

MEDIA RELEASE

ANOTHER PHONE SCAM TO BE AWARE OF

ELLETTSVILLE, INDIANA (November 15, 2016): Several people and businesses throughout Monroe County have received calls in which the caller portrays a representative of Duke Energy. The caller claims that the person's Duke Energy bill is overdue and their power will be shut off unless the person purchases a prepaid credit card and provides them with the card number as payment. At least one local lost as much as \$900.00 on this scam. Duke energy has been contacted and they advise that they do not conduct collections in this manner. As always, please verify who you are talking to before offering payment. This can be done by telling the person you are speaking with that you are going to call the customer service number yourself to call the company direct. Then get the customer service telephone number from the business website or from your billing statement and contact them yourself. If the person who calls you provides a number, please write it down and provide it to the police. Do not use that number to call them back.

Calls of this nature should be reported to the police and to the fraud department of the company who the person is claiming to represent.