



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio *Your one-stop utility resource*

April 2015
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Andre T. Porter sworn in as PUCO Chairman



On April 15, 2015, Commissioner Lynn Slaby swore in Andre T. Porter as the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

"To be trusted by Governor Kasich to return to the PUCO as chairman is an honor," stated Chairman Porter. "The industries regulated by the PUCO affect nearly every Ohioan everyday. As the agency charged with impartial regulation, it is imperative that the PUCO operate in an open and transparent manner. My vision is that of a process-driven and competent PUCO which works to outline regulatory policies that contribute to the success of the state of Ohio."

Porter began his five-year term as commissioner on April 11, 2015. As chairman he leads the state agency that oversees the regulation of electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and commercial transportation companies in Ohio. He also chairs the Ohio Power Siting Board, which reviews, evaluates and approves the siting of electric generation plants and electric and natural gas transmission lines.

Prior to serving as chairman of the PUCO, Porter led the Ohio Department of Commerce, a post he was appointed to by Governor John R. Kasich in 2013. Before his tenure at the Department of Commerce, Chairman Porter served as a commissioner at the PUCO from April 2011 through April 2013.

Chairman Porter's bio

Ohio | Public Utilities
Commission

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Andre T. Porter
Commissioners:
Asim Z. Haque
Lynn Slaby
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Andre T. Porter, joined by his wife, is sworn in by Commissioner Lynn Slaby on April 15, 2015.

AEP Ohio's electric security plan



In February 2015, the PUCO modified and approved an electric security plan (ESP) for AEP Ohio that will ultimately determine its standard service offer rates from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2018.

In reaching its decision, the Commission declined to adopt the company's proposed purchase power agreement as it relates to the company's interests in the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation. Although the Commission found that the proposed power agreement was permitted under Ohio law, after weighing the evidence of record, the Commission was not persuaded that the proposal would benefit ratepayers.

AEP Ohio will continue to enhance reliability through distribution investments and vegetation management programs. AEP Ohio will continue to fund its low-income Neighbor-to-Neighbor assistance program, and continue to implement programs to enhance the competitive marketplace.

During the term of the ESP, AEP Ohio will conduct six auctions to provide 100 percent of its standard service offer. The first and second auctions will occur on April 28 and May 12, 2015, and offer a mixture of one-, two- and three-year products. The third and fourth auctions will offer two-year products and take place in November 2015 and March 2016, respectively. The fifth and sixth auctions will offer one-year products and take place in November 2016 and March 2017, respectively.

A copy of the opinion and order is available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov. Click on the link to the Docketing Information System and enter the case number 13-2385-EL-SSO.

Duke Energy Ohio's ESP



In March, the PUCO modified and approved an ESP for Duke Energy Ohio (Duke) that will ultimately determine its standard service offer (SSO) rates from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2018.

Although the Commission found that Duke's proposed Price Stabilization Rider (PSR) is permitted under Ohio law, the recovery of costs related to

Duke's Ohio Valley Electric Corporation obligations through this rider was not adopted. The Commission was not persuaded that the rider, as proposed, would benefit ratepayers. Duke is authorized to establish a placeholder PSR, at a rate of zero, pending consideration of future proposals to the Commission.

In order to enhance service reliability in its territory, Duke is authorized to recover incremental costs associated with proactively investing in the replacement and modernization of distribution infrastructure.

Throughout the term of the ESP, Duke will continue to utilize the competitive bidding process to provide 100 percent of the supply needed for its SSO customers, including Duke's Percentage of Income Payment Plan



customers. In order to minimize price uncertainty, the Commission finds that Duke should modify its auction schedule as follows. The first auction will occur on May 5, 2015 and offer a mix of one-, two- and three-year products, with delivery to begin on June 1, 2015. The second and third auctions should take place in November 2015 and March 2016, respectively and each offer a two-year product. Finally, the fourth and fifth auctions should occur in November 2016 and March 2017, respectively and each offer a one-year product.

A copy of the opinion and order is available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov. Click on the link to the Docketing Information System and enter the case number 14-841-EL-SSO.

PUCO begins process to establish rules regarding new legislation



Recently, the Ohio General Assembly adopted legislation that effects PUCO-regulated industries. The PUCO has the responsibility of administering rules in conformance with the new laws. Senate Bill 378 was amended and adopted to enforce the law governing protection of underground utility facilities and Senate Bill 274 relates to the towing of motor vehicles.

The PUCO is holding workshops intended as opportunities for staff to receive feedback from interested stakeholders before it issues draft rules and opens those up for formal comment.

The PUCO held a workshop on March 19, 2015 regarding SB 378 (Ohio Revised Code 3781.25, 4905.2 and new 4913) and the consideration of rules regarding registration of excavators with the PUCO and details of the Underground Technical Committee. A copy of the transcript of the workshop can be found at www.PUCO.ohio.gov in the Docketing Information System by searching case number 15-282-AU-ORD.

In March, the PUCO scheduled a similar workshop to discuss the consideration of rules relating to SB 274 (R.C. 513.60 and 4921.25) as it pertains to the towing of motor vehicles. The workshop is scheduled for May 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., at the PUCO offices. Interested stakeholders will have the opportunity to give feedback before draft rules are issued. To find out more about the workshop and the rule responsibilities of the PUCO, visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov in the Docketing Information System and search for case number 15-463-TR-ORD.

Stay safe at rail crossings



Every three hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States. Many crashes at railroad crossings occur because motorists fail to stop at the crossing, drive around the gates or stop/stall on the tracks.

The PUCO is encouraging you to practice caution when traveling over rail crossings by following these seven steps for safety.

1. Approach with care. Warn others that you are slowing down. Turn on four-way flashers. Use pull-out lane if available.
2. Prepare to stop. Turn off fans and radio and roll down windows. Locate your cell phone for use in emergency. Stop at least 15 feet, but not more than 50 feet, from nearest rail.
3. Look and listen both ways, carefully. Bend forward to see around mirrors and other vehicle parts blocking view.
4. If it won't fit, don't commit. Trains extend beyond the width of the rails at least three feet on each side. Remember your vehicle – and cargo – overhang.
5. Look again. Before you move, look again in both directions.
6. Cross tracks with care. Signal, watch for a safe gap, pull back onto the road if you used a

pull-out lane. Use highest gear that will let you cross without shifting.

7. Keep going once you start, even if lights start to flash or gates come down.

Every rail crossing in Ohio is required to post the U.S. Department of Transportation number associated with the crossing and the emergency contact number for the railroad. If your vehicle stalls or gets stuck on the tracks, get out immediately and move away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle towards any oncoming train. Once it is safe to do so, the emergency



number, visibly located near the crossing on the light poles or cross bucks, should be the first number you call if your vehicle is stuck or if warning devices aren't properly functioning. The railroad has the ability to stop the flow of train traffic heading towards the crossing. If it is an emergency, next call 9-1-1 or the local police.

With 36 freight railroads operating approximately 5,300 miles of track and over 5,700 public grade crossings, Ohio is the fifth leading state in terms of goods transported by rail. The PUCO, in conjunction with the Ohio Rail Development Commission, is responsible for ensuring the safety of motorists at highway-rail grade crossings in Ohio. PUCO rail inspectors inspect the warning devices that are essential for motorist safety.

The Ohio Rail Hotline, at (866) 814-RAIL (7245), provides Ohioans with a toll-free resource for all railroad crossing questions. For more information regarding these crossings, access the Ohio railroad information system website at gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov.



PUCO IN FOCUS



A spotlight on the latest news affecting Ohio utility consumers.

Call 8-1-1 before you dig



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

The first days of spring have finally arrived and as Ohioans start to make plans for their outdoor home improvement projects or yard work, the PUCO would like to remind everyone of the importance of digging in a safe, responsible way.

April is National Safe Digging Month, so if you have outdoor plans that involve any sort of digging or excavating, be sure to call 8-1-1 ahead of your scheduled start.

By simply calling 8-1-1, you can notify Ohio's one-call notification systems. The Ohio Utilities Protection Service coordinates with local utilities and the Ohio Oil and Gas Producers Underground Protection Service coordinates with oil and gas production facilities to have underground lines marked, so you know ahead of time where it is safe to dig. Not only will doing so avoid headaches and make your job easier, but you avoid potential utility outages, repair costs and serious or even fatal injuries.

How do I know if my project requires me to call 8-1-1?

By law, everyone—including homeowners—must contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service, the Oil and Gas Producers Underground Protection Service, 8-1-1 or 1-800-362-2764, at least 48-hours, but no more than 10 working days (excluding weekends and

legal holidays), before beginning any digging on their property. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area, so it is always smart to have them marked.

What information is needed when I call?

Tell the operator where you are planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and your affected local utilities companies will be notified about your intent to dig. In a few days, they will send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables, so you will know what is below and be able to dig safely.

To learn more, visit the Ohio Utilities Protection Service's website at www.oups.org, the Ohio Oil and Gas Producers Underground Protection Service's website at www.ogpups.org, or call 8-1-1 or 1-800-362-2764.



By calling 8-1-1 before any digging project, accidents like this one can be prevented.