

Volume 10, Issue 12 • March 26, 2021

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Federal

The PUCO Submits Comments on Proposed Transmission Line Rating Rule (Docket No. RM20-16-000)

Summary: The PUCO's Federal Energy Advocate (Ohio FEA) submitted comments in response to FERC's proposed rule regarding transmission line ratings, which establish operating limits and are used by RTOs/ISOs to establish commitment, dispatch, interruption, and curtailment. The proposed rule would require transmission owners (TOs) to implement ambient-adjusted ratings (AARs), which adjust ratings in increments based on hourly air temperature and wind speed, over the transmission lines in which they provide service.

The comments noted that transmission costs are the most rapidly growing segment of wholesale power costs and that accurate line ratings are critical in maintaining reasonable energy prices. The comments further stated that the Ohio FEA and Ohio's four TOs support a move away from static line ratings and endorse AARs as the most efficient and least costly rating methodology.

Statewide

Governor DeWine Appoints New PUCO Chair

Summary: Governor Mike DeWine appointed former Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jenifer French, a Westerville Republican, as PUCO chair to replace former Chairman Sam Randazzo. Her appointment is subject to Senate approval and her term ends April 10, 2024. The governor stated that French "has no history in the [utility] industry, which in this unique period of time is an asset."

AEP

The PUCO Approves Increases to AEP's BPCR Rates (Case No. 21-53-EL-EDR)

Summary: The PUCO approved AEP's application to increase its Basic Transmission Cost Rider (BPCR) nonbypassable rates, which will become effective the first billing cycle of April 2021. Additionally, AEP agreed to increase the participation cap for the BPCR Pilot Program from 500 megawatts (MW) to 700 MW for 2021. Any modifications to the annual enrollment process and reallocation of rate design to accommodate

enrollment above the cap will be addressed in a separate proceeding. The new BTCR rates are as follows:

- **Non-Demand Metered**

- GS-1: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-1 TOD: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-2 Recreational Lighting: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-TOD: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-2-TOD: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-2-ES: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.
- GS-3-ES: 2.14775¢/kWh, an increase from 1.82947¢/kWh.

- **Demand Metered Secondary**

- GS-2: 0.04749¢/kWh and \$6.64/kW, an increase from 0.044950¢/kWh and \$5.44/kW.
- GS-3: 0.04749¢/kWh and \$6.64/kW, an increase from 0.044950¢/kWh and \$5.44/kW.

- **Demand Metered Primary**

- GS-2: 0.04584¢/kWh and \$6.72/kW, an increase from 0.04339¢/kWh and \$6.12/kW.
- GS-3: 0.04584¢/kWh and \$6.72/kW, an increase from 0.04339¢/kWh and \$6.12/kW.
- GS-4: 0.04584¢/kWh and \$6.72/kW, an increase from 0.04339¢/kWh and \$6.12/kW.

- **Demand Metered Sub transmission/Transmission**

- GS-2: 0.04492¢/kWh and \$6.45/kW, an increase from 0.04252¢/kWh and \$5.16/kW.
- GS-3: 0.04492¢/kWh and \$6.45/kW, an increase from 0.04252¢/kWh and \$5.16/kW.
- GS-4: 0.04492¢/kWh and \$6.45/kW, an increase from 0.04252¢/kWh and \$5.16/kW.

- **BTCR Pilot**

- Interim Pilot 1CP Secondary: 0.04749¢/kWh and \$12.67/kW, an increase from 0.04495¢/kWh and \$8.89/kW.
- Interim Pilot 1CP Primary: 0.04584¢/kWh and \$13.18/kW an increase from 0.04339¢/kWh and \$8.58/kW.
- Interim Pilot 1CP Sub transmission/Transmission: 0.04492¢/kWh and \$12.54/kW an increase from 0.04252¢/kWh and \$8.41/kW.

The PUCO Approves Increase to AEP's EDR Rate (Case No. 21-104-EL-RDR)

Summary: The PUCO approved AEP's request to adjust its nonbypassable Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider (EDR) rate. The EDR percentage will increase to 2.70839% from its current level of 2.23580% and is applied to a customer's base distribution bill. The EDR rate increase becomes effective the first billing cycle of April 2021.

FirstEnergy

FirstEnergy Refuses to Return H.B. 6 Decoupling Revenues to Customers (Case No. 21-101-EL-ATA)

Summary: FirstEnergy opposed the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) request that the PUCO use its emergency powers to require FirstEnergy to refund to customers approximately \$30 million in H.B. 6 decoupling charges collected from customers in 2020 and January 2021 prior to FirstEnergy agreeing to set the rider to \$0 after entering into an arrangement with the Ohio Attorney General. More specifically, FirstEnergy argued that the law granting the PUCO its emergency powers only authorizes temporary measures to prevent future injury in extraordinary circumstances rather than the retroactive relief sought by OCC.