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Statewide

OMAEG Files Brief Supporting Construction of New Generation Facilities (Case No. 2023-1011)

Summary: The Ohio Power Siting Board's (OPSB) decision to deny Birch Solar LLC's request for a certificate to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility is the latest in a disturbing trend of denying siting applications for large-scale generating projects based on the mere existence of perceived local opposition, without regard to the legitimacy or strength of the opposition, the evidence presented at the hearing, or the benefits that the projects could bring to Ohio and the stability of the electric grid.

The OMAEG has filed an [amicus brief](#) supporting Birch Solar's appeal to the Supreme Court of Ohio asking the Court to reverse the OPSB's order, which creates bad public policy that could have damaging, lasting impacts on the state's generation resource mix, local generation needs, and the reliability of the overall state electric grid by making it more difficult for generation facilities to receive siting approval within the state.

AEP

AEP and New Albany Data Center (NADC) Seek Reasonable Arrangement (RA) (Case No. 23-891-EL-AEC)

Summary: Under the proposed RA, AEP will construct, own, and operate a substation to serve both NADC's new data center and other customers in the area.

If the Commission approves the RA, NADC will enter an eight-year lease agreement with AEP for certain substation equipment, and NADC's lease payments will compensate AEP for all capital costs on the substation during the lease term.

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During Year 2 through Year 8 of the lease, NADC will pay a discounted electric service rate equal to AEP's transmission voltage rate plus half the difference between what NADC would pay under AEP's transmission voltage rate and what it would pay under AEP's primary voltage rate.

According to the application, this RA will not result in increased costs to other customers because NADC would be able to switch to the lower-cost transmission voltage rate even without the RA if it built its own substation.

FirstEnergy

OMAEG Files Testimony for FirstEnergy's Fifth Electric Security Plan (ESP V) (Case No. 23-301-EL-SSO)

Summary: This week, the OMAEG filed the testimonies of John Seryak and Ryan Schuessler of Go Sustainable Energy.

Mr. Seryak's testimony urges the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to reject FirstEnergy's Delivery Capital Recovery Rider (Rider DCR) proposal, which would increase Rider DCR by up to \$168 million over eight years, and its Vegetation Management Cost Recovery Rider (Rider VMC) proposal, which would impose new costs of \$54.4 million in the first year of ESP V alone.

Mr. Seryak also advocates for expanding FirstEnergy's discriminatory interruptible program, which currently only allows access to customers or groups who signed the last ESP Stipulation eight years ago – or who have a reasonable arrangement – to any commercial or industrial customer that can interrupt its load.

Mr. Schuessler's testimony supports FirstEnergy's proposal to offer modified transmission billing to commercial and industrial customers with advanced or interval meters, which would switch those customers' transmission billing from monthly peak demand to the network service peak load (NSPL billing).