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## **Statewide**

### **PUCO Declines to Adopt New Demand Response (DR) and EV Charging Standards (Case Nos. 22-1024-AU-COI and 22-1025-AU-COI)**

**Summary:** As you may recall, in November 2022, the PUCO initiated an investigation to consider adopting a new DR and electric vehicle (EV) charging standards pursuant to the 2021 Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The OMAEG's [initial](#) and [reply](#) comments on the DR standard urged the PUCO to adopt and implement the DR standard in a manner that recognizes the need for and supports competitive DR options and services.

The OMAEG's [initial](#) and [reply](#) comments on the EV charging standard urged the PUCO to adopt the EV charging standard in a fully competitive manner. The PUCO agreed with the OMAEG that DR innovation and third-party investment in EV charging should be driven and attracted by the actions of the market, stating that "Ohio is a retail choice state with a retail market, [and] it should be that market, not the Commission, that innovates and drives these services." Accordingly, the PUCO declined to adopt either standard.

## **AEP**

### **AEP Decreases Storm Damage Recovery Rider (Case No. 23-433-EL-RDR)**

**Summary:** AEP decreased its Storm Damage Recovery Rider to \$5.83/month from \$8.32/month for non-residential customers.

## **AES, AEP, Duke**

### **Evidentiary Hearing on Legacy Generation Resource Riders (LGR Riders) Begins (Case No. 21-477-EL-RDR)**

**Summary:** As you may recall, when the corrupt House Bill 6 was passed in 2019, it created a mandatory, statewide customer-funded subsidy for two 1950s-era, uneconomical, dirty coal

plants — one of which is in Indiana — operated by the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC). OVEC is partly owned by three Ohio utilities, Duke Energy Ohio, AES Ohio, and AEP Ohio (EDUs). The three utilities, plus the FirstEnergy Ohio utilities, have all been charging their customers for costs associated with OVEC's imprudent and unreasonable operations.

The OMAEG has opposed OVEC subsidies from the beginning, participating in various audit proceedings and arguing that customers should not continue paying for these two aging and uneconomic coal plants.

In the current ongoing audit proceeding of the House Bill 6-created subsidy, the OMAEG is once again urging the PUCO to disallow all OVEC costs collected from customers during 2020.

The hearing on the audit of the EDUs' LGR Riders began this week, and the OMAEG's cross-examination revealed that the auditor did not even consider the best interests of customers in its analysis. Notably, the audit had two explicit purposes: to determine (1) whether the costs that the EDUs recovered from customers were prudent and reasonable, and (2) whether the EDUs' actions were in the best interests of their customers.

### **Centerpoint Energy (formerly Vectren)**

#### **Centerpoint Increases Default SCO Rate**

**Summary:** Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for Centerpoint increased to \$0.43860/ccf from \$0.39580/ccf, effective Nov. 1, 2023.

### **Columbia Gas**

#### **PUCO Approves PHMSA IRP Rider Settlement (Case No. 23-46-GA-ALT)**

**Summary:** The PUCO approved without modification Columbia's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Infrastructure Replacement Program (IRP) unopposed settlement. The OMAEG agreed to the settlement to significantly reduce the nearly \$200 million that Columbia initially proposed to collect from customers by over \$118 million.

The settlement also imposes revenue caps for the General Sales (GS) and Large General Sales (LGS) rate classes, removes operational and maintenance expenses, decreases the amount that Columbia can collect from GS customers from \$21.9 million to \$8.9 million, decreases the amount that Columbia can collect from LGS customers from \$10.6 million to \$4.3 million, and decreases the PHMSA Rider term.

### **Columbia Increases Default Standard Choice Offer (SCO) Rate**

**Summary:** Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for Columbia increased to \$0.49640/ccf from \$0.45640/ccf, effective Oct. 27, 2023.

### **FirstEnergy**

#### **Customer Rate Credit Rider (Rider CRC), Phase-In Recovery Rider (Rider PIR) Updated (Case Nos. 89-6001-EL-TRF, et al.)**

**Summary:** Effective Jan. 1, 2024, the FirstEnergy utilities will decrease the Rider CRC credit to \$0.000630/kWh from \$0.001303 for both General Service – Primary (GP) and General Service – Secondary (GS). Additionally, also effective Jan. 1, 2024 the utilities will each adjust their Riders PIR as follows:

- The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company will increase Rider PIR to \$0.000449/kWh from \$0.000396/kWh for both GP and GS;
- Ohio Edison will decrease Rider PIR to \$0.000483/kWh from \$0.000535/kWh for both GP and GS; and
- Toledo Edison will increase Rider PIR to \$0.000339/kWh from \$0.000287/kWh for both GP and GS.