



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

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### Asim Z. Haque named MACRUC President



The Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) named PUCO Commissioner Asim Z. Haque as its 2015-2016 president during the MACRUC 20th Annual Education Conference held in Williamsburg, VA.

At his induction, Commissioner Haque delivered an address which called on the industry to "lead together, lead now." He stated, "the MACRUC region, more than any other region in this country, is the region where transformation is happening, and it provides all of us, no matter where you sit in the utility industry, with an opportunity to lead."

Commissioner Haque was appointed to the PUCO in 2013, and currently serves as PUCO vice-chairman. Aside from his MACRUC leadership, he also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and has been elected to the Member Representative Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

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**Ohio** | Public Utilities Commission



[www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov)  
(800) 686-PUCO

Chairman:  
Andre T. Porter  
Commissioners:  
Asim Z. Haque  
Lynn Slaby  
M. Beth Trombold  
Thomas W. Johnson

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The PUCO is a member state of MACRUC which was organized to promote the advancement of public utility regulation and the related regulatory, legislative and policy interests of their membership, consistent with member state public utility commissions.

## How the PUCO works for you



The PUCO affects every household in Ohio. That is because the PUCO regulates providers of all kinds of utility services, including electric and natural gas companies, local and long distance telephone companies, water and wastewater companies and rail and trucking companies.

The PUCO is charged with ensuring that Ohioans have access to adequate, safe and reliable public utility services at a fair price, while also facilitating competitive utility choices within the state.

As a neutral arbiter between Ohio's consumers and utilities, the PUCO works each and every day to find a working balance for the state's utility structure by maintaining innovative, forward-focused regulation that helps to ensure that Ohio and its economy continue to succeed and grow.

The impact of the PUCO's work can be seen throughout any Ohioan's day. From the electricity used to make your morning cup of coffee to the natural gas being used to heat your home, it is the PUCO that carries the responsibility of ensuring that these utility services meet Ohio's needs.

The PUCO staff consists of professional engineers, economists, attorneys, auditors, investigators and highly knowledgeable industry experts who are dedicated to assisting the Commission in meeting its goals and serving the public.

Not only does the PUCO help to ensure safe and reliable utility service for the rising needs of Ohioans, but it also encourages those consumers to become more engaged and better informed in utility related matters. In 2014, more than 650 presentations were given to the public on matters ranging from electric and natural gas choice in Ohio to transportation safety.

Additionally, PUCO staff, as well as commissioners, regularly give testimony before the Ohio General Assembly, U.S. Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on behalf of Ohioans.

Ohioans can also stay engaged with the Commission by contacting the PUCO Call Center, which receives calls from tens of thousands of consumers each year. In fact, in 2014 the call center received 76,402 calls and initiated 13,421 investigations, saving Ohio consumers \$683,701.

It is in these ways and more that the PUCO works for you.

## PUCO awards five hazardous materials training grants



On June 3, 2015, the PUCO approved five hazardous materials training grants totaling \$39,193.11. The grants will be used to train more than 400 hazardous material incident response professionals.

The PUCO plays an important role in ensuring that motor carriers are safely transporting hazardous materials throughout Ohio. Through the PUCO's hazardous materials training grant program, public safety and emergency services personnel across Ohio are awarded grants for training to best respond to incidents related to hazardous materials.

The PUCO awarded the following grants:

- **Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council** – The council will receive \$18,893.11 to conduct the Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Functional Exercise to implement and review Franklin County's Hazardous Material Plan.
- **Cumberland Trail Fire District #4** – The fire district will receive \$7,450 to conduct the Hazmat IQ First Responder Offensive course to train approximately 45 fire service responders.
- **Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team** – The team will receive \$2,600 to conduct the Confidence in the Hot Zone Workshop course to train approximately 90 responders.
- **Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency** – The agency will receive \$5,950 to conduct a Hazmat IQ Above the Line/Below the Line training for approximately 60 fire service responders.
- **Shawnee Township Fire Department** – The fire department will receive \$4,300 to send fire service responders to the XTREME Industrial Fire & Hazard Training Program.

The PUCO awards hazardous materials planning and training grants to local government subdivisions, educational institutions and state agencies in Ohio. Money for these grants comes from fines paid by hazardous material carriers and shippers. Individual grants are based

upon applications to the PUCO and are awarded on a reimbursement basis.

The PUCO has regulatory authority to conduct audits, inspections and safety reviews to evaluate the safety records, policies and procedures of motor carriers, including hazardous materials carriers. The PUCO hazardous materials transportation program has been recognized by Battelle Memorial Institute as one of the best and most comprehensive of such programs in the nation.

## Roadcheck 2015



PUCO inspectors complete federal inspections of commercial motor vehicles throughout Ohio.

Lives are being saved in Ohio and across North America because roadside inspections take place everyday. The PUCO participated in the 28th annual Roadcheck 2015, an international transportation safety and security event, held June 2–4, 2015. The annual 72-hour event highlights the important role roadside enforcement plays in saving lives on North America’s highways and helping to provide a safe and secure place to travel.

“The work being done by the inspectors in our transportation division to keep Ohio’s roadways safe is an important piece in the PUCO’s responsibilities to Ohioans,” stated Chairman Andre T. Porter. “The Roadcheck 2015 event is a great way to highlight the PUCO’s enforcement and safety efforts in Ohio.”

PUCO inspectors were on the job day and night during the event conducting safety inspections of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on roadways all across Ohio in an effort to reinforce important state and federal safety regulations that ensure Ohio’s roadways remain safe. Each safety inspection follows a thorough process to make sure that the driver and CMV meet necessary state and federal regulations. Vehicles and drivers that fail to meet these regulations may be placed out-of-service and cannot continue operating until they comply.

Roadcheck is sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance as an annual event to highlight the impacts law enforcement and the transportation industry have on highway safety. The event has been held since 1988 in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

This year, PUCO staff conducted 70 inspections during Roadcheck 2015. These inspections resulted in 123 violations being discovered. PUCO inspectors discovered 14 out-of-service violations, (these are violation that require immediate correction before the vehicle or driver can continue operation) and 26 hazardous materials violations.

More information about Roadcheck is available on the CVSA’s website at [www.cvsa.org](http://www.cvsa.org).

## PUCO accepts results of AEP Ohio’s auctions



The PUCO approved the results of AEP Ohio’s first and second wholesale auctions that will ultimately determine its retail generation service rates through May 2018. The auctions, held April 28 and May 12, 2015, were the first and second auctions that included generation and capacity to determine rates for AEP Ohio’s standard service offer (SSO). AEP Ohio’s SSO pricing, beginning with these results is procured 100 percent from the competitive bidding process.

During the first auction, five competitive suppliers submitted winning bids resulting in clearing prices of \$53.79, \$53.51 and \$55.58 per megawatt hour (MWH) for one, two and three-year products, respectively. In the second auction, six competitive suppliers submitted winning bids resulting in average clearing prices of \$55.42, \$54.70 and \$56.35 per MWH for one, two and three-year products, respectively, to supply electricity to AEP Ohio’ customers. These results will be combined to determine SSO rates for delivery periods from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2018.

National Economic Research Associates served as the independent auction manager, and Boston Pacific Company, a consultant retained by the PUCO, monitored the auction process.

A copy of the Commission finding and order and redacted version of the report issued by the auction manager are available at [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov). Click on the link to Docketing Information System and enter the case number 15-792-EL-UNC.

# PUCO IN FOCUS



*A spotlight on the latest news affecting Ohio utility consumers.*

## **Power outage tips from the PUCO**



Summer is here and the PUCO is reminding consumers of important outage preparation information.

While the electric distribution system in Ohio is typically safe and reliable, weather conditions such as thunderstorms, high winds or snow storms can cause service interruptions.

The PUCO offers these tips for being prepared in the event electric customers experience a service interruption.

### **What should I do during a power outage?**

All outages should be immediately reported to your electric company. Since many other customers may be calling at the same time, you may not be able to speak with a live person. You can still report your outage by following the automated instructions. This will let the utility company know the location and extent of the outage. The company must keep a record of all outages.

Unplug all major appliances and electronics, such as computers and televisions, to protect them from a possible power surge when the power comes back on. By leaving one light on, you will be able to tell when your service is restored.

### **How can I be prepared year-round?**

For practical purposes, every home should have a storm kit. The following items should be included for unexpected power interruptions.

- Portable, battery-powered radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Manual can opener and bottle opener
- Personal hygiene products, sanitary supplies, diapers and first aid supplies

- A supply of non-perishable foods needing little or no cooking (Be sure you pack any special dietary foods, baby food and formula, if needed.)
- Water stored in clean, non-corrosive, non-breakable, tightly covered containers such as soft drink bottles — plan for at least two quarts per person per day
- Ice chest and ice or frozen ice packs
- Camp stove or canned heat stove, and fuel for three to five days; or hibachi grill and charcoal
- If possible, have access to a cellular phone. Your home's hardwire or cordless telephone may not work without electricity.

Make sure you know how to manually open and close any electric garage doors, security doors or gates. Have surge protectors on important electrical equipment such as computers, DVD players and televisions. Be aware that during an outage, gas appliances with electronic ignitions will not work because electricity is needed to ignite the natural gas. Appliances requiring fans or other electric devices to run (such as central heating units and gas clothes dryers) will not operate.

For more information, click [here](#) or call 1-800-BE-READY, and for additional tips on being prepared during a power outage visit [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov) or call (800) 686-PUCO (7826).



Stay away from and report downed power lines to the local utility.