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AEP Ohio

AEP Data Center Hearing Continues (Case No. 24-508-EL-ATA)

Summary: Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy Group's (OMAEG) first witness, Mr. Ryan Schuessler, took the stand this week, testifying that the 30,000 MW of new data center load that AEP claims justifies its discriminatory tariffs is speculative and therefore not a reasonable justification for the new tariffs. Mr. Schuessler also explained that there are existing processes in place to verify new load, which AEP has seemingly failed to follow. OMAEG's second witness, Mr. John Seryak, will testify later today, and the hearing is expected to conclude shortly thereafter.

Additionally, cross-examination of an AEP-aligned witness revealed his failure to conduct any analysis or studies on the impact of AEP's proposed unreasonable and discriminatory tariff on customers. This witness also admitted that he had not performed any load forecasts for this case, in contrast to other proceedings where he had analyzed load forecast figures.

Enbridge (formerly Dominion Gas)

Enbridge Rate Case Hearing Commences (Case Nos. 23-894-GA-AIR, et al.)

Summary: On Tuesday, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) commenced the hearing on Enbridge's extraordinary proposal for a \$218.2 million rate increase. Throughout the week, parties cross-examined thirteen Company witnesses regarding Enbridge's request to increase rates by a staggering 25.53%. OMAEG challenged Enbridge's unsubstantiated 10.40% return on equity.

Cross-examination by OMAEG's counsel also revealed Enbridge's failure to impose non-residential rate caps for two of Enbridge's above-market charges, which account for a significant amount of the proposed rate increases, which will significantly increase customers' bills. Further cross-examination revealed Enbridge's attempt to have ratepayers subsidize its executive bonus program along with several projects providing no benefit to customers. The hearing will continue with the remaining Enbridge witnesses, followed by other parties and PUCO Staff.