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Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)

OMAEG Intervenes in OPSB Review (Case No. 21-0902-GE-BRO)

Summary: OMAEG intervened and filed comments in the pending review of the OPSB's rules regarding the siting of transmission facilities and the OPSB's accelerated review process. OMAEG explained that the Board's current accelerated application process results in billions of dollars being invested in the electric power transmission system without documented reliability benefits. To ensure that upgrades are beneficial and necessary, OMAEG offered recommendations to the OPSB that would require the filing of more robust data in accelerated applications to hold the utilities accountable for their spending, such as describing existing transmission facility problems, providing data on service interruptions and infrastructural deterioration, and a demonstration of improvement to the transmission system.

In addition to OMAEG, many other stakeholders filed comments, expressing disagreement with the proposed revision to the definition of "associated facilities," which could expand the OPSB's jurisdiction over customer-sited substations.

The utilities filed comments opposing rules that would provide more transparency and public input into the siting process while consumer advocates argued for more due process and transparency.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

PUCO Seeks Comments on Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Case No. 22-0755-AU-COI)

Summary: The PUCO opened a proceeding to review the implementation of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and the potential funding opportunities for electric grid resilience created by the IIJA. The PUCO noted that the U.S. Department of Energy recently opened an application period for the IIJA's grant program, "Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes" (Grid Grants).

The PUCO scheduled a public hearing on the Grid Grants for August 24, 2022, and comments concerning the Grid Grants are due August 26, 2022. The PUCO encouraged all eligible entities to take advantage of IIJA funding opportunities and expects that each of Ohio's electric distribution utilities will seek opportunities for program participation.

Additionally, the PUCO is seeking comments regarding any other IIJA provisions, funding opportunities, or related federal initiatives. These comments are due September 12, 2022.

AES

PUCO Orders AES to RE-File Tariffs for Its Rate Stability Charge (RSC) (Case Nos. 08-1094-EL-SSO et al.)

Summary: In response to OCC's unprecedented request for an immediate \$60 million refund to customers, forfeitures of \$9.4 million, and sanctions against AES, the PUCO agreed that it erred in approving AES' proposed tariffs. Therefore, the PUCO ordered AES to re-file its tariffs to make the RSC subject to refund effective on an earlier date so that if the RSC is found to be unlawful on appeal, customers will be refunded an additional \$60 million.