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Statewide

Sustainability Funding Alliance (SFA) Pleads Guilty to Facilitating House Bill 6 (HB 6) Bribery Scandal

Summary: This week, SFA, a company owned by the former Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Chair Sam Randazzo pleaded guilty to engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, fraud, aggravated theft, and money laundering related to the HB 6 scandal. Along with its guilty plea, SFA has agreed to forfeit more than \$2.1 million.

Supreme Court of Ohio Clarifies the Right to Appeal PUCO Decisions (Case Nos. 14-375-EL-RDR, et al.)

Summary: Earlier this month, the Supreme Court of Ohio held that the PUCO does not have the authority to grant itself more time to consider requests for reconsideration of its orders. The PUCO subsequently denied reconsideration in over a dozen cases and ordered that the cases be closed.

This week, the Court clarified that its recent decision will be applied prospectively to all cases currently pending before the PUCO.

AEP Ohio

OMAEG Seeks to Strike AEP Ohio's False Testimony in Data Center Case (Case No. 24-508-EL-ATA)

Summary: After OMAEG and numerous other customers and suppliers reached a settlement (Customer Coalition Settlement) that, among other things, eliminated the unlawful discrimination against a particular business type and required AEP to demonstrate that a transmission capacity constraint exists prior to increasing costs to large customers, AEP Ohio filed inflammatory testimony. OMAEG seeks to strike all of AEP's irrelevant and false testimony replete with speculation and misleading statements intended to besmirch OMAEG.

Data Center Case Hearing Begins for AEP Ohio Data Center Tariff Proposal (Case No. 24-508-EL-ATA)

Summary: This week, the evidentiary hearing began on the AEP Data Center case. To date, only one of AEP Ohio's witnesses has testified on matters related to transmission planning and the alleged need for extra high voltage lines that may cost billions. During cross-examination, AEP's witness (i) acknowledged that he had not considered alternatives to AEP's proposed discriminatory tariff; (ii) admitted that AEP's transmission system can support all of the contracted load by 2030; and (iii) affirmed that the regional PJM transmission planning process alone will address any transmission buildout concerns and is in fact the entity responsible for managing transmission expansion as well as for allocating the costs associated with those

investments across the region. Further, AEP Ohio's witness conceded that they did not consider or analyze implementing hosting capacity maps, which could be a viable solution to the stated transmission concerns.

FirstEnergy

PUCO Directs Attorney General (AG) to Seek Order Compelling FirstEnergy Testimony (Case No. 17-974-EL-UNC)

Summary: Recent attempts to depose FirstEnergy's former lobbyists (Joel Bailey and Ty Pine) and former Director of State and Regulatory Affairs (Justin Blitz) regarding the \$4.3 million in bribes paid to former PUCO Chair Randazzo and the HB 6 scandal were thwarted by repeated invocation of their Fifth Amendment Right Against Self-Incrimination. This week, the PUCO directed their attorneys to seek an order compelling testimony from Bailey, Biltz, and Pine.

The FirstEnergy Utilities Update Rider Rates

(Case Nos. 89-6001-EL-TRF, 89-6006-EL-TRF, and 89-6008-EL-TRF)

Summary: Effective January 1, 2025, each of the FirstEnergy Utilities will update their Generation Cost Reconciliation (GCR) Rider, Delta Revenue Recovery Rider (Rider DRR), and Legacy Generation Resource Rider (Rider LGR). Each of the Utilities will:

- Decrease the GCR to \$0.002966/kWh from \$0.003137/kWh for General Service – Primary (GP), and to \$0.003073/kWh from \$0.003250 for General Service – Secondary (GS);
- Increase Rider DRR to \$0.000002/kWh from \$0.000000/kWh for GP, and to \$0.000005/kWh from \$0.000001/kWh for GS; and
- Increase Rider LGR to \$0.0018007/kWh from \$0.0018000/kWh for usage up to 833,000 kWh per month for both GP and GS.

Furthermore, effective January 1, 2025, The Cleveland Illuminating Company will:

- Implement a Distribution Uncollectible (DUN) Rider charge of \$0.000233/kWh from a credit of \$0.000329/kWh for both GP and GS; and
- Implement a PIPP Uncollectible Rider (PUR) credit of \$0.000029/kWh from a charge of \$0.000035/kWh for both GP and GS.

The Ohio Edison Company will:

- Increase DUN to \$0.000409/kWh from \$0.000061/kWh for both GP and GS;
- Increase PUR to \$0.000030/kWh from \$0.000029/kWh for both GP and GS.

The Toledo Edison Company will:

- Increase DUN to \$0.000250/kWh from \$0.000029/kWh for both GP and GS; and
- Increase PUR to \$0.000035/kWh from \$0.000023/kWh for both GP and GS.

AES

OMAEG Submits Initial Brief for Smart Grid Plan Phase 2 (SGP Phase 2) (Case No. 24-0112-EL-GRD)

Summary: As you may recall, in February 2024, AES requested approval of SGP Phase 2, which would have cost customers over \$755 million during the project's ten-year term. OMAEG

OMA ENERGY GROUP WEEKLY BRIEFING



submitted an initial brief urging the PUCO to adopt a settlement that significantly reduces costs to customers by over \$400 million. The settlement also implements a more favorable rate design for manufacturers, reduces the term of SGP Phase 2 to four years, requires AES to publish a hosting capacity map by June 2027, and offsets expenses by estimated operational benefits.

Columbia

Columbia Increases Default Standard Choice Offer (SCO) Rate

Summary: Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for Columbia increased to \$0.5091/ccf from \$0.4006/ccf, effective November 26, 2024.

CenterPoint Energy (formerly Vectren)

CenterPoint Increases Default SCO Rate

Summary: Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for CenterPoint increased to \$0.4971/ccf from \$0.381/ccf, effective December 1, 2024.