

**From:** [PUCO Consumer Call Center](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO - CASE #: 00720422 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_5008y1FZfm:ref ]  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:53:46 AM



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

**CASE ID:** 00720422  
**COMPANY:** META Solutions  
**CUSTOMER:** Tony VanGundy  
**ADDRESS:** 2100 Citygate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219  
**SERVICE ADDRESS:** 405 S. Market Street, Danville, Ohio 43014  
**AIQ:** Ohio Power Company  
**NIQ:** 6149346533

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

**DOCKETING CASE #:**20-585-EL-AIR

**SUBJECT:** Proposed rate increase by AEP

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.

"We are a school with a tight budget. The proposed rate increase would greatly impact how we are able to educate our children because we would have to reallocate money.

Good morning,

I am writing to you regarding AEP's proposed distribution rate increase currently under PUCO review (rate case #20-585-EL-AIR). My role in this

matter is as the Energy Director at META Solutions, an Ohio Council of Government. META Solutions has been purchasing power and gas via aggregation programs for schools, cities, universities and libraries for over 20 years. We also provide other related services such as budgeting assistance, bill monitoring and energy education. Our consortium consists of more than 150 school districts within the AEP territory and includes Columbus City Schools, South Western City Schools and several other large Districts. This substantial cost increase as proposed by AEP, will have a significant negative impact on our members organizations. Organizations it is important to note, educate our children, rely on public monies and operate under very tight budgets.

My concern is that you may not be aware of the impact this current proposal will have on the customer. The PUCO has been surprised in the past. For example, the PUCO approved a rate change several years ago for AEP's transmission service and how it was applied to its customers. As you recall, this increase so severely impacted the schools' budgets that that it gained media attention. Fortunately, after about three months under this rate scheme, the PUCO did the right thing and required AEP to return to its prior rate. In a follow up conversation with the PUCO personnel, we were told that the Commission did not realize how this increase was going to impact the consumer - there was not an awareness of the details . However we at META Solutions did. In fact, I knew within a half hour of getting the information

Hopefully you can see why am concerned. We are expecting the same negative results with this upcoming order. Our concerns are based on good information. I work well with all the account representatives at each utility. So well in fact that just recently I was contacted by two account management personnel from AEP and was told to be prepared for this new rate increase. A quick review of the proposed significantly increased rates will cause schools to be operating over budget.

The consortium works very hard for the schools. We have been very successful procuring supply at the most competitive rates. The consortium recently conducted electric RFP and received a lower supply cost than the prior agreement. Unfortunately it looks like this rate increase is going to eliminate any savings and will increase costs. It's disappointing to see that every time we find a little savings for the schools, the utility counteracts it with a rate increase.

Is this increase and the amount of it necessary? I watch the markets and it seems that AEP is doing very well financially and for its shareholders. On the other hand, the communities and our schools are continuing to experience unprecedented costs due to the Corona virus. They are continuously trying to cut costs to meet their budgets. This rate proposal is badly timed. I hope that you take our concerns into consideration.

Thank you and hope you have a wonderful day."

Sincerely,

**Jermeki Knox**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department  
Customer Service Investigator  
(800) 686-PUCO (7826)  
[www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov)

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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**9/28/2021 4:12:41 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0585-EL-AIR, 20-0586-EL-ATA, 20-0587-EL-AAM**

Summary: Public Comment of Tony VanGundy, on behalf of META Solutions, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing