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Federal

PUCO Challenges FERC-Ordered Delays of PJM Auction (Docket Nos. EL19-58-010, et al.)

Summary: While FERC was considering filings related to PJM's Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR), it ordered PJM to not hold a base residual auction (BRA) in May of 2019 or June of 2020. FERC subsequently approved an additional delay requested by PJM and ordered an auction date of Jan. 25, 2022. PJM is now requesting that FERC delay the BRA until June 2022.

In opposing further delays, the PUCO has stated in several filings before FERC that "it is critically important to preserve ... the wholesale price signals that incent market entry and exit, and that provide certainty of future revenue streams to facilitate price discovery and supplier contracting."

Additionally, the PUCO stated that further delays will impact its standard service offer (SSO) auctions and "increase fuel prices and regulatory uncertainty."

Statewide

Developments in Nomination of New PUCO Commissioner

Summary: Due to inclement weather, the PUCO Nominating Council's meeting to interview the seven candidates for PUCO commissioner has been rescheduled to Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. The candidates include incumbent Daniel Conway; Michael Hines; David Yarnell; Stephen Serraino; Dan Wilczynski; Dan Bradshaw; and Alexander Chapman.

The Council also added four new members including: Greg Lashutka, representing the Department of Aging; Cheryl Burchard, representing regulated public utilities; Stewart Young, representing the business community; and former Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) board member David Wondolowski.

AEP

AEP Proposes Increase to Rider EDR (Case No. 22-88-EL-RDR)

Summary: AEP has proposed increasing its non-bypassable Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider (Rider EDR) from 2.79073% of customers' distribution charges to 4.73099% of customers' distribution charges. If approved, the increase would become effective with the first billing cycle of April 2022.

AES Ohio

Case in Chief Concludes in AES Ohio Distribution Rate Case (Case Nos. 20-1651-EL-AIR, et al.)

Summary: After 31 witnesses took the stand – and 32 pieces of testimony were admitted – AES Ohio's case in chief concluded this week in the evidentiary hearing regarding its application for an increase in its base distribution rates. The hearing will move to the rebuttal phase next week.

Duke

Duke Proposes Decrease to Rider ETCJA Credits (Case No. 18-1185-EL-UNC)

Summary: Duke proposed decreasing its non-bypassable Electric Tax Cuts and Job Act Rider (Rider ETCJA), which credits customers for reductions in the federal corporate income tax rate. If approved, customers will be credited 5.09% of their distribution charges, a decrease from a credit of 5.15% of customers' distribution charges. The new credits are proposed to become effective for bills rendered beginning with the first billing cycle in March 2022.