that. But like no  
7 answer. Never heard anything back from them.

8 And I contacted AEP and asked if  
9 there had been a health study for this  
10 electromagnetic radiation and I did not get a  
11 response. I would like to know that.

12 I also am not sure with the IGCC  
13 plant if they are able to burn Ohio coal. One  
14 of my concerns is that if they are going to  
15 start burning it will it be with a scrubber and  
16 will there be a net reduction in our exposure to  
17 these air omissions and where are they going to  
18 store the omissions. Is it going to be a  
19 landfill and what will be done to keep us safe  
20 from that.

21 I am really concerned about that.  
22 Our cancer rates have roughly doubled around us.  
23 I would like to see it do better.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

1 This probably is not directly responsive to your  
2 question, but if the plant is to be built there  
3 will be a separate application through the Power  
4 Siting Board, and as part of the Power Siting  
5 Board process there is an investigation done by  
6 the staff of the Power Citing Board that  
7 includes the Environmental Protection Agency and  
8 Department of Natural Resources and other staff  
9 that does investigate a number of concerns and a  
10 number of issues that you raised that will not  
11 necessarily be addressed in this proceeding and  
12 may be addressed in the other proceeding.

13 I really can't get into your  
14 additional questions, but if you want to come  
15 and see me afterwards I might be able to help  
16 you some more. But this is actually in order to  
17 get the plant built, this is the first  
18 proceeding, the additional proceeding will get  
19 into much more of the enviromental protection  
20 issues.

21 I am not going to try and read  
22 the name, but the address is Broadway in  
23 Middleport, Ohio.

24 (WITNESS SWORN)



1 There are lots of pros and cons concerning any  
2 plant, any change in the environment, or  
3 anything else in any community. We are stressed  
4 to the max with our economic status.

5 I personally would like to see that changed in  
6 my lifetime if it is possible. I have children  
7 and grandchildren.

8 You are not going to please  
9 everybody with every decision that is made, but  
10 we have to look to the future, we have to be  
11 progressive. We are residents of this county.  
12 I personally think the end justifies the means  
13 and support your project.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.  
15 Jennifer Simon.

16 (WITNESS SWORN)

17  
18 JENNIFER SIMON  
19 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
20 testified as follows:

21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
22 your name and address for the record.

23 MS. SIMON: Jennifer Simon, 10790  
24 Voris Road, Logan, Ohio. My name is Jennifer

1 Simon and I am Economic Developer for Athens  
2 County. And not only do I serve in that  
3 capacity, but also very produced to have a  
4 cousin sitting back there with IBEW Local 972.

5 I am here in the economic  
6 development capacity, but also a little  
7 emotional about the fact that this is also about  
8 our jobs. And having grown up in Washington  
9 County, having now worked in Athens County, and  
10 worked in 29 counties doing economic  
11 development. It's about jobs.

12 Athens County is in support of  
13 having this facility here in Meigs County. I  
14 have worked on projects before, US 33 being one  
15 of them, worked on this project now. We have  
16 put a lot of time and effort into another  
17 regional project that I am very proud of.

18 We have got the trades people  
19 readily available from throughout the entire  
20 region. We have coal here. Let's use it. We  
21 have people that know power, let's use that  
22 knowledge. We also have Ohio University. I  
23 don't know if you know this or not, but Ohio  
24 University, we have the State's clean coal

1 technology center for the entire state. We are  
2 recognized as experts in that particular field.  
3 And we have the training opportunities for  
4 people to work in that facility as well.

5 So again I echo the comments that  
6 were made by several here tonight, particularly  
7 Commissioner Davenport. Not only do we want  
8 this plant, but the next plant too. And we want  
9 it to come out in our favor for a power plant  
10 for Athens County.

11 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Pat  
12 Boston.

13 MR. BOSTON: This is unsworn.

14 - - -

15 PAT BOSTON

16 called as a witness, testified as follows:

17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
18 you name and address for the record.

19 MR. BOSTON: Pat Boston, Route 2,  
20 Box 38 A, Letart, West Virginia. I said  
21 unsworn, there is a reason for that. I live in  
22 West Virginia. I don't want the representatives  
23 saying anything about me.

24 But I come here tonight as President

1 of Carpenter's Local 650 done here in Pomeroy.  
2 I have been in this area since March 16th, 1992.  
3 Talk about unemployment, we have got 60 percent.  
4 Probably the Local has a lot more right now.  
5 The ones working, thank God for the roads we  
6 got. They are able to commute a little quicker  
7 to Columbus.

8 But our guys know to get a good  
9 paying job in this area, to get health, welfare,  
10 good pensions to retire on and decent living  
11 wage you have to go somewhere else to do that.

12 I live in West Virginia. I can look  
13 out my backyard, low toward the north I can see  
14 the Mountaineer power plants. Look to the  
15 northeast I can see Sporn. Look over to the  
16 east I can see a 765 KV power line within a  
17 thousand foot. Look towards the south I can  
18 see another 765 power line within 2000 feet  
19 away.

20 I live close to my grandparents. My  
21 grandpa died in '99. He was 92 years old.  
22 Grandma will be 95 in December. They lived  
23 around this all their lives.

24 My brothers and sisters back there

1 in the trades, they build plants in West  
2 Virginia and other places. We want to build one  
3 right here in Ohio in our back yard. We want it  
4 now. With that we throw our support behind the  
5 AEP cost recovery plan.

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Bob  
7 Grieser.

8 (WITNESS SWORN)

9

- - -

10

BOB GRIESER

11

called as a witness, being first duly sworn,

12

testified as follows:

13

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you state  
14 your name and address for the record?

15

MR. GRIESER: Robert Greiser, 28440  
16 Tanners Run Road, Racine, Ohio 45771. Good  
17 evening. It is good to see you are all awake  
18 out here. I will try not to be redundant  
19 tonight.

20

My father was a pipefitter. That is  
21 how I got started as a young man. With that  
22 experience I was able to start a small business.  
23 Got a plumbing and heating business. B  
24 appreciate the work these fellows do he:

1 what they expressed tonight.

2           The Board of Education passed a  
3 resolution supporting the construction of this  
4 project. Now, that probably doesn't come as a  
5 real surprise because most of you out there  
6 probably believe there is going to be a  
7 windfall. In the past that has been the case  
8 with the old legislature, but with House Bill  
9 66, which was just passed back in June, probably  
10 changed that forever. The school will not get  
11 that kind of windfall money.

12           However, the Board of Education  
13 certainly realizes that this goes far beyond the  
14 local school district. And, by the way, I am  
15 the Superintendent of the Southern Local  
16 Schools, but I didn't say that. I apologize for  
17 that.

18           But the district recognizes that  
19 this is much bigger than our schools. It goes  
20 well beyond the residents. Of course, it goes  
21 to the whole state.

22           First of all we have declining  
23 enrollment. I believe the decline in enrollment  
24 directly corresponds to unemployment. People

1 who don't have jobs, they don't have good jobs,  
2 they are going to leave to get them. We have  
3 been losing students at the rate of about 20 per  
4 year. That doesn't sound like a lot, but there  
5 were around 1,400 and now about 750.

6           When you lose students that causes  
7 economic issues for us. Often times when you  
8 lose 10 students or 15 you can't do anything  
9 about reducing costs. We have the same  
10 services.

11           Two out of three students are on  
12 free or reduced lunch. Our teachers of 612  
13 school districts are the lowest paid teachers in  
14 the entire State of Ohio. That is not one  
15 record we like to have.

16           Another record that we have and not  
17 very proud of is the school has dipped into the  
18 State loan fund for seven consecutive years.  
19 That is a record. No other district has come  
20 close to that.

21           I don't know that the construction  
22 of this is going to resolve all of our financial  
23 issues locally, but I do know there is good  
24 paying jobs if there is construction

1 opportunities out there and it is going to  
2 benefit the entire region.

3 As I said, our Board of Education  
4 again supports the recovery program as well as  
5 the construction of the power plant in  
6 the Southern Local School District. Thank you.

7 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Bob  
8 Graham.

9 (WITNESS SWORN)

10

- - -

11

ROBERT GRAHAM

12 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
13 testified as follows:

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
15 your name and address for the record.

16 MR. GRAHAM: Robert G. Graham, 37120  
17 Rocksprings Road, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769. My name  
18 is Robert Graham and I live out here on  
19 Rocksprings Road.

20 I have worked construction crafts  
21 for 28 years. I have traveled all over this  
22 country to find work because there is no work in  
23 this county. Now, I support Meigs County, but I  
24 share this one lady's concern about the

1 environment. This happened to me on the job at  
2 a power station in West Virginia. I got my  
3 lungs burned when sulfer dioxide came out of the  
4 boiler.

5 When this happened to me you really  
6 reflect on things that you have done during your  
7 life and things that bother you. I sit on the  
8 porch out here and smell sulfer dioxide from  
9 Gavin down here and I have to go inside.

10 But, I really think that jobs is  
11 wonderful, but also you have to contemplate at  
12 what cost sometimes. I don't know what  
13 the solution is to this because we all need to  
14 work, we all need to live. But  
15 the environmental concerns, I really think  
16 that -- I wonder about but. That is all I have  
17 to say about this.

18 But we do need to work, no question  
19 about that. I don't think anybody can deny  
20 that, but we also need to be protected. Things  
21 have to be done right. If things were done  
22 right this wouldn't have happened to me right  
23 today.

24 The emissions -- and I know from

1 working construction around power houses, I know  
2 everything don't go up that stack. What got me  
3 didn't go up the stack to be monitored. And you  
4 have to be really -- has to be really thought  
5 out. But, I think you need the jobs.

6 But I thought I might share this  
7 little story on this part. If things are done  
8 correctly I think it will be a good thing  
9 myself. Hopefully they will take these power  
10 houses and clean them up. Because I know for a  
11 fact, been when they clean one plant up they  
12 sell pollution, or sell their waste they are  
13 allowed to emit to another plant.

14 So, I think that is something that  
15 has to be considered. They should not be  
16 allowed to sell their emissions to another  
17 plant. That is my main concern. Thank you.

18 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Jeff  
19 Thornton, County Commissioner.

20 (WITNESS SWORN)

21

- - -

22

JEFF THORNTON

23 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
24 testified as follows:

1                   ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
2 your name and address for the record.

3                   MR. THORNTON: Jeff Thornton, 105  
4 5th Street. I am a resident of Racine. I  
5 lived in Racine all my life and we had power  
6 emissions come out of that plant back in  
7 the '60s that used to be about that thick  
8 (indicating) every morning that would come on  
9 the porch.

10                   And we have helped build power  
11 plants in Columbus and the Cleveland area and  
12 it's time for our fair share. We will never  
13 have an opportunity like this ever again. We  
14 got the community working hard with the economic  
15 director and been working for several years.  
16 And here is an opportunity to not let go.

17                   If we do our budget will be going  
18 down the drain. Our budget has been \$5,000,000  
19 for the last three years and it's not getting  
20 better. It's worse every year. The State keeps  
21 putting mandates on us. We don't have the tax  
22 dollars for the schools and tax dollars for the  
23 general fund and to help the libraries.

24                   And we need our people to have jobs,

1 good paying jobs with good paying insurance. I  
2 know lots of people that are working poor, that  
3 the wife works and no insurance. And it's not  
4 fair that you can do better on welfare. We need  
5 to change that. That is not going to be changed  
6 without the power plant. And looking at the  
7 power plant right across the river. We get some  
8 dirt from it, but this is supposed to be one of  
9 the cleanest ones being built. So we hope we  
10 are not going to get too much emission from it.  
11 Thank you.

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Bill  
13 Hutchinson.

14 (WITNESS SWORN)

15 - - -

16 BILL HUTCHINSON

17 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
18 testified as follows:

19 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
20 your name and address for the record.

21 MR. HUTCHINSON: Bill Hutchinson,  
22 815 Second Street, Marietta, Ohio.

23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

24 MR. HUTCHINSON: I am Bill

1 Hutchinson, Business Manager for Ironworkers  
2 Local No. 787. I lived in Washington County  
3 most all of my life. Along with being Business  
4 Manager of the Local I am also Trustee of the  
5 Health and Welfare Pension Trust. We are  
6 fighting medical costs. Every year the price  
7 goes up. The lack of work in the area adds to  
8 our costs. We have had 40 to 50 percent  
9 unemployment. Our cost went from \$3.40 in 2002  
10 to \$6.00 an hour in 2005. It's a real problem  
11 and hard to handle. This has raised the cost to  
12 lots of our members to the point where they are  
13 giving up their insurance. Can't forward it  
14 anymore.

15           The lack of work makes it hard for  
16 young people to -- taking them in the  
17 apprenticeship and retain them. They are  
18 trained and no work for them. It's hard to keep  
19 them in the program. These people we need to  
20 build our future and their future.

21           To find work many members leave home  
22 and work many hours away. It puts a financial  
23 and emotional strain on their families. It's  
24 not easy.

1           The power house building would be  
2 putting a lot of people to work in the area.  
3 The people would be able to make a good wage,  
4 good health insurance, and good retirement.  
5 Ironworkers Local 787 is in complete support of  
6 this project. Thank you.

7           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Fred  
8 Althouse.

9           (WITNESS SWORN)

10           - - -

11           FRED ALTHOUSE

12 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
13 testified as follows:

14           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state  
15 your name and address for the record.

16           MR. ALTHOUSE: Fred Althouse, 37680  
17 Holly Road, Pomeroy, Ohio. I want to come up  
18 here and tell everybody what I think about AEP.  
19 AEP I worked for for 27 years here in Meigs  
20 County. And they are fair. They done lots for  
21 this county here. We went through lots of  
22 things out there. Went through floods out in  
23 the mines. And AEP was a company that done  
24 everything they could to make things right, to

1 make it work out there.

2 I have worked for -- since then I  
3 work construction. Work now for IBEW out of  
4 Marietta. I like what I am doing, but it was a  
5 good job at the mines for AEP. We do need this  
6 power plant. I mean, something that we do need  
7 here in this area.

8 We need jobs. I have got  
9 grandchildren graduating from school right here  
10 next year. I don't want them working over at  
11 Wal-Mart either. I want them to work for AEP or  
12 somebody that will pay them a fair wage. I know  
13 at Wal-Mart they have got people 75, 80 years  
14 old standing there. Won't even let them sit  
15 down for five minutes. I mean, AEP never did me  
16 that way when I worked for them.

17 Another thing I want to say is  
18 the last four years -- I got laid off in the  
19 mines in 2001. In July 1st, July 1st, 2001. I  
20 worked construction work since then. I have  
21 drove anywhere from, in the last year worked six  
22 months, drive 28,000 miles back and forth to  
23 work. The year before that drove 38,000. Year  
24 before that 43.

1 I want a job here. You know, I have  
2 totaled two vehicles in the last four years  
3 hitting dear leaving at 4:00 o'clock in the  
4 morning. Two hundred miles back and forth to  
5 work, stuff like that. Make a good wage, but,  
6 you know, we need it here. I mean, lived here,  
7 been here since 25 years old. Been here  
8 since -- spent three years in the Army. Other  
9 than that been right here.

10 I like it here. This is my home.  
11 And we need work right here, need jobs here.  
12 And AEP is the first out of the gate. I will  
13 tell you that right now. I just went through a  
14 30 hour safety class. Just worked on AEP  
15 property this year. I mean, the first one to  
16 come up with it, every time come up with any  
17 stuff like that, first out of the gate.

18 I know this company, worked like 27  
19 years with them. They are fair. And they  
20 already proved that here in this county because  
21 I can take you out here and show you all kinds  
22 of new homes that they are building because AEP  
23 was here, you know. Got a new home, got a nice  
24 home, paid for because of AEP.

1           I am a proud citizen of this state  
2 and this county and I like where I am at, like  
3 what is here. And I know we want this job, we  
4 want this power plant. We need this power  
5 plant.

6           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Tim  
7 Collins.

8           (WITNESS SWORN)

9

- - -

10

TIM COLLINS

11 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
12 testified as follows:

13           ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please give  
14 your name and address for the record.

15           MR. COLLINS: Tim Collins, 2147 Veto  
16 Road, Vinton, Ohio. I am Tim Collins, member  
17 of IBEW 972. I have been an IBEW member for 18  
18 years.

19           I am in favor of this power house.  
20 I was before a member of 972 a member of 71 out  
21 of Columbus. I was a high voltage lineman. I  
22 worked for almost 12 years on high voltage power  
23 lines. And when I say work, I went up in a  
24 bucket with gloves every day. I saw lots of

1 friends do that.

2 I am a sportsman, so I like the  
3 clean environment too. I want clean water,  
4 clean air. And it was my impression that this  
5 new power house was -- one of the selling points  
6 was clean coal technology. Now we have got a  
7 problem with C8. They can't be responsible for  
8 what other power houses had done, but it's the  
9 mind set we are put in. So, in my opinion I  
10 think we the need the power house. Thank you.

11 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Mac  
12 Miller.

13 - - -

14 MAC MILLER  
15 called as a witness, testified as follows:

16 MR. MILLER: Mac Miller, field rep  
17 for the Bricklayers Southern Ohio District  
18 Council, and I am here tonight to speak for the  
19 local jurisdiction in this area, Local 323 and  
20 252. That is my new jurisdiction.

21 And we support this project and  
22 support the jobs it is going to bring to this  
23 area.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

1 Wyndham Spauling.

2 (WITNESS SWORN)

3

- - -

4

WYNDHAM SPAULING

5 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
6 testified as follows:

7

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please give  
8 your name and address for the record.

9

MR. SPAULING: Wyndham Spauling,  
10 2415 Plumb Road, Waterford, Ohio. Good evening.

11

I would like to thank all  
12 the community for being here, the other people  
13 from the building trades, business agents,  
14 members. My name is Wyndham Spauling, Business  
15 Manager, Local President Boilermakers Local 105  
16 in Piketon, Ohio. We go back a long way with  
17 AEP. We have been here since 1985. The Local  
18 covers everything south of I-70 in Ohio until  
19 you get up close to Wheeling. We have built  
20 every major power plant AEP has.

21

I have probably worked in 90 percent  
22 of every power generating facility in the State  
23 of Ohio. Our membership currently stands about  
24 528 members. We have 70 apprentices. These

1 young men go through a four-year training  
2 program consisting of 6,000 hours in the field  
3 plus approximately a thousand hours in classroom  
4 study. Seventy or eighty percent of the  
5 membership are certified welders and riggers.  
6 Our forte is building power plants and steel  
7 mills and oil refineries.

8           Currently 500 of those members are  
9 out of work tonight. You have to accumulate 26  
10 weeks for unemployment claim in the spring and  
11 in the fall. A two year job for my members  
12 would be God sent. To keep a steady job  
13 currently we have approximately 100 to 150  
14 members that live here locally in Meigs, Gallia,  
15 Washington, Morgan, Athens and Vinton, Jackson  
16 County. All of these members would be more than  
17 willing to work on this project.

18           They fund their health and welfare  
19 through work. Their pension plan is through  
20 work. And without a job it don't take long and  
21 you have lost your home, you are without health  
22 insurance, and you are clear under.

23           Instead of what we usually do as  
24 business manager we take turns attending

1 funerals. Probably three weeks ago we had a 29  
2 year old member with three children and a wife.  
3 The only thing that I have that I feel thankful  
4 about is that the young man accumulated enough  
5 pension credits that his wife and those three  
6 children have some kind of income.

7           And that is what jobs are about.  
8 The job is not about my health or my safety or  
9 what I do out there when I am 100 feet in the  
10 air. It's about taking care of my family. My  
11 family comes first to me, comes first to my  
12 membership. We need this power plant for health  
13 insurance, good paying jobs, education for our  
14 children.

15           I am sure lots of other speakers  
16 here have been more elegant than me, I am sure.  
17 But those are the concerns of my membership.

18 And we are in support of this power plant as  
19 brothers and sisters in the building trades.

20           We have a longstanding relationship  
21 with AEP. As I say, we have been working with  
22 AEP, my membership, since they have been in  
23 existence as far as I know. We have Gavin,  
24 Muskingum River. We work there. Dayton Power

1 and Light. All of them are hot and dangerous  
2 jobs.

3 And that is how important jobs are  
4 and how important they are to my membership.  
5 They would do anything for a two-year job. With  
6 the clean coal technology it's going to be  
7 better than the old because the new is a clean  
8 burn.

9 The newest plant in Ohio that I know  
10 of is Zimmer, and that is 20 some years old.  
11 So, you know, just clean coal technology. This  
12 is one way to use it. And I believe clean coal  
13 technology is just one of the ways of the  
14 future. When it comes to making electric  
15 generating we have three options. Fossil, gas  
16 or oil, and nuclear. You know, fossil fuel is  
17 the best for the electric demands we have.

18 And we rise in support of the clean  
19 coal technology. And I would like to thank the  
20 Public Utilities Commission for being here, and  
21 the local elected officials for being here, the  
22 community for coming out and the trades also for  
23 their support of this project. Thank you all.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

1 Steve Welch.

2 (WITNESS SWORN)

3 - - -

4 STEVE WELCH

5 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
6 testified as follows:

7 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please give  
8 your name and address for the record.

9 MR. WELCH: Steve Welch, 894 Fisher  
10 Ridge Road, Flemming, Ohio. Hi there. My name  
11 is Steve Welch and I live in Flemming, Ohio. I  
12 am a proud member of IBEW Local 972 out of  
13 Marietta.

14 I really wasn't planning on saying  
15 anything tonight, but after seeing the lack of  
16 interest here I thought maybe I would. Thank  
17 you all for coming and speaking, giving your  
18 piece of mind. It's great.

19 My wife is an electrician also. She  
20 has been in the trade for 17 years. It has been  
21 very good to us. For selfish reasons I want  
22 this plant to go. For selfish, short-term  
23 reasons. But, I have got four reasons why this  
24 plant should be built. That is Cortney, Collin,

1 and twin boys Jacob and Joshua.

2 Our children are the most important  
3 things in the world. More important than  
4 anything else in my opinion. We need to leave  
5 something for our children to look forward to in  
6 this area. Because what are the children going  
7 to do, where are they going to work? How are  
8 they going to make it?

9 AEP is a good company. I live 18  
10 miles from the Muskingum power plant. I worked  
11 up there several times and it is a good place to  
12 work. They are very concerned about their  
13 safety.

14 I want to say that the Welch family  
15 from Flemming, Ohio is 100 percent in favor of  
16 this plant. Thank you.

17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

18 Darien Lorentz.

19 (WITNESS SWORN)

20

21 DARIEN LORENTZ

22 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
23 testified as follows:

24 MR. LORENTZ: I am Darien Lorentz,

1 1439 State Route 339, Belpre, Ohio 45714.

2 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please proceed.

3 MR. LORENTZ: Okay. Thank you very  
4 much. I am representing IBEW Local 972,  
5 Marietta, Ohio, the Belpre Chamber of Commerce,  
6 and area industry.

7 There is a lot going on and one  
8 thing I think you are going to see come up is  
9 deregulation. There is a lot of changes coming  
10 up in the future, near future. And if we lack  
11 power houses were are going to have a larger  
12 problem in our future.

13 We today don't have enough power in  
14 this country. We need power houses in Ohio to  
15 support ourselves. This is a good opportunity  
16 for us.

17 As IBEW members we need this work.  
18 But this work is just a short-term start with  
19 the IBEW. We can't get industry in this area  
20 unless we have power. We need this power. With  
21 this plant in this area here it will offer some  
22 opportunities for industry. It offers water for  
23 power generation or steam generation. We can  
24 offer transportation. Then we have the power,

1 then we have the people in this area that will  
2 be able to have jobs and work.

3           Today's technology is changing  
4 constantly. And talk about the EPA. Their  
5 regulations change constantly. As has been  
6 said, the power plants that we have in Ohio are  
7 old, of past technology. This is the time to  
8 have newer technology plants. If we can build  
9 more newer technology plants then we can phase  
10 out the older technology. We can retrofit with  
11 newer technology, but you cannot learn  
12 technology just by doing it on paper. You have  
13 to have an opportunity to build plants to show  
14 what you can do with technology.

15           Environmental regulations are  
16 getting harder. I have seen it in the industry  
17 over the last 10 years. It has changed. It  
18 doesn't allow me to build a power house like 10,  
19 20 years ago. I am building new technology, and  
20 the only way to do that is to do one. But, we  
21 need places for these kids to have an  
22 opportunity to get a fair paying job and  
23 continue to live in the area were they grew up,  
24 not have to move away.

1                   As was spoken earlier we are  
2 decreasing in the number of kids we are keeping  
3 in our area. We need to give them an  
4 opportunity to stay. Thank you.

5                   ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. That  
6 is all the witnesses I have on the sheet.

7                   MR. ROSENBERG: There are people  
8 that would like to affirm the testimony. There  
9 are many more members here from the Building  
10 Trades and rank and fill members of Ironworkers  
11 Local 787, IBEW 972 and other unions that are  
12 here today. To save time here they are going to  
13 stand and state they do affirm, support the  
14 plant and application of AEP for this plant in  
15 Meigs County.

16                   In order to get their name on the  
17 record I have asked Ms. Davis who will be closer  
18 to them to get their name and we will provide  
19 that to Mike for the transcript.

20                   So at this time if other members of  
21 the Building Trades here support the application  
22 of AEP for the plant, if you would stand so we  
23 can put your name into the record in support of  
24 the testimony you heard tonight.

1 (The following individuals gave  
2 their name as supporting the application of AEP  
3 and supporting the testimony that had been given  
4 in support of the application)

5 - - -

6 Dale Brickles, Jason Wittekind, David Boley,  
7 Fred Althouse, Bob Baker, Martin Andrews, Brian  
8 Listor, Steve Crum, Steve Welch, Ed Watson,  
9 Scott Wells, Robert Haines, Scott Ferrell, Wes  
10 Wittekind, Jim Boyce, Jason Morris, Leroy  
11 Henthorn, Clair Reed, Dan Schwinderman, Tim  
12 Collins, Zackery Reese, Brian Connalley, Jeff  
13 Webber, Troy Farell, Dana Spencer, Ryan Barrett,  
14 Neal Chadron, Mark Gainer, Terry Stethern, Rick  
15 Hanson, Albert Suhoski, Robert Chubb, John  
16 Chubb, Carl Parker, Gary Foster, Chris Dicken,  
17 Ed Sands, Mike Huffman, Phil Sorrell, Jim Farris  
18 and Wyndham Spauling.

19 - - -

20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very  
21 much. We will make sure all the names get  
22 reflected on the record in support.

23 I do have another speaker. Before  
24 that I would like to say though, Mr. Rosenberg,

1 I would have thought with all the electrical  
2 workers we would have the air conditioning  
3 working though. James Cundoff.

4 (WITNESS SWORN)

5 - - -

6 JAMES CUNDOFF

7 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,  
8 testified as follows:

9 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you state  
10 your name and address for the record?

11 MR. CUNDOFF: James Cundoff.  
12 Address 45860 State Route 124, Racine,  
13 Ohio 45771. Let me state first that I am in  
14 favor of the power house. We do need the income  
15 in this area. But let's also state I am not in  
16 favor of raising the rates to pay for it. I  
17 feel pretty sure that all of these large  
18 industries, companies, whatever, plan at least  
19 10 to 20 years in advance. They own a piece of  
20 property 20 or more years.

21 Let me say also I am glad they are  
22 talking coal instead of nuclear. We do need  
23 coal jobs in Meigs County.

24 Mrs. Young has raised some very

1 viable questions, and she hasn't got any  
2 answers. They could have wrote her a letter,  
3 call, said we don't have this information yet.  
4 Large industries tend to be this way.

5           Look at India. Companies go  
6 overseas for cheap labor. That is where they  
7 get cheap labor. I worked on the railroad over  
8 40 years in and out of chemical plants. We  
9 handled the same stuff that killed all  
10 the people in India for 25 years. We knew it  
11 was hot stuff, so to speak. The car would load  
12 up and come out of the plant in the evening, if  
13 the papers didn't come for it to be shipped it  
14 had to be put back into the plant.

15           Safety is a large factor. And we  
16 hear about toxins. Just a fancy word for  
17 poison. Don't feed people toxins.

18           For the last six to eight years I  
19 have read extensively about alternative  
20 medicine. And we get filled with toxins even  
21 from our air, from our food supply, everything  
22 we do. A good example is C8 in our water  
23 system.

24           I understand all of the union

1 workers here tonight. I was a member of a union  
2 for over 45 years. If it wasn't for the union  
3 we would all be working for a dollar an hour  
4 yet.

5 But, there are concerns that need to  
6 be addressed. And, like I said, it boggles my  
7 mind to think that AEP had not planned to  
8 finance this plant. But, they plan better than  
9 that. And I would say if their financial  
10 planners hadn't made some preparation to build  
11 the plant they should get dismissed and get some  
12 new ones.

13 This was going to be build for 20  
14 years. I think they are already gouging me. I  
15 have a small campground. My main boxes are 400  
16 amp. When they put in the box they put in a  
17 demand meter.

18 I am not a big industry. My campers  
19 are no different than a household. So why  
20 should I have to pay a higher rate on a demand  
21 meter? They will gouge you if we let them. But  
22 how many times do you pay for something before  
23 you get it?

24 I think there are lots of questions

1 not answered. I want the power plant, but I  
2 don't want to pay ahead of time. And I am for  
3 this clean coal technology. We need it.

4 But like the gentleman was just  
5 saying, we need to put it into action because  
6 what looks good on paper doesn't always work in  
7 the workplace. We get blueprints, people like  
8 talking about there, take the prints and build  
9 them and then have to make it fit and make it  
10 work, and they do.

11 Our workforce is the best in the  
12 world. None better. Thank God for them. And I  
13 want to see them get jobs to support their  
14 families. I want to see them have  
15 hospitalization.

16 My wife doctors for cancer. We are  
17 drug alternative. She is doing well. We have  
18 gone to Mexico for four years now in March. The  
19 doctor makes the medicine for cancer. He's been  
20 doing it for over 15 years.

21 The doctor started it, came to this  
22 country, a German in 1950, but our FDA won't  
23 approve it, our insurance wouldn't pay for it,  
24 it's not standard medical practice, even though

1 it works. Lots of other things that works, but  
2 the FDA won't approve them.

3 I love this country, none better in  
4 the world, but we do have some problems. We  
5 don't have medical freedom and we should have  
6 it.

7 We are talking about a power plant.  
8 Toxins and poison and all the things need to be  
9 addressed. I hope and pray that they are  
10 addressed and we will be taken care of, that  
11 they don't pollute our air and water system, and  
12 the children don't get cancer because of it.

13 I want to see the power plant, but I  
14 don't think we should pay for it ahead of time.

15 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very  
16 much. Is there anyone else that wishes to  
17 speak tonight.

18 (No response)

19 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: I would like to  
20 just say personally this has been an excellent  
21 public hearing. I think you have made a very  
22 interesting record that the Commissioners are  
23 going to want to see. I don't know how I would  
24 summarize this quickly for them. And my advice

1 is going to be that they need to read it and see  
2 what the people have to say.

3 Thank you for coming tonight. The  
4 public hearing is adjourned.

5

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(At 9:00, P.M. the hearing was

7

concluded)

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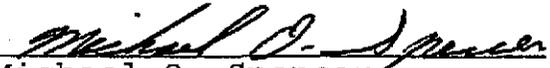
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CERTIFICATE

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I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on August 4, 2005, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

  
Michael O. Spencer,  
Registered Professional  
Reporter.

- - -



*Jennifer Garrison*

*State Representative, 93rd House District*

---

I am Jennifer Garrison, state representative from the Ohio House of Representatives 93rd District and a resident of Washington County. Due to another legislative commitment, I cannot be present this evening. However, I welcome the opportunity to express my strong support for AEP's proposal to bring a Clean Coal Technology Plant to Meigs County and Southeast Ohio.

It is well known that Southeast Ohio suffers from high unemployment, under-funded schools and the exodus of people leaving our area for jobs and opportunities elsewhere. Constantly the efforts of elected officials such as myself, business and community leaders is on how to confront and stop these problems. One of the primary ways is to bring good, well paying jobs to the area. This is what the AEP plant will do. This is why I support it.

I have been advised that the plant will create more than 1500 construction jobs and more than 125 permanent jobs once it is operational. It will also afford an opportunity for more jobs related to maintenance and support to the plant. These will be well paying jobs with health and other benefits. We cannot allow these jobs to go elsewhere. I know there will be no shortage of workers available to meet this need. The benefits of these jobs to our local construction unions and to our efforts to recruit and keep people here cannot be ignored.

The impact of this plant on our community will be far reaching. Money paid to the construction workers and employees hired to work at the plant will be spent locally on groceries, in our stores, restaurants, theaters and elsewhere. The entire community will reap the benefit.

Most important is the impact this will have on the Southern Local School District. This district is one of the most economically challenged districts in the State. It embodies all the reasons why school funding needs to be fixed in Ohio. In Columbus and in my district, I am a leading proponent of the need to address the funding problems that beset public schools in Southeast Ohio and elsewhere. While we struggle in Columbus with adopting a fair and proper resolution, we must continue to attract industry to our communities that will pump money into our school systems. This project does it. The revenue this plant will provide to the Southern Local School District is great. It is needed.

Let me briefly comment on the surcharge. As we know, AEP wants to recover its costs of construction and operations from residential users in the Columbus and Southern as well as Ohio Power Company regions. This includes most, if not all of us in Southeast Ohio. I leave it to the PUCO to determine if the surcharges are justified and reasonable. I know that there are many people in my district that cannot afford increased electric bills. It is for this reason I urge the PUCO to look at this very carefully and make a decision that benefits all of us.

I serve on the Ohio Coal Technical Advisory Committee and the Public Utilities and Energy Committee. In these positions I am working to promote the development of clean coal technology so that the coal mines that we have can be used to produce energy. I believe clean coal can be the wave of the future and if successful, this plant may only be the tip of the iceberg on what is to come. This plant has the opportunity to lead in the development of clean coal for use as an energy source. We must do everything we can to give AEP the opportunity to be successful. because if it is, then the entire region will benefit.

Capitol:

77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-8728, (614) 644-9494 (fax)  
(800) 282-0253 (toll free)

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)  
[District93@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:District93@ohr.state.oh.us)

District:

Guernsey, Monroe, Noble and  
Parts of Muskingum and Washington Counties  
427 5th Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750  
(740) 373-2414



*Jennifer Garrison*

*State Representative, 93rd House District*

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Finally, Meigs County has the highest unemployment in the State. Following closely behind it are many neighboring counties. We have to support a project like this that will bring so many good paying jobs. For this reason and the others I have expressed I support this project and urge the PUCO to approve it.

Capitol:

77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-8728, (614) 644-9494 (fax)  
(800) 282-0253 (toll free)

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)  
[District93@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:District93@ohr.state.oh.us)

District:

Guernsey, Monroe, Noble and  
Parts of Muskingum and Washington Counties  
427 5th Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750  
(740) 373-2414

Date: August 4, 2005  
To: Members, The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Re: Public Hearings in Case No. 05-376-EL-UNC  
From: Mary Beth Lohse  
33070 Cotterill Rd.  
Pomeroy, OH 45769

Questions:

- 1) My understanding is that in the past, utility customers have paid for construction costs only after a new plant begins generating electricity. This proposal would have customers paying for both pre-construction and construction costs before any electricity is generated and sold. What justifies this change? Has this been done with the construction of other power plants in Ohio or in other states?
- 2) Will electricity generated by this plant be sold to other states? If so, why aren't the customers in those states being asked to pay for the plant?
- 3) The pre-construction (Phase I) and construction (Phase II) surcharges are being assessed only on Columbus Southern Power (CSP) and Ohio Power Company (OPC) customers, not the customers of CRES providers. However, on page 2, point 5 of the application, the applicants claim that since they are Providers of Last Resort (POLR) the plant is necessary, at least in part, to meet their responsibility to "have sufficient capacity to meet unanticipated demand". In effect, CSP and OPC are being asked to insure future access to power for current CRES customers. If CRES customers are the beneficiaries of this "insurance", why aren't they being asked to pay part of the costs?
- 4) What other IGCC plants have been built? What has been their actual experience in achieving the energy efficiency and environmental benefits that are being touted for IGCC technology? How will the design and operation of the applicant's proposed plant compare to these existing plants? Is there enough experience with this technology to be confident that the applicants' cost estimates are accurate?
- 5) The claim for IGCC technology is that it results in "fewer emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, particulates and mercury" (page 3). But the impurities in the coal, such as sulfur and mercury remain. I assume that some of these are the by-products referred to on page 3 where the applicants cite "potential for by-product sales opportunities". Will the profits from these sales be shared with the consumers who have paid for the plant?

Comments:

- 1) There is no cap on the construction costs which customers are asked to pay. This proposal, in effect gives the applicants an unlimited budget and they will have no incentive to minimize costs. This proposal should not be approved without a cap on recoverable construction costs.
- 2) In the event of future shortages, customers of CSP and OPC, since they have paid for the plant, should be provided the electricity they need before any electricity is

sold to other customers. This is only fair and the proposal should not be approved without this guarantee.

3) On page 13, paragraph 16, the applicants claim that this project is consistent with the state of Ohio's desire for "economic development projects". They also state on page 14 that this generating facility "... will be capable of using competitively priced Ohio high sulfur coal." This has left many local residents with the impression that Ohio coal will be used and that this will lead to an increase in mining jobs. But the only jobs that the applicants mention are jobs in constructing and operating the plant. It is certainly true that Meigs County is in need of more jobs. To make sure that Ohio realizes these expected economic benefits PUCO should require the applicants to

- keep the expected 1900 construction jobs and 125 operational jobs in Meigs county, or at least in Ohio, and
- require that some percentage of the coal used in the plant be purchased from underground mines in Ohio.

4) Page 14 contains the statement "All the while, Ohio's environment will be *improved* (emphasis mine) by having this new "environmentally friendly" generating facility ...". This statement is false for several reasons.

- This plant does not replace any other generating facility. Any emissions it produces (no matter how small compared to conventional technology) will be in addition to current emissions and will worsen (not improve) air quality.
- The plant will still be producing some carbon dioxide, which will worsen (not improve) the problem of global warming. [I realize that IGCC plants are supposedly adaptable for carbon sequestration. But this is an unproven technology that the applicants don't intend to pursue unless required to in the future (page 3). This doesn't mitigate the harm done by the carbon dioxide released until then].
- There is no requirement that the plant not use coal mined by "mountain top removal". A plant can hardly be called environmentally friendly if it gets its raw materials by destroying mountains and streams.
- Many of the impurities removed from the coal, such as mercury, are highly toxic. The application does not give any information on how these materials will be handled, stored or eventually disposed of, so there is no way of knowing how "environmentally friendly" the entire plant operation will be.

To hold the applicants to their "environmentally friendly" claim the applicants should be barred from using mountain top removal coal at this plant and should be required to provide details of their procedures for dealing with toxic materials.

## Washington County

JOHN GRIMES  
SAMUEL R. COOK  
LARRY P. STEINEL



ADDRESS  
223 Putnam Street  
Marietta, OH 45750

PHONE: (740) 373-6623  
EXT: 201 & 206  
FAX: (740) 374-7693

EMAIL: Commissioners@  
washingtongov.org

TERESA L. SMITH, CLERK

Visit our Website at  
[www.washingtongov.org](http://www.washingtongov.org)

April 20, 2005

Meigs County Commissioners  
The Meigs County Courthouse  
100 E Second Street  
Pomeroy, OH 45769

Dear Commissioners:

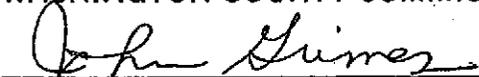
The Board of Commissioners of Washington County enthusiastically endorses the pursuit of a clean coal technology facility to hopefully be situated in Meigs County.

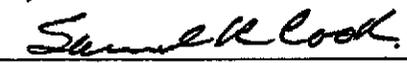
With the Meigs County tradition of coal extraction and its linkage to power generation, the availability of quality workers and the competitive advantages of topography and river access you should be in a great position to secure this needed investment.

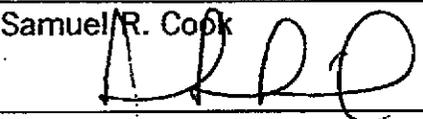
The Washington County experience with the newer technologies in power generation has been very positive and you will derive great pleasure in being on the cutting edge in efficient and effective power generation and distribution.

We salute and encourage your aggressive effort to secure regional support and we stand with you in your effort.

Sincerely,  
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Grimes, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel R. Cook

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry P. Steinel

# WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

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## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, INC.

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205 Putnam Street  
Marietta, Ohio 45750  
740-373-3504

April 20, 2005

Board of Commissioners of Meigs County  
The Meigs County Courthouse  
Second Street  
Pomeroy, OH 45769

**RE: Endorsement of Clean Coal Power Generation Facility in Meigs County**

Dear Commissioners:

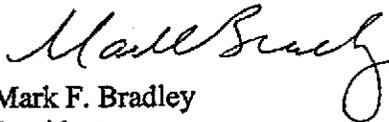
Please be advised that the Washington County Community Improvement Corporation strongly endorses your attempt to secure a clean coal technology power generation facility.

It is part of the heritage of our area to create and distribute power. Those areas are successful that promote what they do best and market themselves as cooperative and collaborative.

You are to be congratulated for shepherding your considerable economic assets and for the aggressive pursuit of investment which will benefit not only Meigs County but all of southeastern Ohio.

We are glad to have the opportunity to support you.

Sincerely,



Mark F. Bradley  
President

RESOLUTION R2005-07

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER LOCATING THEIR  
NEW POWER PLANT IN MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Gallipolis City Commission to go on the record to support the construction of the new American Electric Power plant in Meigs County, Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has recommended in writing the passage of this resolution as an emergency measure as it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health safety and property and in order to provide for the usual operations of the municipal departments and to timely support the construction of the proposed power plant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Gallipolis, Ohio:

Section 1: That the Gallipolis City Commission does hereby strongly urge American Electric Power to build its new power plant in Meigs County, Ohio, a location where access to water, transportation and a loyal, educated workforce is readily available. The success of the other power plants in this area demonstrate Meigs County's strengths are obvious and should be considered in any decision of American Electric Power to locate a new plant in the southern Ohio area.

Section 2: That the City Commission urges the Public Utility Commission of Ohio, to consider the cost recovery plan for the Meigs County plant to further promote the construction of the plant in the area where there is a high unemployment rate.

Section 3: The City Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to: the Mayors of Middleport and Pomeroy, the chairman of American Electric Power Company, the chairman of the Public Utility Commission in Columbus, Ohio, and the director of the Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation (CIC).

Section 4: This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage as an emergency measure.

PASSED: May 3, 2005

ATTEST

Annette M. Landers  
Clerk of the City Commission

Paul W. Siler  
President of the City Commission

The foregoing Resolution is hereby approved as to form according to the City Charter

Reginald R. ...  
Gallipolis City Solicitor

I hereby certify the above to be a true and correct  
copy of Resolution No. R2005-07 this 10<sup>th</sup> day  
of May, 2005.

Annette M. Landers  
Clerk of the City Commission

**April 20, 2005**

**Meigs County Commissioners  
Meigs County Court House  
100 East Second Street, Pomeroy, OH 45769  
Pomeroy, OH 45769**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**When we work together and support each other, so much more can be accomplished. For that very specific reason, the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce Board members urge American Electric Power Company to locate their new power plant in Meigs County.**

**The ongoing and total economic impact of the proposed AEP plant cannot be measured. It would not only benefit you by providing additional jobs in Meigs County...it would also have a positive effect on Gallia County. During the construction phase, if the plant should choose the Meigs County sight, it is a given, the labor force would come from Meigs and surrounding counties. Nothing could be more significant for all of us at this time.**

**We, who are so vitally involved in Gallia County and its economic future, as members of the Gallia County Chamber of Commerce, support you in your efforts to be the "chosen one" for the new AEP plant. We wish you only success in this endeavor. Please let us know if we can do anything more specific to assist you.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ryan Smith  
President**

**Lorie Neal  
Executive Director**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

Whereas, American Electric Power is considering the construction of a new power plant; and

Whereas, the selected site is located almost entirely within the boundaries of the Southern Local School District and:

Whereas, this plant would most definitely boost the economy of Southeastern Ohio;

Now, therefore be it resolved, the Southern Local Board of Education unanimously supports this plant's location and construction within the limits of the Southern Local School District.

*James R. Cammarata*  
*James S. Greener*  
*Gary W. Disher*  
*DR700*

*Don P. Smith*  
Board Member Signatures

*5-23-05*  
Date

Treasurer's Signature  
*Bob Greener*  
Superintendent's Signature

*5-23-05*  
Date

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio P.O. Box  
Alan R. Scheckler, Chairman  
108 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

I'm supporting the location of  
the Power Plant in Merigo County  
I also approve of A.C.P. East  
recovery proposal.

I work forty years in the  
state of W. Va. because Merigo County  
didn't have the good jobs  
I think now the time  
to start.

Mr. Kenneth E. Harris  
36100 Rock Springs Rd.  
Pomeroy, Ohio 45969

Ohio Consumers Council  
10 W. Broad St. Suite 1800  
Columbus, Oh 43215-3485

We are supporting the location  
of the plant in Meigs County  
And we approve of AEP's cost  
recovery proposal

Mrs Margaret Harris  
36100 Rock Springs Rd,  
Pomeroy, Oh 45769

Ohio Consumers Council  
70 W. Broad St. Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

I'm supporting the locating of  
the Power Plant in Meigs County  
I also approve of R.R.P. cost  
recovery proposal.

I work forty years in ~~state~~  
of W. Va. because Meigs County  
didn't have the good jobs.

I think now the time to  
start.

Mr. Kenneth E. Harris  
36100 Rock Springs Rd.  
Pomeroy, Ohio  
45769

I want to say "yes" to this proposal - we need it !!

Vinac Lee Racine, Ohio

We need a letter campaign to support the construction of the Power Plant in Lebanon Township, Meigs County.

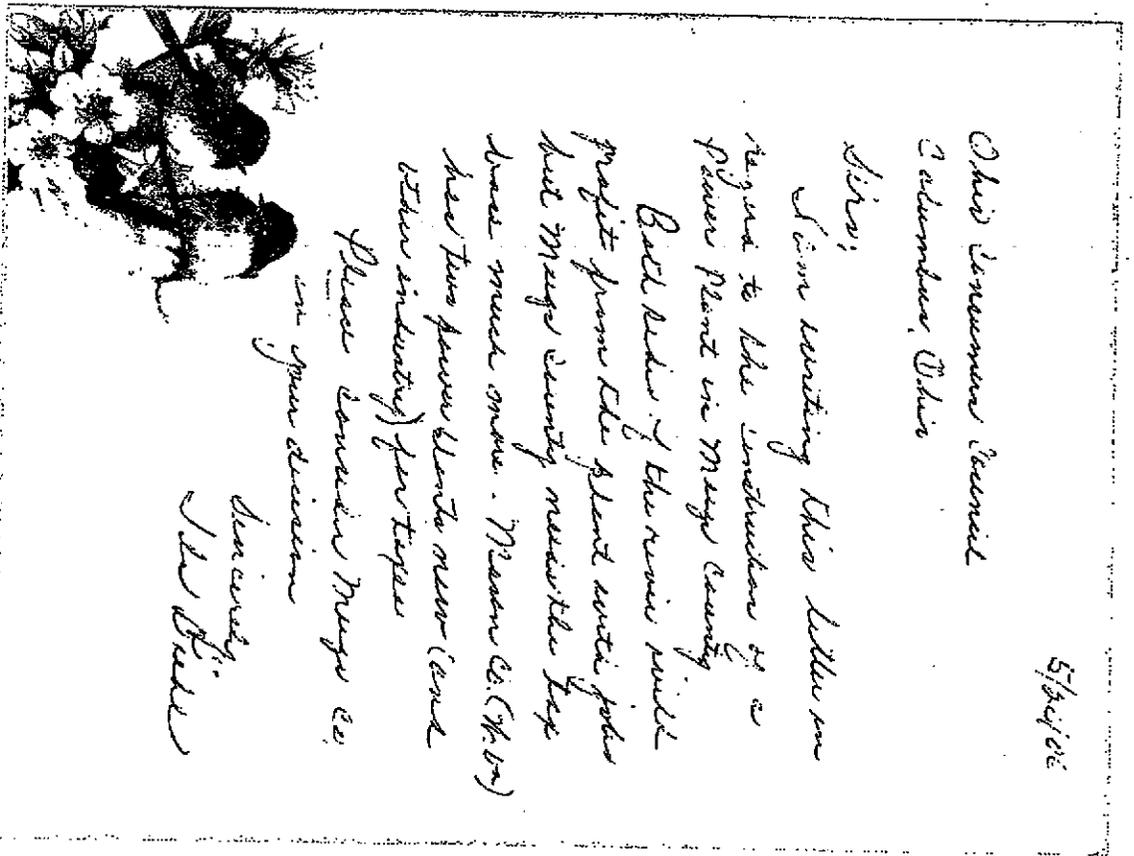
MEIGS COUNTY NEEDS THIS TAX BASE. THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE OF IMMEDIATE HELP TO MEIGS COUNTY... HOUSING...FUEL...FOOD.....JOBS....ETC.

WRITE LETTERS TO:

OHIO CONSUMERS COUNCIL  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

But

send them to the Meigs County Commissioners, Pomeroy, OH 45769, so they may be sent in a bundle



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

REFERENCE: A POWER PLANT IN MEIGS COUNTY

This letter is being written to show our wholehearted support of getting a power plant in Meigs County. The working people of this County need this desperately as we are one of the highest Counties in unemployment in the State.

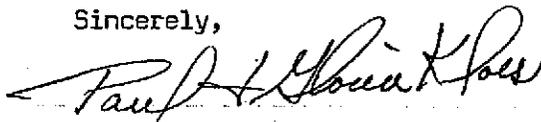
The creation of jobs to build the plant, and later, the permanent jobs at the plant would generate more money in our area which would help our tax base and would, in turn, help numerous other businesses in our County.

Meigs County is a beautiful place to live and residents are here because we like it here, but having a power plant here would be an answer to our prayers for wage-earners to have decent, good-paying jobs which would support families without having to travel out-of-County as numerous people are doing now.

As things stand now, we have all new school buildings, new connecting roads, are in the process of getting a new bridge, we have undeveloped land and lots of people ready to work. If you could put a power plant here, it would help EVERYBODY!

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul and Gloria Kloes  
PO Box 308  
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769

740-992-2795

**MEIGS COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

Probate & Juvenile Division  
100 East Second Street, Courthouse  
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769

**Honorable L. Scott Powell**

Telephone (740) 992-6205  
(740) 992-3096  
Fax (740) 992-6727

May 23rd, 2005

To: Ohio Consumer Council

RE: Power Plant in Meigs County

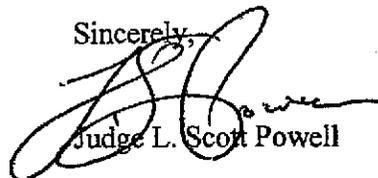
Dear Sir/Madam,

Please let this serve as an unconditional letter of support as the Probate/Juvenile Judge, an elected official, and resident of Meigs County, for the construction and operation of the new proposed power plant in Meigs County.

My Court has every child support case in Meigs County from unmarried parents. My Court also handles all juvenile delinquent and unruly cases. In all those cases, lack of quality employment is the single biggest obstacle those children and parents face. In our Appalachian county, this power plant could easily provide the greatest economic impact in Meigs County in over a century.

I am firmly convicted that the citizens of Meigs County are wholeheartedly behind the construction of a power plant. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Judge L. Scott Powell

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# MEIGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Post Office Box 191 - 175 Race Street  
Middleport, Ohio 45760-0191

Michael L. Swisher, *Director*

May 19, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Director of the Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services, I would like to express my support of the construction of a coal-fired power plant in Meigs County by the American Electric Power Company.

Meigs County has historically been one of the four counties leading the state in unemployment. Our county has been in an economical decline, beginning with the downsizing of Southern Ohio Coal Company workforce which eventually led to the closing of the mine. Since that time the county has not been able to secure or develop new jobs for those hundreds of trained workers as well as others who have been displaced due to the present economy.

Meigs County not only offers American Electric Power Company a reliable trained workforce but also has the availability of undeveloped land on the Ohio River, as well as, an upgraded highway system to serve their transportation needs.

The construction of the proposed \$1 billion plant would have a tremendous effect in reducing the counties double digit unemployment rate and have the potential of stabilizing the financial operations of local government and school systems. All of which are presently struggling to maintain the ever increasing cost of operation while dealing with declining revenue.

As a Meigs County resident and as Director of Job and Family Services I offer my support and encourage you to please give every consideration to Meigs County as the site for this plant.

Sincerely yours,



Michael L. Swisher, Director



**Meigs County Sheriff's Office**  
**Robert E. Beegle, Sheriff**  
104 East Second Street  
Pomeroy, OH 45769



Phone: (740) 992-3371

meigs53@charter.net

Fax: (740) 992-2654

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May 18, 2005

Ohio Consumers Counsel  
Columbus, Ohio

To Whom It May Concern:

Not only as a consumer, but also as Sheriff of Meigs County, Ohio, I urge approval for the rate Structure for the AEP power plant under consideration for construction in Meigs County.

The financial condition of Meigs County would certainly improve with the construction of the power plant. The ripple effect would be immediate.

The current financial condition of the County has caused a reduced budget for the operation of the Sheriff's Office and likewise a reduction in number of deputies working. You know what? Crime has not decreased.

I urge approval for the power plant construction in Meigs County!

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. BEEGLE  
SHERIFF  
MEIGS COUNTY

file