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FirstEnergy

Evidentiary Hearing on FirstEnergy's House Bill 6 (HB 6) Corruption Continues (Case Nos. 17-974-EL-UNC, et al.)

Summary: Following the exposure of the HB 6 bribery scandal, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) initiated or reopened several audits, explaining that they were to investigate the FirstEnergy Utilities' involvement in the scandal and whether they had misused customer funds to finance the bribes and other related, corrupt activities.

This week, OMAEG's expert witness John A. Seryak offered testimony explaining how the FirstEnergy Utilities and/or their parent company used customer dollars to fund bribes to induce settlements that in turn created mechanisms by which FirstEnergy received even more customer dollars. Mr. Seryak urged the PUCO to order that FirstEnergy credit, at a minimum, \$769 million, plus interest, to its customers to refund the money used by FirstEnergy and its parent company that funded and/or resulted from illegal and corrupt activities.

Attorneys for the FirstEnergy Utilities sought to prevent Mr. Seryak from testifying on various HB 6 issues, but their requests were denied. Notably, OMAEG was one of the only parties presenting testimony on HB 6 issues, and the FE Utilities' ongoing efforts to avoid discussions of HB 6 were thwarted.

AEP

OMAEG Requests Reconsideration of Unlawful AEP Agreements (Case Nos. 25-133-EL-AEC; 25-134-EL-AEC)

Summary: OMAEG sought reconsideration of the PUCO's approval of two agreements with select customers that would allow AEP to build, own, and operate generation assets. As you may recall, AEP entered into these agreements during an ongoing moratorium preventing certain large load customers from connecting to AEP's ostensibly constrained infrastructure. Among other things, OMAEG emphasized that these agreements violate core principles of Ohio's deregulated electric market and are not authorized by law.

Enbridge (formerly Dominion Gas)

**PUCO Decreases Enbridge's Distribution Rates by \$26.3 million
(Case Nos. 23-894-GA-AIR, et al.)**

Summary: In its order approving Enbridge's base rates application, the PUCO significantly decreased Enbridge's distribution rates by approximately \$26.3 million per year (Enbridge originally requested an *increase* of over \$218.2 million) and established a 6.60% rate of return. Additionally, the PUCO rejected numerous proposals by Enbridge as being inconsistent with Ohio's ratemaking principles, and agreed with OMAEG's arguments regarding the economic value that large industrial customers offer, thus creating a new customer class to reflect this value.