

BELDEN

THE BELDEN BRICK COMPANY

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The Standard of Comparison Since 1885

January 27, 2016

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
 180 East Broad Street
 Columbus, OH 43215

PUCO

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RE: Opposition Comment to PPA Cases 14-1693-EL-RDR; 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear PUCO:

I am writing to urge you to act to reject the negotiated settlements of FirstEnergy and AEP (and a small group of others who have negotiated certain benefits) that will enable the utilities to implement costly Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) riders and other cost-driving provisions.

Should the PUCO approve the deals, both utilities will be able to collect costs (via non-bypassable PPA riders) from all of their customers to subsidize their uneconomical generation assets, thus protecting the utilities from cost risk and guaranteeing their profits and cost recovery. And put it all on the backs of their customers for an eight-year term.

Ohio's Consumers' Counsel has estimated that the FirstEnergy settlement could cost consumers \$3.9 billion over the eight-year duration of the PPA, and the AEP settlement could cost consumers \$2 billion.

Our company consumes approximately 21 million kWh/year. We estimate the additional costs of this new rider to be \$940,000 over the eight year term of the case. The construction industry is still feeling the effects of the real estate collapse of several years ago. Our company is still struggling to turn a profit, so this type of regulation will surely be felt by our employees and shareholders. Belden Brick did not have the government to turn to during this recent downturn. We do not agree that FirstEnergy and AEP should have this option either once they decided to deregulate their industry.

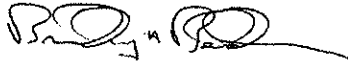
If approved by the full PUCO, these deals will put an unnecessary and anti-competitive layer of costs on consumers with no commensurate benefits, constrain competition, and dampen technological innovation in Ohio. In addition, both settlements contain other provisions that will increase costs to consumers.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a scan file document delivered in the regular course of business.

The markets for electricity in Ohio are working to the benefit of consumers. These deals are a massive setback to the consumer-friendly efficiency of those markets.

Please protect Ohio manufacturers and all consumers in FirstEnergy and AEP territories, the lion's share of the state in terms of utilities, from this substantial bailout/giveaway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Belden', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Bradley H. Belden
Director – Support Services

cc: Governor John Kasich
State Senator Oelslager
State Representative Landis