

From: [Leslie Carter](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO - CASE #: 00654867 [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t0dsPDD:ref]
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 9:05:23 AM
Attachments: [Alexander Letter of support.pdf](#)



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
Consumer Service Division
Memorandum**

CASE ID: 00654867
COMPANY: Alexander Local Schools
CUSTOMER: Lindy Douglas
ADDRESS: 6091 Ayers Road, Albany, Ohio 45710
SERVICE ADDRESS: , , 45710
AIQ: Ohio Power Company
NIQ: 7406988831

To ensure your response attaches to the appropriate case, please reply to this email without changing the subject line. Thank you!

DOCKETING CASE #: 19-1475-EL-RDR

SUBJECT: Ohio Power Company - Protest Rate Case

Description: Please see letter of support attached.

Happy New Year,

Please docket the associated customer comment and/or attached in the case number referenced above under "Public Comments". This information was received by the Consumer Services Division through alternate channels and is being forwarded to be filed formally. This information is not the opinion of Staff and should not be viewed as such.

Sincerely,

Leslie Carter
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department

Customer Service Assistant
(800) 686-PUCO (7826)
www.PUCO.ohio.gov

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.



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CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.



Alexander Local School District

Albany, OH 45710

740-698-8831

www.alexanderschools.org

District Office
6091 Ayers Rd.
fax 740-698-2038

Elementary
6105 School Rd.
fax 740-698-2137

Jr./Sr. High School
6125 School Rd.
fax 740-698-3614

December 22, 2020

Dear Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

AEP Ohio has submitted a proposal as part of its GridSmart Phase 3 application that would provide for expanded broadband access in rural areas of the state. Their proposal would enable broadband providers to tap into a fiber optic network and serve our residents and businesses. As the events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted, broadband access is critical for our students to learn, our businesses to thrive and grow and our communities to prosper.

When the pandemic subsides, we will still need access to reliable high-speed internet services. Highspeed internet is critical for economic development of all types. Factories and warehouses need reliable broadband the same as many tech facilities might. It can usher in new healthcare options, including telehealth, which will enable better health outcomes for residents in our area. And high-speed internet access can be an equalizing factor in education. Having access at home means learners won't have to search for public access points at libraries or fast food restaurants.

Our communities have been left with limited options because we are small and extending services to us hasn't been a priority. However, AEP Ohio's plan can help eliminate a significant barrier to access by allowing internet service providers to tap in to their fiber network.

AEP Ohio is building a fiber network as part of their next-generation electric grid buildout. A small additional investment would allow internet service providers access to a middle-mile network that could be used to provide high-speed internet access to customers in smaller rural communities and other underserved areas. This middle-mile piece is the "missing link" in brining high-speed internet service to these underserved areas. Allowing AEP Ohio to construct middle-mile network infrastructure will allow internet service providers to focus their investments on providing access to Ohioans currently without high-speed internet.

The additional investment that AEP Ohio would make to implement the proposal in their plan is cost effective and would be subject to your oversight. Any revenues they earn from leasing the lines to providers would be used to cover the cost of building and maintaining the network. Our communities get more reliable electric service and access to technology that can help our residents find new opportunities.

Ohioans in rural areas deserve to share in the same learning, economic development and societal benefits that broadband internet service can help facilitate. Access to these opportunities, along with better healthcare access and other benefits can be accomplished through AEP Ohio's proposal. We ask that you approve AEP Ohio's request and help bridge the digital divide.

Sincerely,


Linda L. Douglas, Superintendent

The Alexander Local School District offers education programs, services, activities, and employment practices without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age.

Alexander Learners Expect eXcellence

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 19-1475-EL-RDR

Summary: Public Comment Public Comment of Lindy Douglas via website electronically filed
by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing