



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

August 23, 2023

Ms. Tanowa M. Troupe, Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St., 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Settlement: *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Adjust Its Power Future Initiatives Rider*, Case No. 19-1750-EL-UNC

Dear Ms. Troupe:

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (“OCC”) has been involved in a recent process where OCC negotiated – on behalf of approximately 680,000 residential consumers of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (“Duke”) – with Duke, the PUCO Staff, and other parties. The negotiations resulted in a Stipulation and Recommendation (“Settlement”) filed in this case on August 2, 2023. The Settlement resolves Duke’s application to adjust its Power Future Initiatives Rider (gridsmart programs). Stated generally, Duke withdraws its requests to collect costs from consumers for certain gridsmart programs (land mobile radio, smart cities, and electric vehicle pilot).

OCC hereby advises the PUCO that OCC takes no position for or against the Settlement. In this regard, we note that Paragraph 1a of the Settlement establishes accounting deferrals for certain costs associated with the Customer Connect program. But it is stated there that the Settlement does not guarantee that Duke will be authorized to collect those deferred costs from consumers. Under the Settlement as negotiated, Duke’s non-guaranteed ability to collect from consumers the costs associated with the Customer Connect program will be subject to audit, challenges by parties, and PUCO review and approval. Consistent with provision 1(e) of the Settlement, OCC reserves all of its rights to challenge for any reason the collection of these deferrals from consumers.

The Consumers' Counsel appreciates the efforts of Duke, the PUCO Staff, and other parties.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Michael

William J. Michael
Assistant Consumers’ Counsel

cc: Parties of record

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

8/23/2023 1:16:00 PM

in

Case No(s). 19-1750-EL-UNC

Summary: Correspondence Correspondence by Office of the Ohio Consumers'
Counsel electronically filed by Ms. Alana M. Noward on behalf of Michael, William
J..