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Statewide

PUCO Begins House Bill 15 (HB 15)-Related Rulemaking Proceedings (Case Nos. 25-815-AU-ORD, 25-741-EL-ORD, et al.)

Summary: Following the passage of HB 15, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) initiated several rulemaking proceedings to implement the new law. These proceedings include amending the Ohio Power Siting Board rules to accelerate certificate of construction applications, amending the standard filing requirements for rate cases, and amending the rules regarding certain mercantile customers. Draft rule amendments have not yet been issued in most of these proceedings, but OMAEG continues to monitor and review in order to file comments to protect its members' interests.

AEP

PUCO Ignores OMAEG's Call for an Investigation into AEP Load Forecasting (Case No. 25-735-EL-RDR)

Summary: After analyzing and reviewing AEP's proposed updated transmission cost recovery rider rates, OMAEG discovered troubling inaccuracies with AEP's projected load forecasts. Specifically, AEP appeared to be overestimating load growth, which can have a significant impact on the utility costs paid for by all customers. Notably, the Staff Report also found inaccuracies in AEP's load forecasts that "may have a material impact if not corrected." OMAEG filed comments on the load forecasts inaccuracies, explaining the detrimental effects that such inaccuracies may have on customers (while at the same time benefitting AEP's bottom line), and called on the PUCO to launch an official investigation into AEP's load forecasting methodologies.

Disappointingly, the PUCO approved AEP's updated rider rates, subject to Staff's recommended adjustments to account for the inaccurate load forecasts. However, the PUCO stopped short of properly addressing the root of the problem by requiring AEP to reexamine its forecasting methodologies to avoid these kinds of inaccuracies going forward. While the PUCO acknowledged Staff's findings about the forecasting inaccuracies, the PUCO downplayed this significant issue as only "slight" inaccuracies. The PUCO also dismissed OMAEG's comments on the matter and did not address OMAEG's request for an official investigation into AEP's forecasting methodologies.

Enbridge (formerly Dominion)

PUCO's Entry on Rehearing Threatens to Significantly Increase Costs to Large Customers (Case Nos. 23-894-GA-AIR et al.)

Summary: As you may recall, the PUCO granted reconsideration of its order in the Enbridge rate case, reversing its prior decision regarding placing negotiated contract customers in their own customer class. As expected, a new cost of service study (COSS) revealed that keeping negotiated contract customers in their current customer classes rather than placing them in their own class has a negative impact on other large customers and improperly allocates costs. OMAEG therefore will be seeking reconsideration of the Commission's decisions to (1) keep negotiated contract customers in existing rate classes, (2) establish volumetric rates for large customers for two of Enbridge's above-market charges, and (3) reconsider the appropriate allocation of certain above-market charges. A hearing to address the new COSS is scheduled for September 30, 2025.

Enbridge Decreases Default Standard Choice Offer (SCO) Rate

Summary: Based on recent competitive auctions, the default service rate for Enbridge decreased to \$3.367/MCF from \$3.581/MCF, effective September 11, 2025.