

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio)	
Power Company for Authority to Establish a)	
Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section)	Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO
4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an)	
Electric Security Plan.)	

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio)	
Power Company for Approval of Certain)	Case No. 16-1853-EL-AAM
Accounting Authority.)	

**OHIO POWER COMPANY’S MOTION FOR RELIEF
FROM COMMISSION ENTRY**

Pursuant to Rule 4901-1-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Ohio Power Company (“AEP Ohio” or the “Company”) respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) for relief from the Commission’s Entry of March 7, 2017 (“Entry”), directing the Company to publish notices of the local public hearings on AEP Ohio’s electric security plan (“ESP”) application. Although the hearings were covered by the press, widely advertised by the Commission and other parties, and well-attended, AEP Ohio inadvertently failed to publish notice of those hearings in newspapers of general circulation in each county in its certified territory, as required by paragraph 4 of the Entry. Because the views of AEP Ohio’s customers have been well and thoroughly presented in this proceeding, however, both through public comment and through the avid advocacy of the intervenors in this action, AEP Ohio’s customers have not been prejudiced by its oversight. Accordingly, AEP Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission waive or otherwise grant relief from the Entry. In the alternative, if the Commission feels it necessary, AEP Ohio proposes that the Commission schedule an additional public hearing in Columbus to allow any customers who have not already commented on the ESP Application or Joint Stipulation and Recommendation to provide such comments.

The grounds for this motion are set forth more fully in the accompanying memorandum in support.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven T. Nourse

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Counsel for Ohio Power Company

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

I. Introduction and Request for Relief

AEP Ohio filed its Application for an ESP in this proceeding on November 23, 2016, along with supporting testimony. After a technical conference in December 2016 and numerous motions to intervene, the Commission issued an Entry scheduling local public hearings on the Application “to provide customers of AEP Ohio a reasonable opportunity to provide public testimony in these proceedings * * *.” Entry ¶ 4. The Commission scheduled four public hearings – one each in Bucyrus and Marietta, and two in Columbus (at the Ohio History Center and the Commission’s offices) – and directed AEP Ohio to publish notice of those hearings “one time in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in its certified territory.” *Id.*

AEP Ohio inadvertently failed to publish formal notices as directed due to an administrative oversight. Fortunately, the Company’s customers were not prejudiced by this omission. As discussed below, the public hearings were otherwise well-publicized and were well-attended, with almost 50 witnesses presenting comments. Thousands of customers submitted written comments. And customer views were also presented through the intervenors to this action, who worked for months to craft a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation that incorporated and addressed customer and stakeholder concerns with the original Application. All of this demonstrates that AEP Ohio’s inadvertent failure to publish formal notices of the local public hearings did not prevent customers from learning about its Application or the Commission from hearing and considering those customers’ views. Given AEP Ohio’s inability, at this time, to go back and fix its oversight; given the extensive customer comments on the Application; and given that the Application has been modified (through the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation) to address and resolve customer and stakeholder concerns, AEP Ohio now respectfully requests that the Commission grant it relief from its March 7, 2017 Entry.

II. AEP Ohio's Customers Were Not Prejudiced by the Company's Oversight.

As stated above, AEP Ohio regrets its oversight in not publishing newspaper notices regarding the four local public hearings. Fortunately, the meetings were well-publicized nonetheless. The Commission issued a press release publicizing the four meetings, listed the hearing dates and locations on its webpage for AEP Ohio's ESP, and included those hearings in its weekly hearing schedules, all of which were posted on the Commission's website. (*See* Exhibit A, Prior Public Notice of Local Hearings, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 13, and 15 (attached).) Ohio Citizen Action also publicized the hearings widely, through multiple articles on its website and through Facebook "Events" inviting customers to come to the Bucyrus and Marietta hearings and testify. (*See id.*, Nos. 2, 7, 10, and 11; *see also* Rachel Belz, *Should utilities be allowed to hike their fixed rate?*, COLUMBUS DISPATCH (Apr. 24, 2017) (*available at* <http://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20170424/rachael-belz-should-utilities-be-allowed-to-hike-their-fixed-rate-no>) (encouraging AEP Ohio customers to "attend[] an upcoming public hearing" and directing them to visit the Commission website to learn the hearing schedule).) The Sierra Club posted a notice inviting AEP Ohio customers to attend the first Columbus hearing "and make your voice heard." (Exhibit A, No. 12.) And the Bucyrus, Marietta, and Columbus press covered the hearings as well, publishing numerous event notices and articles listing the dates, times, and locations of the upcoming public hearings. (*See id.*, Nos. 5, 6, 8, 9, and 14.) These articles provided information similar to the information that would have been provided in AEP Ohio's formal notices, and were likely more prominently placed and noticeable to customers than the formal notices that AEP Ohio was directed by the Commission to provide.

Because of the Commission's efforts and the other public notices, the meetings were generally well-attended. (*See, e.g.*, Apr. 25, 2017 Tr. at 4 (Commissioner Trombold, commenting, "We are really excited to have so many people here.")) The press reported, for

example, that “[n]early 30 people” attended the first public hearing, in Bucyrus. (Zach Tuggle, *Electric base rates could rise for AEP Ohio*, BUCYRUS TELEGRAPH FORUM (Apr. 11, 2017) (attached to Exhibit A as No. 5).) And dozens of AEP Ohio customers took advantage of the opportunity to share their thoughts on the Company’s Application. In all, almost 50 customers testified at the local public hearings: 7 at the Bucyrus hearing, 8 at the Marietta hearing, 17 at the first Columbus hearing, and 14 at the second Columbus hearing. (*See generally* Apr. 10, 2017 Tr.; Apr. 13, 2017 Tr.; Apr. 17, 2017 Tr. at 3; and Apr. 25, 2017 Tr. at 3.)

Nor were the local public hearings the public’s only opportunity to comment on the Application. The Commission also accepted, and continues to accept, written comments. From December 2, 2016 through October 19, 2017, customers and other interested parties submitted 7,219 pages of comments (excluding service pages) that were docketed in 134 separate filings, with several such filings encompassing the comments of more than 200 separate commenters. Thus, thousands of Company customers who did not attend the public hearings still made their views on the Application known to the Commission. No customer or other interested person has indicated that he or she did not have an opportunity to comment on the Application or Joint Stipulation and Recommendation while this case has been pending.

And, of course, Staff and the numerous intervenors in this action have also represented the views of AEP’s customers in this proceeding. As the Commission noted at the public hearings, there were “28 intervening parties [in this case,] representing residential customers including low-income customers, commercial customers, industrial customers, competitive retail electric suppliers, environmental advocates and other consumer advocates.” (Apr. 17, 2017 Tr. at 6-7.) The Commission received pre-filed testimony from almost twenty witnesses representing the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel; Industrial Energy Users-Ohio; The

Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition; Wal-Mart Stores East, LP and Sam's East, Inc.; Ohio Energy Group; The Electric Vehicle Charging Association; Ohio Environmental Council; Environmental Defense Fund; Natural Resources Defense Council; Sierra Club; Environmental Law and Policy Center; PJM Providers Group and Electric Power Supply Association; The Kroger Co.; OMA Energy Group; Retail Energy Supply Association; and Commission Staff.

The parties' Joint Stipulation and Recommendation, moreover, took into account the comments and recommendations received at the public hearings and modified the ESP accordingly. For example, AEP Ohio's initial proposal to modify its customer charge was met with significant pushback at the local public hearings. (*See, e.g.*, Apr. 10, 2017 Tr. at 19, 21, 26; Apr. 13, 2017 Tr. at 8, 10, 18; Apr. 17, 2017 Tr. at 11, 15, 17-21, 28; Apr. 25, 2017 Tr. at 12-13, 29.) In response, AEP Ohio agreed in the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation to maintain the current residential rate design and the current customer charge until the next base distribution rate case. Thus, AEP Ohio's customers made their views about the Company's ESP Application known, and the Company listened.

III. Conclusion

AEP Ohio acknowledges that it failed to comply with the Commission's March 7, 2017 Entry. Yet although AEP Ohio unintentionally failed to publish notices of the four local public hearings, those hearings were otherwise well-attended and well-publicized (including through newspaper articles in prominent local papers). Almost fifty customers took advantage of the opportunity to present their positions at those hearings. Thousands more submitted written comments. Over a dozen companies and other organizations submitted pre-filed testimony on the Application. And AEP Ohio, Staff, and other parties took those comments into consideration in negotiating the Joint Stipulation and Recommendation that was filed with the Commission on

August 25, 2017. For all these reasons, AEP Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission grant it relief from its March 7, 2017 Entry.

If the Commission does believe that additional public hearings would be warranted at this point, notwithstanding the abundant comments that AEP Ohio's customers and interested stakeholders have already submitted, AEP Ohio would recommend that the hearings be limited and expedited – perhaps one additional hearing, in Columbus or another location of the Commission's choosing, with notice published in each county in AEP Ohio's certified territory approximately 15 days in advance of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven T. Nourse

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Counsel for Ohio Power Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with Rule 4901-1-05, Ohio Administrative Code, the PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document upon the following parties. In addition, I hereby certify that a service copy of the foregoing was sent by, or on behalf of, the undersigned counsel to the following parties of record this 28th day of December, 2017, via electronic transmission.

/s/ Christen M. Blend
Christen M. Blend

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AEP Ohio
Prior Public Notice of Local Hearings in Case Nos. 16-1852-EL-SSO et al.

Notice of Multiple Hearings

1. PUCO, “PUCO schedules local public hearings for AEP Ohio’s electric security plan” (Mar. 7, 2017) (all hearings)
2. Ohio Citizen Action, “AEP wants you to pay more every month before you even turn on your lights” (Mar. 9, 2017) (all hearings)
3. PUCO, “AEP Ohio’s electric security plan IV” (all hearings)
4. PUCO, Hearing Schedule (Apr. 9, 2017 – Apr. 15, 2017) (Bucyrus and Marietta hearings)
5. *Bucyrus Telegraph Forum*, “Electric base rates could rise for AEP Ohio” (Apr. 11, 2017) (Marietta and Columbus hearings)

Notice of Bucyrus Hearing (Apr. 10, 2017)

6. *Bucyrus Telegraph Forum*, “Briefs: Club news and upcoming meetings” (Apr. 7, 2017)
7. Ohio Citizen Action, Facebook Event, “AEP Public Utility Commission Hearing in Bucyrus” (Details and Discussion)

Notice of Marietta Hearing (Apr. 13, 2017)

8. *Marietta Times*, “Residents must stop AEP power grab” (Apr. 7, 2017)
9. *Marietta Times*, “Electricity rate change to swell bills” (Apr. 12, 2017)
10. Ohio Citizen Action, Facebook Event, “AEP Public Utility Commission Hearing in Marietta”

Notice of Columbus Hearing – Ohio History Center (Apr. 17, 2017)

11. Ohio Citizen Action, “Public hearing on AEP rate hike in Columbus” (Apr. 11, 2017)
12. Sierra Club, Where2Go Columbus, “AEP Public Utility Commission Hearing in Columbus”
13. PUCO, Hearing Schedule (Apr. 16, 2017 – Apr. 22, 2017)

Notice of Columbus Hearing -- Commission (Apr. 25, 2017)

14. ABC6, “AEP proposing a rate increase for Ohio residents” (Apr. 17, 2017)
15. PUCO, Hearing Schedule (Apr. 23, 2017 – Apr. 29, 2017)



For Immediate Release
Contact: Matt Schilling
(614) 466 7750

PUCO schedules local public hearings for AEP Ohio's electric security plan

COLUMBUS, OHIO (March 7, 2017) – The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) today scheduled four local public hearings to provide customers an opportunity to express their views on AEP Ohio's electric security plan (ESP) application. The local public hearings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Bucyrus City Hall, Council Chambers
500 S. Sandusky Avenue
Bucyrus, Ohio 448220

Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Washington State Community College, Arts & Science Building, Harvey Graham Auditorium
710 Colegate Drive,
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Ohio History Center
800 East 17th Avenue
Cardinal Classroom
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

PUCO offices
180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-B
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Those who testify at the local public hearings will have their comments added to the case record.

Consumers may also submit comments online at www.PUCO.ohio.gov or by mail addressed to 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215. Correspondence should include the case number [16-1852-EL-SSO](#).

An evidentiary hearing is scheduled to commence on June 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

More information regarding AEP Ohio's ESP may be found on the PUCO website by clicking [here](#). A copy of the company's application is available by searching the Docketing Information System and entering case number [16-1852-EL-SSO](#).

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The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the sole agency charged with regulating public utility service. The role of the PUCO is to assure all residential, business and industrial consumers have access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. Consumers with utility-related questions or concerns can call the PUCO Call Center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826) and speak with a representative.

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[AEP / Energy](#)

AEP wants you to pay more every month before you even turn on your lights

on March 9, 2017 at 8:31 pm



COLUMBUS — American Electric Power (AEP) recently rolled out a proposal to increase upfront, mandatory residential fixed fees, called the “customer charge”, from a current \$8.40 to \$13.40 per month, and another increase in 2018 to \$18.40 per month — a whopping 119% increase. This means instead of paying \$100.80, customers would pay \$220.80 annually, which for many people is like adding a 13th electric bill.

In states like Wisconsin, this approach has led to higher costs, particularly for low-use and – at times – low-income customers, by reducing customers’ ability to control their bill. It eliminates the incentive to conserve energy and purchase more energy efficient appliances because it’s a flat charge you have to pay every month no matter how much energy you use.

In a desperate effort to cover costs in a rapidly changing energy landscape, utilities have proposed these fixed rate charges all over the nation. If they hadn't banked on coal remaining cheap, they wouldn't be in the position they're in.

The good news is, national resistance to these proposals began in 2014 and is gaining momentum. We need to stop this in Ohio right now. All Ohio residential customers must speak out against fixed rate charges, or we'll see more utilities turn to them to compensate for their bad business decisions to delay the transition to cleaner energy and more efficient energy use.

Please speak out at one of these AEP Fixed Rate Hearings

Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Bucyrus City Hall
Council Chambers
500 S. Sandusky Avenue
Bucyrus, Ohio 448220

Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Washington State Community College
Arts & Science Building
Harvey Graham Auditorium
710 Colegate Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Ohio History Center
800 East 17th Avenue
Cardinal Classroom
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

PUCO offices
80 East Broad Street
Hearing Room 11-B
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Those who testify at the local public hearings will have their comments added to the case record.

Consumers may also submit comments online at www.PUCO.ohio.gov or by mail addressed to 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215. Correspondence should include the case number 16-1852-EL-SSO.

An evidentiary hearing is scheduled to commence on June 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the PUCO offices in Columbus.



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Clean Energy votes



Is your legislator a Clean Energy Voter?

Members supporting fair electric rates in Ohio as of December 16, 2017

32,337 members have signed our support statement in person at their door.

AEP Ohio's electric security plan IV

December 1, 2016

Role of the Commission

In formulating its decision in a case, the Commission must balance the interests of many parties and stakeholders while adhering to its mission, “to assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices.”

The Commission must balance this responsibility with an obligation to ensure Ohio’s regulated utilities the ability to continue to provide adequate, safe and cost-effective services to Ohio’s consumers and continue to invest in infrastructure improvements and innovative technologies.

In every case that comes before the Commission, a formal record is created. The case record includes written testimony, public testimony and cross-examination of expert witnesses. The Commission cannot make arbitrary decisions; information that is not in the formal record cannot be considered by the Commission in formulating its decision in a case.

Working as the neutral arbiter, it is the Commission’s goal to put Ohio in a position as a leader in developing regulatory certainty, rate stability and modernized grid technologies.

ESP 101

State law requires electric distribution utilities to provide their customers a default generation service. This is called a standard service offer, or SSO. An SSO may be in the form of either an electric security plan (ESP) or market rate offer (MRO). Electric distribution utilities are required to file applications with the PUCO to establish either an ESP or MRO.

ESPs establish the pricing and supply of generation service, and may include distribution system investments, grid modernization, economic development and job retention initiatives and energy efficiency measures. The PUCO is tasked with determining whether an ESP, including its pricing and all other terms and conditions, is more favorable in the aggregate as compared to the expected results that would otherwise apply under an MRO.

The PUCO has historically adopted three-year ESPs for Ohio’s regulated electric utilities.

AEP Ohio's electric security plan

The PUCO approved AEP Ohio's first ESP in March 2009, setting gradual increases for the base price of electric generation through December 2011.

In 2012, the PUCO approved AEP Ohio's second ESP, in effect until May 31, 2015. The second ESP brought AEP Ohio's standard service offer (SSO) load to be fully provided through competitive auctions. The second ESP also directed AEP Ohio to separate its generation assets from its distribution business.

In 2015, the PUCO approved AEP Ohio's third ESP, in effect until May 2018. The third ESP again planned for AEP Ohio's SSO load to be fully provided through competitive auctions.

In November 2016, AEP Ohio filed a proposal to modify and extend its third ESP by six years.

What is AEP Ohio requesting in its ESP filing?

In November 2016, AEP Ohio filed a proposal to modify and extend its current ESP through May 2024. The PUCO approved the current ESP in February 2015, and it is set to expire in May 2018.

The proposed ESP would maintain the competitive bidding process while supplementing the process with a change to the way that the PPA Rider is implemented.

AEP Ohio proposes to use the power from the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) entitlement to serve a bypassable portion of its SSO load, instead of including the cost and revenues of that entitlement in the PPA Rider.

AEP Ohio proposes a Distribution Technology Rider (DTR) in order to modernize the company's infrastructure. The proposed rider would allow for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, microgrid technology, smart street lighting controls and a next generation utility communication system throughout the company's territory. The DTR would also allow for the enhancement of security for AEP Ohio's critical distribution infrastructure.

AEP Ohio proposes a pilot program to establish a bypassable Competition Incentive Rider (CIR) as an addition to the SSO non-shopping rate above the auction price. The purpose of this rider is to incentivize shopping, while recognizing that there may be costs associated with providing retail electric service that are not reflected in the SSO bypassable rates. Revenue collected from the CIR would be refunded to all customers through the SSO Credit Rider.

AEP Ohio proposes a Renewable Generation Rider (RGR) to recover costs of renewable generation investment. The RGR would work as a placeholder until such time that the Commission might approve charges for specific projects.

AEP Ohio's modified ESP proposal also includes several other new riders and tariffs, including: a Sub-metering Rider, an Automaker Credit Rider, an LED Lighting Tariff, a Basic Transmission Cost Recovery (BTCR) provision for County Fairgrounds, a pilot BTCR program for single coincident peak rate design for certain customers, a modification to the Auction Cost Reconciliation Rider, a modification to the Distribution Investment Rider, an modification to the Economic Development Rider and an increase to the distribution customer charge with an offsetting reduction to the distribution energy charge.

How might my bill be affected?

AEP Ohio proposed to increase the fixed customer charge while reducing the volumetric portion of distribution rates.

According to the company's application, the average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) would experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.58. A full list of typical bill impacts can be found in [exhibit DRG-7](#) of the company's application.

How can I make my voice heard?

Customers may write to the PUCO [online](#) or by mail at 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Correspondences should include the case number [16-1852-EL-SSO](#).

The PUCO has scheduled the following local public hearings.

Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Bucyrus City Hall, Council Chambers
500 S. Sandusky Avenue
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Washington State Community College, Arts & Science Building, Harvey Graham Auditorium
710 Colegate Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Ohio History Center, Cardinal Classroom
800 East 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

Commission Offices, Hearing Room 11-B

180 E. Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Those who testify at the local public hearings will have their comments added to the case record.

For more information

To view AEP Ohio's ESP application, visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov and click on the link in the Docketing Information System (DIS) and enter case number 16-1852-EL-SSQ.

**Hearing Schedule**

Legal Department

(614) 466-7702

Apr 9, 2017 - Apr 15, 2017**Monday, April 10, 2017**

9:00 AM	Case No. 16-395-EL-SSO	Hearing	11-A
	Dayton Power & Light Company Attorney Examiners: Nick Walstra and Greg Price (continued from Friday)		
6:00 PM	Case Nos. 16-1852-EL-SSO and 16-1853-EL-AAM	Hearing	Bucyrus
	Ohio Power Company Attorney Examiners: Greta See and Sarah Parrot Bucyrus City Hall Council Chambers 500 S. Sandusky Avenue Bucyrus, Ohio 44820 Reporters: Armstrong & Okey (B) 614-224-9481 (S) (FAX) 614-224-5724 (S)		

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

9:00 AM	Case No. 16-395-SSO	Hearing	11-A
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Dayton Power & Light Company
 Attorney Examiners: Nick Walstra and Greg Price
 (continued from previous day)



10:00 AM	Case No. 17-234-TR-CVF	Hearing	11-C
	Tommy Stanislawski Attorney Examiner: Kerry Sheets		

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

No Hearings Scheduled


Thursday, April 13, 2017

10:00 AM	Case No. 17-31-TP-CSS	Prehearing Conference	1246
	Car Parts Warehouse v. Airespring, Inc. Attorney Examiner: Jim Lynn Presiding Examiner: Dan Fullin (No Court Reporter Required)		
10:00 AM	Case No. 17-780-TR-CVF	Prehearing Conference	1247
	DL Winner Livestock Express, Inc. Attorney Examiner: Kerry Sheets (No Court Reporter Required)		
6:00 PM	Case Nos. 16-1852-EL-SSO and 16-1853-EL-AAM	Hearing	Marietta

Ohio Power Company
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Washington State Community College
Arts & Science Building
Harvey Graham Auditorium
710 Colegate Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750
Reporters: Armstrong & Okey
(B) 614-224-9481  (FAX) 614-224-5724 

Friday, April 14, 2017

No Hearings Scheduled

All times and locations are subject to change. Times for hearings lasting more than one day are generally announced during the proceedings on the previous day. Please contact the PUCO Legal Department at 614-466-6843  for updates.

- Join and Leave PUCO Email Lists.
- Directions to the PUCO Offices
- PUCO Web Calendar

Electric base rates could rise for AEP Ohio

Zach Tuggle, Reporter

Published 3:28 p.m. ET April 11, 2017 | Updated 4:28 p.m. ET April 11, 2017



(Photo: Zach Tuggle/Telegraph-Forum)

BUCYRUS - The first of four statewide hearings about potentially raising base rates of electricity highlighted Bucyrus residents' concerns Monday.

Nearly 30 people visited city hall to listen as seven others stood to testify for the commission. A court reporter recorded every word as evidence in the matter. Beth Trombold, one of five commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, looked on as Sarah Parrot, an attorney examiner for the state, led the proceedings.

The hearing was held because AEP Ohio filed a request in November 2016 to raise its electric security plan — the consumers' base rate. Similar requests were granted by the commission in 2009, 2012 and 2015.

Statements collected Monday will be presented to the full commission June 6 in Columbus during an

evidentiary hearing, during which commissioners will decide if the rate increases will be allowed.

If the commission allows the increase, AEP Ohio customers will see their base rate rise from \$8.40 to \$18.40 monthly, according to a fact sheet provided by Ohio Citizen Action, a nonprofit monitoring the state's commission.

Parrot explained that the hearing was designed to only collect statements from citizens, and that no questions could be asked of the commission

Beth Eckersley stood with her husband, Doug, to outline her experience with AEP's base rates. She said they chose to accept alternative electricity service through AEP's lines, which was still billed AEP. She said she remained on the company's "budget" payment plan so that her bills would remain uniform throughout the year.

Suddenly, she received notice that she wasn't paying enough.

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Beth and Doug Eckersley, of Bucyrus, testify Monday before the Ohio Public Utilities Commission during a hearing in Bucyrus about the potential of allowing electric companies to raise their base rates statewide. (Photo: Zach Tuggle/Telegraph-Forum)

"I was told that I could pay up, or be disconnected," Eckersley said.

It turns out there was a base rate for the new electrical service, and AEP was not required to notify her of that rate. She feels all AEP customers are being misled.

"They are lulled into a belief that they are on a budget that covers all charges," Eckersley said. "If AEP had competition, they would never be able to behave in such a fashion."

Garnet "Sis" Love was one of several people who said Monday they weren't sure why AEP wanted to raise their rates. She pointed out that in Bucyrus alone, which has only 5,000 AEP Ohio meters, citizens will see a collective rate increase of \$600,000 by 2018.

"And we are just a small customer base," Love said.

Susan Estrada said she doesn't think AEP Ohio needs the extra money.

"All of this, to me, is a big, fat, crooked deal," Estrada said.

She said the commission can call it a "fixed" increase, but she believes it is truly an incremental increase since there have been so many other increases in recent years. She said she expects more increases in the coming years.

Estrada added that if Ohio law makers were truly concerned about Earth, they would not allow the increase to the base price.

"Everybody is supposed to save electricity, buy special light bulbs and things like that," Estrada said. "But this plan only helps people who are using a lot of electricity."

Dan Clark said there's also a moral element to the proposed increase.

"When you're a low-wage family, every penny counts," Clark said. "As a Christian, I think it's wrong to take money out of poor people's pockets to help powerful special interests."

After several other residents echoed similar sentiments, the hearing ended. Those who would like their statements on the matter to become part of the official record may mail them to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. The commission's website is www.puco.ohio.gov.

The next hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Washington State Community College in Marietta. The third hearing starts at 6 p.m. Monday in the Ohio History Center in Columbus, and the final hearing is 12:30 p.m. April 25 at the commission's office on Broad Street.

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Briefs: Club news and upcoming meetings

Bucyrus Telegraph Forum Published 11:53 a.m. ET April 7, 2017



Leesville Grange News

At the recent Leesville Grange 2078 meeting, the group decided to renew membership with Friends of Crawford Park District.

Plans were discussed for the Leesville Grange banquet, planned at 6 p.m. April 22 at Calvary United Church of Christ in Crestline. Deadline for reservations is April 16.

The lecturer's/community service conference will take place April 22 at the Ohio State Grange Office in Fredericktown.

In honor of Grange Month, donations were given to State Grange Convention, State Fair culinary showcase, Dogs for A Better Life, Friendly Hills Camp and Junior, Youth, Deaf, Lecturer's Funds and Relay for Life.

The community service chairman is still collecting clean prescription bottles with labels removed.

The next Leesville Grange meeting will take place at 7 p.m. May 2 at the home of Tom and Priscilla Laughbaum. At this meeting, participants will have a meal of trying the state baking contest for men, including cheddar biscuits, molasses cookies and apple crisp.

The family activities chairperson will be collecting eye glasses, lenses and cases to be taken to the Deputies conference May 6. The deaf activities chairman will be collecting pop tabs, used hearing aids and parts, and box top labels at this meeting.

Whetstone Go-Getters 4-H

The Whetstone Go-Getters recently had its third 4-H meeting. Before the meeting began, members did a community service project on the church grounds. The meeting was called to order by club president Aaron Hand. New business included the start of bratwurst sales for the club fundraiser. A game was lead by recreation leader Silas Hero. Members will present health and safety posters at the next meeting at 7 p.m. April 17.

Upcoming meetings

PUCO public hearing on AEP Ohio's proposed fixed charge, 6 p.m. Monday in Council Chambers of City Hall, 500 S. Sandusky Ave., Bucyrus.

The Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities will meet at 7 p.m. April 20 in the board room at 1650 E. Southern Ave., Bucyrus.

The Hooks and Books Crochet book club will be meet at 1 p.m. April 20 at the Bucyrus Public Library. The crochet book for discussion is "Colorful Crochet."

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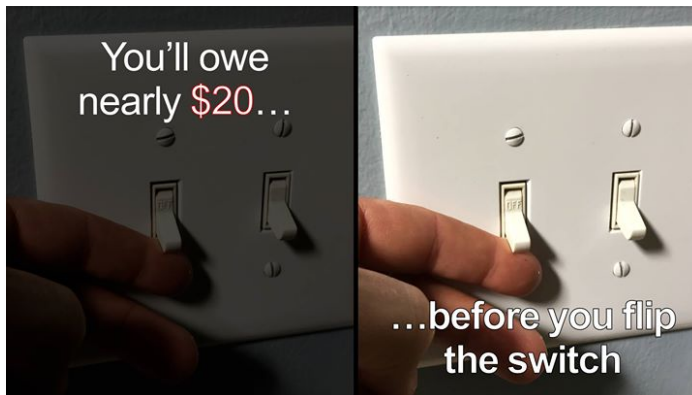
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Ohio Citizen Action

April 10 · 🌐

See everyone tonight! Those who testify at the hearing will have their comments added to the case record.



4

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The Marietta Times

Residents must stop AEP power grab

American Electric Power (AEP) recently rolled out a proposal to increase upfront, mandatory residential fixed fees, called the “*customer charge*”, from a current \$8.40 to \$13.40 per month, and another increase in 2018 to \$18.40 per month — a whopping 119% increase. This means instead of paying \$100.80, customers would pay \$220.80 annually, which for many people is like adding a 13th electric bill. AEP, like many utilities, feels the squeeze of stagnating energy sales for a variety of reasons, including improved energy efficiency and greater competition. Probably the biggest reason is the decrease in natural gas prices: unlike other utility companies, AEP bet on coal prices remaining competitively low, and they lost that bet. While we’d all like to see coal do better, Washington County has a much bigger stake in natural gas. Why should we make our locally produced natural gas unnaturally less competitive? They seek to increase revenue through a fixed rate, or a “*distribution customer charge*” increase. If any of us make a business mistake, we pay for it. We don’t run to a State agency to change the playing field. If AEP’s business decisions made them uncompetitive, it should not be up to us to bail them out!

So, what can we do about it? The Public Utilities Commission is having a public hearing right here in Marietta about this proposed increase on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Washington State Community College Arts & Science Building in Graham Auditorium. Come and speak

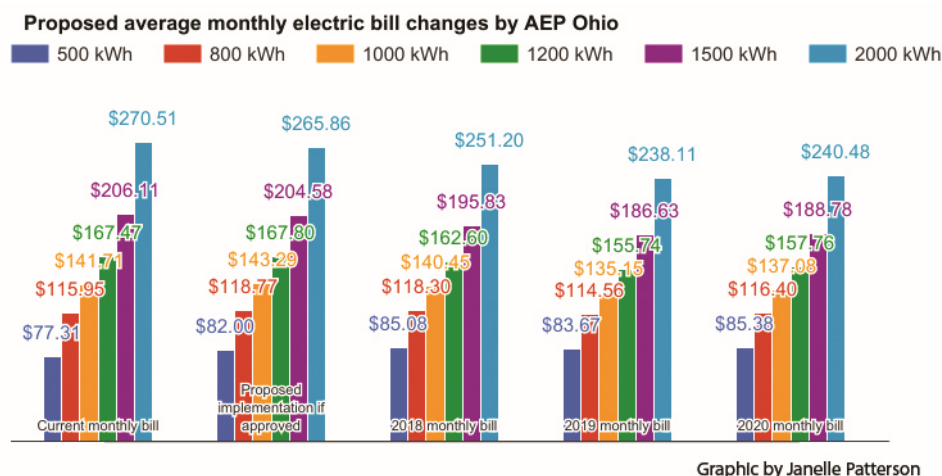
about how this rate increase will impact you. If you cannot come, or are unwilling to speak, think about how your family lives on a budget every month. Is a huge increase on your power bill (that you have no ability to reduce or control) fair or doable for your family's budget? If not, please tell the commission the kinds of choices it makes have a huge impact on your family's life. Send them a letter: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Use the AEP case number 16-1852-EL-SSO in your letter. If enough of us speak out, we can stop this rate increase, we can benefit other methods of power generation such as solar, wind and natural gas, and we can put a little more food on our tables.

Richard Wittberg

Marietta

The Marietta Times

Electricity rate change to swell bills



Local utility bills for small consumers may soon see a significant upfront increase due to changes in American Electric Power Ohio's proposed service plan.

“If this goes through, as early as this summer customers could see a huge increase on their bills,” said Rachael Belz, executive director of Ohio Citizen Action.

AEP Ohio has proposed altering mandatory customer charges from \$8.40 per month to \$13.40 per month this year and to \$18.40 per month in 2018.

Four types of charges make up an electric bill including a customer charge, a fixed fee established to pay for the costs associated with electric equipment and maintenance; a distribution service charge, a kilowatt-hour based volumetric charge for delivering electricity to a home, including use of local wires and other equipment to move electricity; a generation service charge, a kilowatt-hour based volumetric charge for the production of electricity; and a transmission service charge, a kilowatt-hour based volumetric charge for moving high-voltage electricity from power plants to the electric company.

Electric distribution in the valley, regardless of provider, comes from AEP Ohio, meaning even those not billed directly by AEP will still have the changes on their bills.

But the increased customer charge wouldn't change overall profits for the company, according to Matt Schilling, spokesman for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

“AEP Ohio’s proposal is shifting from a volumetric charge to more of a fixed charge,” said Schilling. *“But that’s only if it gets approved by the commission. We are holding both public hearings and taking public comments in the mail and online to hear from private customers how this will affect them. That will all be a part of the official testimony considered in the evidentiary hearing by the commission in June with a ruling expected later this summer.”*

Justification for the change from bills based predominately on usage to fixed charges is to further infrastructure, according to AEP Ohio president Julie Sloat.

“AEP Ohio is focusing on making investments that enhance the reliability and quality of service that we provide to our customers. This proposal will allow us to continue programs that have improved the reliability of our service in recent years and introduce new, smarter energy technologies on our system that help the system operate more efficiently and effectively,” said Sloat in a release. *“It also gives us a way to invest in renewable generation that will bring clean energy, jobs and support economic development in Ohio.”*

According to the U.S. Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration, of Ohio’s 4,892,916 customers in 2015, the average monthly consumption was 877 kilowatt hours per customer. With an average state price per kilowatt hour at \$12.80 the average monthly bill equaled \$112.25.

At current AEP Ohio rates, the monthly consumption of 800 kilowatt hours in a month currently costs \$115.95. If the proposed plan is approved by PUCO, that bill would increase by 2.43 percent immediately but then over time drop, assuming the same usage, by 3.57 percent in 2019 to \$114.56 per month.

“PUCO approves how much in total utilities are allowed to make in profits in a given year,” explained Schilling. *“We can’t ignore the fact that AEP is lowering volumetric charges at the same time as trying to increase fixed charges.”*

But for smaller households, like couples in retirement or small families with little usage, the proposal could show significant increases to their bills.

“The lower usages will see an increase because of the rate design change,” confirmed Schilling.

Average usage for a one-bedroom apartment, 500 kilowatt hours per month currently seeing a bill of \$77.31 per month, would see an immediate 6.07 percent increase to their bill if this proposal is approved—a trend that would continue in 2018 for another 6.07 percent increase and then again in 2019 with an additional 3.75 percent increase changing a monthly average bill from \$82 to \$83.67.

The additional fixed customer charges would be offset by lower usage rates per kilowatt hour over the coming years, according to the proposal. If approved and implemented, that energy charge would begin at \$0.01342 per kilowatt hour and lower to \$0.00857 per kilowatt hour in 2018.

“But for those in retirement or on fixed incomes, that extra cost could still hit hard,” said Belz. *“They’re the people who can afford to pay this the least and the households that would benefit would only be the big users in mansions.”*

Belz and Schilling encourage local electric consumers to attend a public hearing Thursday concerning the proposed plan. The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. in the Washington State Community College Graham Auditorium.

“We are taking sworn testimony from AEP customers that will be added to the official case docket to be considered at the evidentiary hearing,” said Schilling. *“All filed comments and testimony will be reviewed before a decision is made on these proposed changes.”*

In an email, Scott Blake, communications consultant for AEP, said the public input process is an important part of the PUCO proceedings.

“We value hearing from our customers and our team does attend these public hearings,” he said. *“A fixed-charge better represents the costs for delivering power. The proposal includes an offsetting decrease in the distribution energy charge making this revenue neutral for AEP Ohio.”*

For more information or to post a public comment visit puco.ohio.gov/be-informed/consumer-topics/aep-ohio-s-electric-security-plan-iii-extension.

Electric bill changes

— AEP Ohio has proposed altering customer charges to all local electricity users.

— Public comments can be made:

— Online or by mail at 180 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215.

— Correspondences should include the case number 16-1852-EL-SSO.

— Local residents may also attend Thursday's public hearing put on by the commission:

— Thursday at 6 p.m. at Washington State Community College, Graham Auditorium in Marietta.

Sources: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Ohio Consumers' Counsel, AEP Ohio and Ohio Citizen Action.

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It isn't fair to have to pay a lot more on your electric bill every month even if you're not using more electricity – yet that's exactly what AEP Ohio and other electric companies in the state want to make consumers do. If you're an AEP Ohio customer, you would see your monthly fixed charge go up to \$18.40 – more than double what it is now.

This fixed charge is a mandatory monthly fee you pay before you even flip on a single switch. Increasing it like AEP wants to do would be especially hard on people living on fixed incomes or tight household budgets – and it could have a chilling effect on energy efficiency and solar investments, too.

We can stop this from happening, but we need your help!

On Thursday, April 13, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will hold a public hearing in Marietta to hear from residents on whether to allow AEP Ohio's mandatory fixed fee hike or not. Please attend the hearing and help urge the PUCO to say NO to reaching into families' wallets for higher

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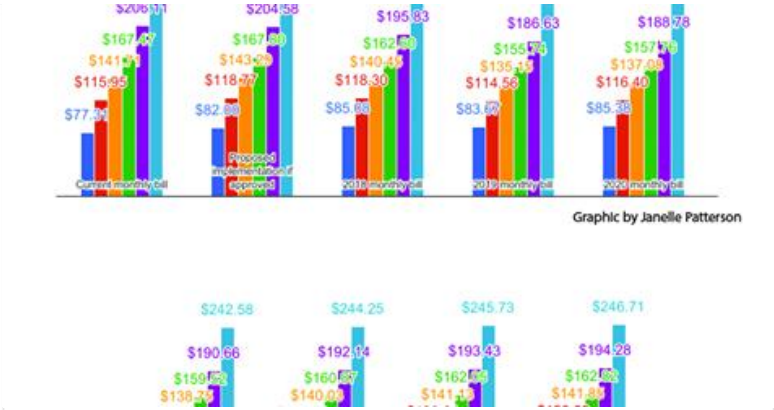
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To learn more about the rate hikes, listen to our Executive Director Rachael Belz interviewed on the Gary Rivers show on WHBC: <http://www.whbc.com/shows/gary-rivers-show/>



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Where does the meeting take place?

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Rachael Belz ^ which will be in the auditorium at Wash State Community College.

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Linda Fleming Thanks Rachael, that's what I needed.

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Rachael Belz Hope I'll see you there Linda!

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Della Meadows

April 10 ·

AEP is to high now, Stop raising it! People have enough to Take care of.

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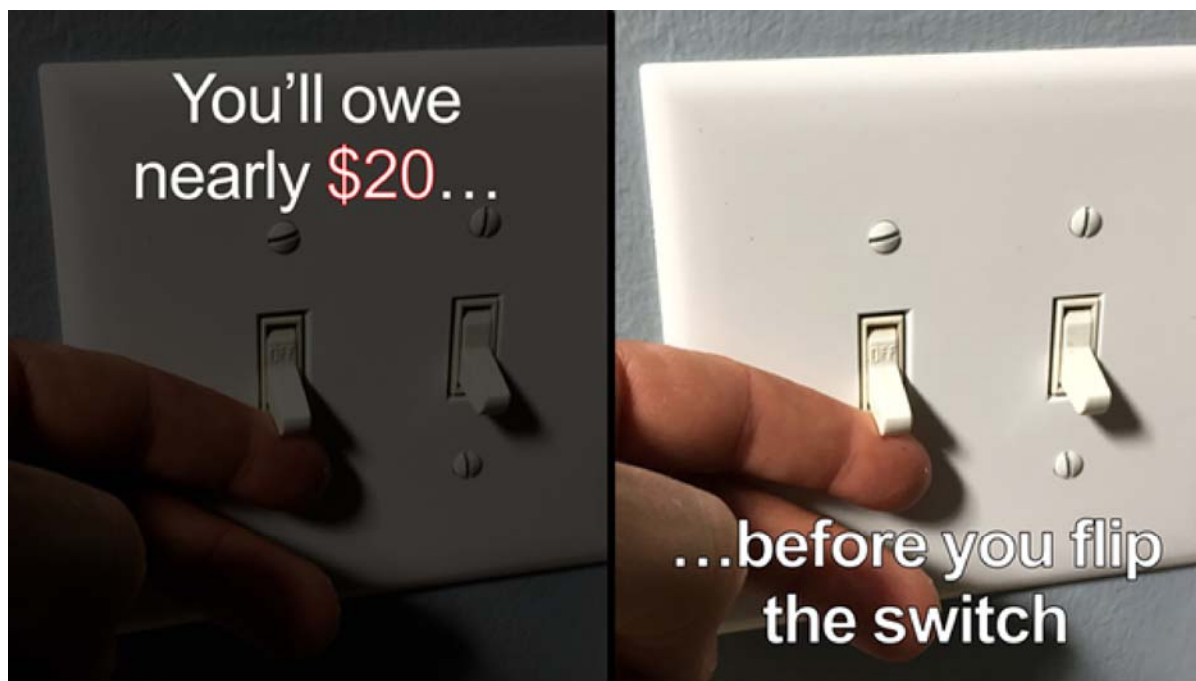
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Public hearing on AEP rate hike in Columbus

on April 11, 2017 at 10:24 pm



It isn't fair to have to pay a lot more on your electric bill every month even if you're not using more electricity – yet that's exactly what AEP and other electric companies in the state want. If you're an AEP customer, you would see your monthly fixed charge go from \$8.40 to **\$18.40**. That's an extra \$120 annually, or what you might think of as an extra AEP bill each year.

This fixed charge is a mandatory monthly fee you pay **before you even flip on a single switch**.


We can stop this from happening, but we need your help!

On Monday, April 17, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will hold a public hearing in Columbus. This hearing will be one of the very few opportunities members of the public have to directly speak to PUCO staff and Commissioners, the final decision-makers on AEP's proposal. Please attend and make your voice heard.

Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Ohio History Center, Cardinal Classroom
800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

If you would like [more background](#), or if you cannot attend the meeting, please submit a [comment electronically](#) (please reference **Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO** in your comment)

If you'd like to know what other Ohioans are saying, [read this short commentary](#).

If you have any questions, please respond to this email or call 513-602-4115 .

See you there!





— Rachael Belz, *Executive Director of Ohio Citizen Action*



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Clean Energy votes

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AEP Public Utility Commission Hearing in Columbus

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@ Ohio History Center (/places/17200815-Ohio-History-Center/)

800 E 17th Ave
Columbus , OH

Coal's decline is inevitable and it's critical we're supporting efforts to build new clean energy, support local front line communities feeling the hardest impacts of that decline, and opposing utility proposals and costs that provide nothing in return.


With that in mind, It's critical we pack the room for a public hearing the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is hosting on a new AEP rate request.

Some utilities in Ohio, including AEP, are proposing big increases in the fixed monthly charge you have to pay for electricity – before you even flip on a light switch in your home. If you're an AEP Ohio customer, you could see your monthly fixed charge go up to \$18.40 – a nearly 120% increase.

This rate increase could have a chilling effect on energy efficiency investments and will hit those Ohioans on a fixed income the hardest.

At the same time, it's critical we tell the PUCO what we want to see: more clean energy and energy efficiency, like AEP's Appalachian Ohio solar initiative.

This hearing is an opportunity for AEP customers to make their voice heard. It will also be one of the very few opportunities members of the public have to directly interact with PUCO staff and Commissioners; the final decisionmakers on AEP's request.

Please attend this critical hearing and make your voice heard. If you have any questions, contact Neil Waggoner: Neil.Waggoner@SierraClub.org or 614-484-7033 

Linked is factsheet on AEP's rate increase with more info and a one pager on the AEP clean energy projects.

Rate Increase one pager: <http://bit.ly/AEPRateIncreaseInfo>

Clean energy one pager: <http://bit.ly/AEPCleanEnergyTPs>

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[Twanto](http://twitter.com/aflamin24) (<http://twitter.com/aflamin24>)

Jackets are in for a big test tonight! I know I've had this game circled since the playoffs last year. Let's see... <https://t.co/xXOVPwhhjl>



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(<http://twitter.com/ColumbusDads>)

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Taking the kiddos ice skating for the first time. Over under 5 bruises between the three of us? #citydads #BlueJackets #Columbus

**Hearing Schedule**

Legal Department

(614) 466-7702

Apr 16, 2017 - Apr 22, 2017**Monday, April 17, 2017**

6:00 PM	Case Nos. 16-1852-EL-SSO and 16-1853-EL-AAM	Hearing	Columbus
Ohio Power Company Attorney Examiners: Greta See and Sarah Parrot Ohio History Connection Cardinal Classroom 800 East 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 Reporters: Armstrong & Okey (B) 614-224-9481  (FAX) 614-224-5724 			

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

10:00 AM	Case No. 16-2338-EL-CSS	Prehearing Conference	1246
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Gregory Peck v. Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.
 Attorney Examiner: Dan Fullin
 Presiding Examiner: Jim Lynn
 (No Court Reporter Required)

Wednesday, April 19, 2017


10:00 AM	Case No. 16-2348-TR-CVF	Hearing	464
	Andrew P. Walker		
	Attorney Examiner: Kerry Sheets		

Thursday, April 20, 2017

10:00 AM	Case Nos. 17-330-TR-CVF and 17-331-TR-CVF	Hearing	464
	(17-330-TR-CVF HPC Manufacturing, Inc.		
	(17-331-TR-CVF Christopher Pratt		
	Attorney Examiner: Jim Lynn		

Friday, April 21, 2017

10:00 AM	Case No. 17-713-TR-ORD	Workshop	11-D
	Adoption of Rules Related to Rates for Towing, Storage, and Retrieval of Motor Vehicles		
	Attorney Examiner: Jim Lynn		
	(COURT REPORTER REQUIRED)		

All times and locations are subject to change. Times for hearings lasting more than one day are generally announced during the proceedings on the previous day. Please contact the PUCO Legal Department at 614-466-6843  for updates.

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- PUCO Web Calendar

House must revote on GOP tax reform



/news/nation-world/house-forced-to-revote-on-gop-tax-bill-wednesday-12-19-2017)



LIVE debate, vote
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Tax reform Q's answered

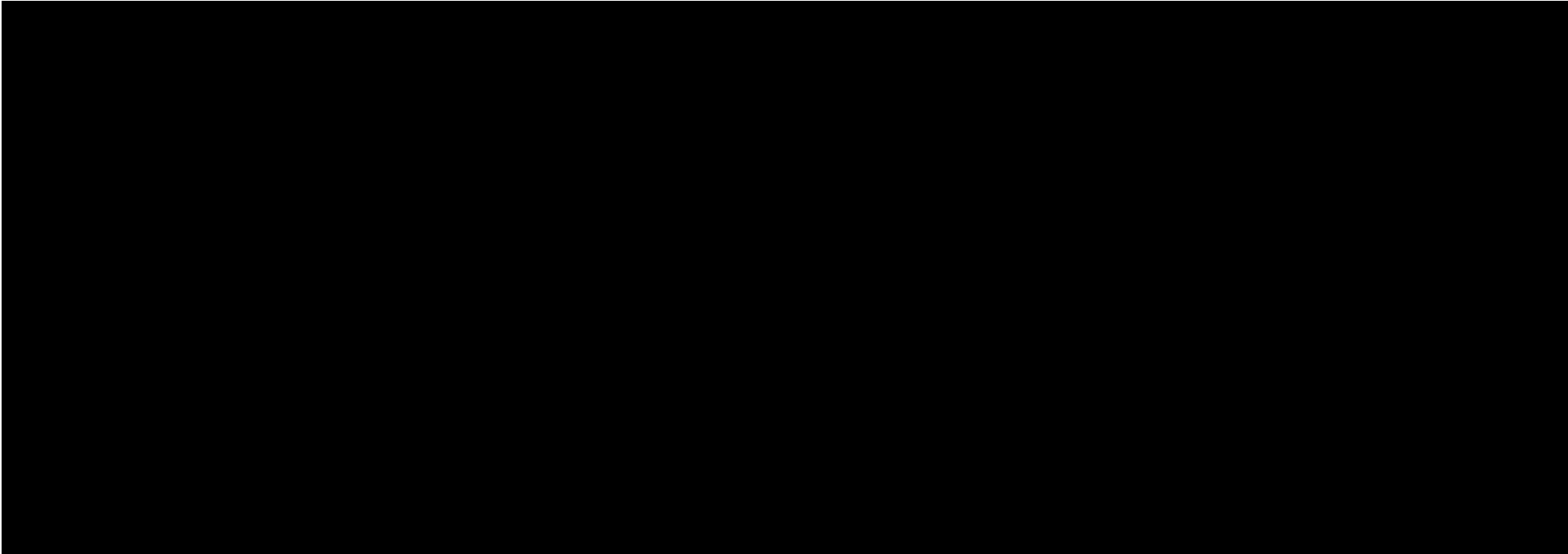


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AEP proposing a rate increase for Ohio residents

by Bryant Maddrick
Monday, April 17th 2017





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AEP is proposing to increase their fixed rate from \$8.40 a month to \$18.40 a month. (WSYX/WTTE)

AA



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COLUMBUS, Ohio — If you're an AEP Ohio customer, your electric bill could be going up.

The utility company is proposing to increase their fixed rate from \$8.40 a month to \$18.40 a month.

The proposal has customer Madeline Shaw asking several questions, "why do they need that? Why not be more incremental? Why not only raise it about 20%. What is the justification?"

In a statement from Marc Reitter, vice president of regulatory and finance for AEP Ohio said, "the change in the fixed customer charge will be offset by decreases in other monthly charges. AEP Ohio continues to support energy efficiency programs, investment in new technologies and renewables."

"Once it's gets approved, it never gets lowered. So people should speak up," said Shaw. That's what she did at a public hearing held by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Monday night

The commission will decide on whether to approve or deny the company's request and there's a lot they have to consider, "the utility companies, the consumers, businesses that might be involved and really understand just how much something like this might impact their daily life," explained Zachary Hoffman with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

"This would set a precedent if it were approved or denied," said Rachel Belz. She's the executive director of Ohio Citizen Action.

She says people on fixed and low incomes would be impacted most, "some folks talk about what's going to come out of their personal budget for their family. Some of the fixed income folks, folks who are retired or are about to retire are nervous," said Belz.

**Hearing Schedule**



Legal Department

(614) 466-7702

Apr 23, 2017 - Apr 29, 2017**Monday, April 24, 2017**

10:00 AM	Case No. 16-1559-EL-CSS	Prehearing Conference	11-C
Nicole Nichols v. Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio Attorney Examiner: Dan Fullin Presiding Examiner: Jim Lynn (No Court Reporter Required)			

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

11:00 AM	Ohio EDI Working Group Teleconference	Technical Conference	(866) 209-2820 
<u>Electric Data Interchange Working Group</u> (866) 209-2820  enter conference code 9291091549# Staff: Melissa Scarberry Attorney Examiner: Dick Bulgrin (No Court Reporter Required)			
12:30 PM	Case Nos. 16-1852-EL-SSO and 16-1853-EL-AAM	Hearing	11-B

Ohio Power Co.

Attorney Examiners: Greta See and Sarah Parrot

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

10:00 AM	Case No. 14-1956-EL-CSS	Hearing	11-A
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Eagle Hardwoods, Inc.

Attorney Examiner: Daniel Fullin

Thursday, April 27, 2017

10:00 AM	Case No. 17-287-EL-CSS	Prehearing Conference	1246
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Brenda Jennings v. The Dayton Power and Light Company


Attorney Examiner: Kerry Sheets

Presiding Examiner: Doug Jennings

(No Court Reporter Required)

Friday, April 28, 2017

No Hearings Scheduled

All times and locations are subject to change. Times for hearings lasting more than one day are generally announced during the proceedings on the previous day. Please contact the PUCO Legal Department at 614-466-6843  for updates.

- Join and Leave PUCO Email Lists.
- Directions to the PUCO Offices
- PUCO Web Calendar

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

12/28/2017 3:19:52 PM

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Case No(s). 16-1852-EL-SSO, 16-1853-EL-AAM

Summary: Motion for Relief from Commission Entry electronically filed by Mr. Steven T Nourse on behalf of Ohio Power Company