

The Monitor

May 2009

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

May 2009 In this issue:

- ◆ PUCO awards hazardous materials training grants
- ◆ Sprint's TRS call center stays in Ohio
- ◆ Know your moving rights
- ◆ PUCO holds natural gas hearings
- ◆ Speaking and outreach schedule

Ohio marks one-year anniversary of energy law

It has been one year since Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 221 (SB 221) into law. The legislation, developed on the foundation of the governor's Energy, Jobs and Progress plan, seeks to stabilize electricity prices, create jobs and expand Ohio's green energy industry. SB 221 took effect on July 31, 2008 and incorporates a system under which rates are set by the PUCO and outlines a path for electric utilities to implement market-based pricing.

SB 221 ensures price stability and an adequate, reliable supply of electricity. It is a carefully crafted hybrid approach that recognizes how our state generates, distributes and prices electricity. This is particularly important since Ohio is fifth among the states in overall energy consumption and spends more than 30 billion dollars on energy every year. Electricity is the single biggest component of our energy use.

SB 221 opens the door to the jobs of the future through the establishment of advanced and renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolio standards. Ohio possesses a wealth of resources to invent, build and deploy the next energy technologies.



SB 221 also empowers Ohio consumers by making available technologies that will allow all customer classes to better understand their use of electricity, its cost and how to control it as well as modernizing the electric grid so that we can more efficiently use the electricity we need.

The PUCO has been diligently implementing SB 221 over the past year through the adoption of rules and the review and approval of electric security plans filed by Ohio's electric distribution utilities.

Electric Security Plans

Over the past year, the PUCO has adopted rules that establish requirements and procedures for Ohio's electric distribution utilities to submit electric security plan (ESP) and market rate option standard service offers, file corporate separation plans and apply for economic development and energy efficiency arrangements.

The rules adopted by the PUCO revise and establish new requirements for electric line extensions, government aggregation programs, net metering, interconnection and environmental disclosure. The rules also implement the alternative energy portfolio standard set forth in SB 221 and establish new requirements for energy efficiency programs, renewable energy credits, long-term forecast and greenhouse gas reporting and carbon dioxide control planning.

Ohio | Public Utilities
Commission

www.PUCO.ohio.gov
(800) 686-PUCO

Chairman:

Alan R. Schriber

Commissioners:

Ronda Hartman Fergus

Valerie A. Lemmie

Paul A. Centolella

Cheryl Roberto

180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

continued on p. 2

The PUCO has approved ESPs for Duke Energy Ohio, FirstEnergy and American Electric Power-Ohio (AEP-Ohio). Dayton Power & Light's ESP is still under review by the PUCO.

While each of the ESPs vary, all of the plans establish fair and reasonable increases in the price of generation. The plans also include commitments by the companies to further economic development, energy efficiency programs and advanced metering technologies along with the following company specific commitments:

- Duke customers will benefit from funds the company is providing for low income assistance programs. Duke will also increase its energy efficiency research and development programs and explore ways to maximize advanced metering technology.
- FirstEnergy is committing funds for economic development in Ohio, expanding energy efficiency and demand-side management programs and continuing its existing green resource program that allows customers to purchase renewable energy credits each month.
- AEP-Ohio will implement its gridSMART program that will enable the company to improve reliability, reduce costs and allow customers to better control their electric bills through advanced metering technology. The company will also employ additional resources and increase the level of vegetation management work performed.

SB 221 provides the foundation for Ohio's electric distribution utilities to provide stable electricity rates to customers while also continuing to advance economic development, energy efficiency and advanced metering initiatives. These advances will ensure system reliability and continue to foster the advancement of Ohio's green energy industry.

Have The Monitor sent to your inbox

You can receive the latest issue of the *Monitor* newsletter by e-mail. To sign up, send an e-mail to listserv@lists.puc.state.oh.us with a blank subject line and the following in the body of the message: *subscribe pucomonitor yourfirstname yourlastname*.

Advanced Energy Portfolio

The ambitious standards set forth by Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio legislature in SB 221 will help provide Ohioans with cleaner, renewable energy and position our state to reap the rewards of the new green economy.

Ohio is now one of 29 states and the District of Columbia that has adopted an alternative energy portfolio standard and one of only 14 that has a specific provision for solar or distributed generation resources.

The alternative energy portfolio standard requires that by 2025, at least 25 percent of electricity sold in the state by electric distribution utilities and electric services companies must be generated from alternative energy resources. At

least half of this energy must come from renewable energy resources, including wind, biomass, hydro and fuel cell, and a minimum of one-half percent must come directly from solar resources. One half of these renewable energy facilities must be located in Ohio.

Electric utilities and service companies must also meet annual benchmarks, or incremental percentage requirements, to fulfill the renewable portion of the portfolio standard. The companies may use renewable energy credits (REC) to satisfy all or part of the

renewable energy benchmarks. One REC represents the environmental attributes associated with the generation of one megawatt hour of electricity from an eligible renewable energy facility.

The PUCO staff will annually review compliance with the most recent benchmarks and file a report of its findings with the Commission. The Commission will then provide the Ohio General Assembly with an annual update on statewide compliance with the benchmarks and suggestions for encouraging the use of alternative energy resources in a manner that considers technology, costs, job creation and economic impact.

The PUCO also required electric utilities to deploy all available cost-effective energy efficiency measures. The Commission adopted the Total Resource Cost Test to determine cost-effectiveness. Utilities must undertake a review of potential programs and then propose a portfolio plan for Commission approval. Utilities will provide annual status reports to demonstrate compliance with benchmarks and approved plans.



PUCO awards hazardous materials training grants

This March, the PUCO awarded nine hazardous materials training grants to local government agencies and educational institutions. The grants will be used to train public safety and emergency services personnel in the proper techniques for the management of hazardous materials transportation and spills.

Funding for the 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.

- **Ohio Turnpike Commission**

Ohio Turnpike Commission will receive funding towards a course called Transport and Use of Alternative Fuels in the state of Ohio. This course will be developed and taught over a two-year period at various locations throughout Ohio.

- **Cincinnati State Technical & Community College**

The college together with the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association and the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Regional Hazmat Team will jointly receive grant funding to provide emergency response training in Hamilton County and surrounding areas.

- **City of Toledo Environmental Services**

The city will receive funds to train emergency responders in a Hazmat Specialized Chemistry Program and an Emergency Responder Refresher Course.

- **Henry County Local Emergency Planning**

The county local emergency planning committee will receive funding to provide four training opportunities for responders within Henry County.

- **Northwest Area Strike Team (Franklin County)**

The Strike Team will receive funding to stage a Surviving the Hazmat Experience simulation.

- **Beavercreek Township Fire Department**

The fire department will receive funding for five courses. The courses will educate 203 students in hazardous materials and refresher training.

- **Franklin County Emergency Management Agency**

The agency will receive funding to train emergency responders in a Hazmat Specialized Chemistry Program provided by Hazmat IQ. There will be six classes provided for 90 emergency responders.



- **Seneca County Emergency Planning Agency**

The agency will receive funding to provide Confidence in the Hot Zone training for 75 fire service personnel within the Tiffin Fire Division.

- **The University of Findlay**

The university will receive funding to provide 48 courses to emergency responders at their training facility and to travel to departments that request response training throughout Ohio.

Sprint's TRS call center remains in Ohio

The PUCO's decision to allow Sprint to continue as the state's Telecom Relay Service (TRS) provider ensures that up to 85 percent of all TRS calls made in Ohio will be handled at the company's Dayton relay call center. The PUCO selected Sprint's Ohio call center telephone relay service proposal from among several other competitive bids. Beginning in July, Sprint will provide the service at a rate of 88 cents per minute bid price, 2 cents less than the current rate.

TRS allows individuals with a hearing or speech disability to use the telephone. TRS users dial the nationwide 7-1-1 dialing code to connect to a TRS operator who stays on the line to relay conversations. Calls can be placed from a standard telephone, a text telephone (TTY) or a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). TRS is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number of calls placed or call length.

PUCO IN FOCUS

A spotlight on the latest news affecting Ohio utility consumers.

Know your moving rights

Spring time brings moving time for many people. If you are moving and will be hiring a moving company, you should know that the PUCO regulates household good movers. You have rights guaranteed by law and the PUCO is the state agency charged with protecting your rights. When selecting a moving company verify that they are registered with the PUCO and make sure they give you an estimate in writing unless your move will cost \$500 or less or is scheduled within five days. Be sure to read all of the provisions in the estimate and do not assume that something is included if it is not written in the estimate. There are three kinds of estimates: guaranteed not to exceed, binding and nonbinding estimates, make certain you know which yours is.



Once the mover takes possession of your household goods, they are required to provide you with a bill of lading, which identifies who owns the goods on the company's moving truck.

If you notice that any of your items are lost or damaged during the move, the moving company is responsible. They are required to carry cargo insurance in an amount equal to the declared value of your shipment. You must file a written claim with the company within 60 days of the incident for the value of the goods. The moving company is required to acknowledge receipt of your claim, in writing, within 15 days after they receive it and they must offer you a settlement, in writing within 30 days. If an attempt to resolve a dispute with a moving company fails, or you need additional information about a moving company call the PUCO at (800) 686-PUCO 97826) or visit our Web site at www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

PUCO holds natural gas hearings

The PUCO will hold four public hearings across Ohio to gather customer input about Columbia Gas of Ohio's request to change the way it buys natural gas. Columbia wants to secure natural gas for customers who have not selected an alternative natural gas supplier through an auction process. Under the proposal, Columbia would continue to deliver gas to homes and businesses, and customers' contracts with Energy Choice suppliers would not be affected.

- Columbus - June 9 at 6 p.m.
Wolfe Park Shelter House
105 Park Dr.
- Parma - June 11 at 6 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers
6611 Ridge Rd.
- Toledo - June 23 at 6 p.m.
County Commissioners Hearing Room
One Government Center
- Athens - June 25 at 6 p.m.
Community Center
701 E. State St.

PUCO Speaking and Outreach Schedule

Energy Market Update Conference

May 15 - Union Central Life Insurance
Cincinnati

Ohio Energy Education Conference

June 5 - Case Western Reserve Univ.
Cleveland