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Federal

Prehearing Conference Scheduled for Columbia Transmission Rate Case (Docket RP20-1060)

Summary: As you may recall, on July 31, 2020, Columbia filed a rate case with FERC to recoup roughly \$3 billion in capital and operational expenses associated with its transmission system. OMAEG has joined with other customer groups to protest the extraordinary rate increase and protect members' interests. A prehearing conference has been scheduled for Oct. 7, 2020, when it is expected that a procedural schedule will be established.

Statewide

PUCO Waives EE/PDR Portfolio Requirement (Case Nos. 16-574-EL-POR, et al.)

Summary: On Sept. 4, 2020, the PUCO waived an Ohio Administrative Code provision that requires electric distribution utilities to file their energy efficiency and peak demand reduction (EE/PDR) portfolio programs by Sept. 1 each year. The PUCO issued the waiver in light of HB 6's requirement that EE/PDR portfolio plans end at the end of 2020.

PUCO Rejects Joint Request to Modify DOE Arrangement (Case No. 15-892-EL-AEC)

Summary: The PUCO previously approved an agreement allowing AEP to take over OVEC's right and obligation to serve a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility in Ohio. On March 12, 2020, AEP, OVEC, and DOE submitted a joint letter to the PUCO requesting to modify exhibits and testimony relating to the cost of the service to all three parties, the rate structure of the DOE as compared to the investment necessary to serve the load, and a diagram of the infrastructure necessary to serve the new DOE load. On Sept. 9, 2020, the PUCO rejected the joint request without prejudice, stating that the parties could not modify a unique reasonable arrangement through informal correspondence – and that the parties did not present sufficient information, and failed to explain what steps they have taken to maximize the net benefits for customers.

**OCC Requests That PUCO Launch Investigation of FirstEnergy
(Case Nos. 17-974-EL-UNC, et al.)**

Summary: In light of the HB 6 scandal, the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) requested that the PUCO initiate an investigation of FirstEnergy, its corporate governance, and activities related to HB 6. OCC further proposed that the PUCO hire an independent auditor, reopen the Distribution Modernization Rider (DMR) case, and require FirstEnergy to show that it did not use any money collected from consumers unlawfully or improperly.

AEP

**OMAEG Submits Comments on AEP GridSMART Project Phase 3
(Case No. 19-1475-EL-RDR)**

Summary: On Sept. 9, 2020, OMAEG filed [comments](#) asserting that AEP's proposal to install, own, and operate a fiber network not related to modernizing the distribution system and to require its customers to subsidize those investments is unlawful, anti-competitive, against the policy of the state, and should be rejected.