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January 7, 2022

FILE

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED - POWER SITING DIV
2022 JAN 11 PM 4:43
PUCO

Subject: Support for AES and Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative Substations and Transmission Lines Proposed in Monroe Township, Miami County, Ohio

References: OPSB Case Numbers 21-0972-EL-BLN and 21-0973-EL-BLN

To Whom it May Concern:

Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Piqua, Ohio, serves nearly 17,000 residential, commercial, and large industrial members throughout Miami, Champaign, and Shelby Counties. Pioneer also serves members peripherally in eight other counties. The cooperative's mission is to exceed the expectations of our consumer-members by providing safe, high-quality, and responsive service at fair prices.

Pioneer Electric Cooperative is in support of AES Ohio's efforts to construct the proposed transmission line extensions in Monroe Township. The proposed project would create a much-needed new power delivery point for Pioneer's substation.

Commercial growth is occurring rapidly in our southern Miami County and northern Montgomery County territory and Pioneer requires new electric capacity to serve its new members in that area. At the forecasted pace of development and the increased electricity demand it brings, we anticipate we could have insufficient electricity to serve the area as early as December 2022 if we do not have additional capacity.

The new capacity will also provide enhanced reliability to the approximately 1,200 existing residential consumer-members served by the cooperative in the event of major weather events affecting the area. Across much of Pioneer's distribution system, we have the ability to switch members experiencing outages to alternate delivery points or substations while repairs are made to affected substations or other equipment. This can significantly reduce the hazards and inconveniences to consumer-members that extended outages such as those created by wind or ice storms can impose. The additional capacity will enable Pioneer to provide the same opportunity for the members on this portion of our system.

The proposed project is critical to continued reliability for existing consumer-members of Pioneer and to our ability to provide electric service to the new growth coming to our service territory.

Respectfully,

Ronald P. Salyer
President and CEO

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