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Statewide Cases

Staff Supports Increasing Auditor's Fee in OVEC Subsidy Audits (Case No. 21-477-EL-RDR)

Summary: On February 15, 2024, the auditor asked the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to increase its service fee by more than 50%, despite applying for and accepting the request for proposal at a stated auditing amount. OMAEG protested the request to increase costs to customers over the agreed-to budgeted amount. This week, Staff recommended approval of the request for an increase in the auditor budget.

AES

Procedural Schedule Established for Smart Grid Phase 2 (Case No. 24-112-EL-GRD)

Summary: The PUCO scheduled the hearing date on Phase 2 of AES' Smart Grid Plan (Phase 2) for September 23, 2024. Phase 2 proposes a total spend of \$755.5 million over ten years, which represents an annual increase of \$8.65 million compared to Phase 1 (or about 13%). Phase 2 costs would be recovered from customers through AES' Infrastructure Investment Rider.

AEP

Additional Refund Language Requested for Transmission Rider (Case No. 24-42-EL-RDR)

Summary: As you may recall, in 2023, OMAEG discovered a calculation error for AEP's BTCR rates, which AEP later admitted dates back to 2018 and has resulted in \$2.55 million in overcharges.

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While AEP later stated that it will make a one-time credit to each BTCR Pilot customer's bill, the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is challenging the decision, including certain carrying charges, the BTCR cost allocation, and that the BTCR should be collected subject to refund.

Duke

Duke Seeks to Unlawfully Implement Energy Efficiency Programs (Case No. 24-45-EL-POR)

Summary: Separate from its electric security plan filing, Duke is seeking to unlawfully implement eight utility-owned energy efficiency and demand-side management (EE/DSM) programs, as well as reinstate the previously terminated Rider DSM to recover costs related to the programs. Rider DSM would *also* recover an unlawful utility incentive projected to equal \$8.25 million over the three-year life of the programs. Duke expects its EE/DSM programs to cost customers about \$76 million through the end of 2026.