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Statewide

Utilities Oppose Appeal of Ruling That Struck OMAEG's Testimony (Case No. 21-477-EL-RDR)

Summary: In order to protect its rights to participate in the audit of the state's riders that collect millions of dollars from Ohioans related to the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) coal plants, the OMAEG [appealed](#) the Administrative Law Judges' (ALJ) ruling that struck significant portions of the OMAEG's witness' expert testimony.

As expected, AEP, Duke, and AES all filed memoranda contra the OMAEG's appeal. All three utilities argued that (1) the OMAEG is not entitled to an immediate appeal, (2) the OMAEG has not satisfied the grounds for appeal certification, (3) the OMAEG's appeal would fail on its merits, and (4) the OMAEG's arguments concerning the timing of the motion and ruling were "frivolous."

The OMAEG intends to rebut these arguments when it files its initial brief in this case in January.

PUCO Orders Eligible Entities to Submit Draft Concept Papers for Grid Innovation Program (Case No. 22-755-AU-COI)

Summary: As you may recall, earlier this year, staff submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy a full application for Grid Innovation Program (GIP) funding for FirstEnergy's proposed project regarding Energy Storage as a Distribution Asset. Given that FirstEnergy's proposal was not accepted, the PUCO directed eligible entities to submit new concept papers by December 14, 2023.

AES

AES Increases its Storm Cost Recovery Rider (SCRR) (Case No. 89-6004-EL-TRF)

Effective December 1, 2023, the SCRR increased to \$6.34/month from \$3.04/month for non-residential customers.

AEP

AEP Adjusts gridSMART Rider and Distribution Investment Rider (DIR) (Case No. 89-6007-EL-TRF)

Summary: Effective December 1, 2023, the gridSMART rider decreased to \$15.90/month from \$16.41/month for non-residential customers, and the DIR increased to 19.88343% of a customer's distribution charges from 13.00494% of a customer's distribution charges.

Columbia Gas

Columbia Decreases Default Standard Choice Offer (SCO) Rate

Summary: Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for Columbia decreased to \$0.45060/ccf from \$0.49640/ccf, effective November 29, 2023.

Duke Energy Ohio

Duke Files Settlement in Power Forward Rider (Rider PF) Case (Case No. 21-0012-EL-RDR)

Summary: On November 27, 2023, Duke filed a settlement agreement regarding its request to recover costs associated with Phase 2 of its Infrastructure Modernization Plan from customers through Rider PF. In exchange for a reduction in costs and other consumer protections, the OMAEG agreed to not oppose the settlement. Under the settlement, Duke agreed to use a fixed charge rate design rather than the proposed percentage of customers' base distribution revenue design, and to allocate the revenue requirement for Rider PF in accordance with the allocations approved in the most recent rate case (i.e., 64% of the revenue requirement will be allocated to residential customers).

FirstEnergy

Evidentiary Hearing on FirstEnergy's Fifth Electric Security Plan (ESP V) Continues (Case No. 23-301-EL-SSO)

Summary: Intervenor testimony began this week at the hearing on FirstEnergy's ESP V application. The OMAEG's witnesses John Seryak and Ryan Schuessler of Go Sustainable Energy testified, opposing FirstEnergy's proposals to increase the Delivery Capital Recovery Rider (DCR) by up to \$168 million over eight years, create a Vegetation Management Cost Recovery Rider that would

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impose new costs of \$54.4 million in the first year of ESP V alone, and continue the discriminatory interruptible program.

The OMAEG's witnesses did, however, support FirstEnergy's proposal to offer more favorable transmission billing to commercial and industrial customers with advanced or interval meters.

The Ohio Energy Leadership Council (f/k/a IEU-Ohio) cross-examined Mr. Seryak and Mr. Schuessler on their positions regarding FirstEnergy's interruptible program and transmission billing proposals, respectfully.