



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

April 2016
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Lynn Slaby
M. Beth Trombold
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Asim Z. Haque reappointed as Commissioner



In February, Governor John R. Kasich appointed Asim Z. Haque as commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Commissioner Haque's five-year term expires April 10, 2021.

The PUCO is comprised of five commissioners appointed to rotating, five-year terms by the governor. Terms typically begin in April. One seat on the Commission becomes available each year, and any Ohioan who is not employed by a public utility and does not have a financial interest in a public utility can apply for an open seat.

The governor's selection is made from a list of names submitted by the PUCO Nominating Council, a broad-based 12-member panel charged with screening candidates for the position of commissioner.

The PUCO mission is to assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices.

Commissioner Haque, an attorney, was originally appointed in 2013 to the five-member commission. Prior to his role as commissioner, he represented Ohio's interests in energy and utility matters and was internal legal counsel for a global auto manufacturer.

He currently serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). At NARUC, he serves as vice-chair of both the NARUC Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation, as well as the Clean Coal and Carbon Management Subcommittee. He also serves on NARUC's Gas Committee and Critical Infrastructure Committee. Commissioner Haque is currently serving as president on the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners for the 2015-2016 term. In addition, Commissioner Haque was elected to serve on the Member Representative Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), where he represents state government interests in maintaining reliability of the electric grid.

Commissioner Haque resides in Columbus with his wife, Dr. Huma Ansari Haque, and their son.

Rate stability at the forefront of PUCO order in FirstEnergy Ohio ESP



On March 31, 2016, the PUCO adopted, with modifications, stipulations to the electric security plan (ESP) for FirstEnergy's Ohio distribution utilities. The Commission order modifies the stipulation to limit bill increases. The ESP also promotes a modernized grid and continued customer shopping for electricity. The plan will ultimately determine the standard service offer (SSO) from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2024.

The Commission's opinion and order includes the approval of the Retail Rate Stability (RRS) rider which is intended to stabilize retail rates in FirstEnergy's service territory. The Commission has incorporated additional safeguards for consumers through enhanced PUCO oversight including regular audits and monitoring of rider RRS. In order to protect customers against price fluctuations and provide additional rate stability, the Commission has modified the stipulations to limit average customer bills. Included in the Commission's decision, the utilities' base distribution rates will remain frozen for the eight-year term of the ESP.

The Commission, through the opinion and order, reinforces retail competition in Ohio for customers, competitive suppliers and businesses through innovative technologies and complementary safeguards. The Commission directs FirstEnergy to submit a grid modernization plan to the PUCO. Advanced technologies will reinforce Ohio's energy infrastructure, enable customer engagement through data sharing with competitive suppliers, help utilities better respond to service issues, promote energy efficiency and encourage innovation in the competitive marketplace.

Additional value for Ohio's consumers and businesses is highlighted in the order through contributions to low-income and economic development programs including a funding commitment from FirstEnergy for energy conservation and job retention programs and the continuation of the automaker credit.

FirstEnergy has established a goal of a 90 percent carbon emissions reduction from 2005 levels by 2045 and over 800,000 megawatt hours of annual energy savings through a restart of energy efficiency and peak demand reduction programs. Additionally, FirstEnergy has committed to submit a plan to procure at least 100 megawatts of renewable resources.

For more information on the PUCO's role in ESP proceedings and details of the decision, please review

this **fact sheet**. A copy of the Commission opinion and order is available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov under case number 14-1297-EL-SSO.

PUCO order limits AEP Ohio PPA rider impact for consumers



On March 31, 2016, the PUCO modified and adopted an agreement between AEP Ohio and several signatory parties to allow AEP Ohio to implement a power purchase agreement (PPA) rider. The Commission modifications limit the impact of the PPA rider, enhance consumer protections, promote grid modernization and stabilize retail rates through May 31, 2024.

The Commission's opinion and order includes AEP Ohio's incorporation of multiple affiliate generation facilities in the PPA rider, previously established in AEP Ohio's electric security plan (ESP) III case. The rider is intended to act as a mechanism to stabilize retail rates in AEP Ohio's service territory. The Commission has incorporated additional safeguards for consumers through enhanced PUCO oversight including regular audits. The Commission placed limits on the PPA rider to ensure further rate stability for consumers.

As directed by the Commission's opinion and order, AEP Ohio will file an application to extend its current ESP through the term of the PPA rider, and to update it to include an extension of the competitive bidding process through May 31, 2024, for its standard service offer. This extension allows for heightened regulatory certainty and retail rate stability. In addition, AEP Ohio commits to expand interruptible credits and add an automaker credit for the eight-year term.

The Commission directs AEP Ohio to submit a grid modernization plan to the PUCO. Advanced technologies reinforce Ohio's energy infrastructure, enable customer engagement, help utilities better respond to service issues, promote energy efficiency and encourage innovation in the competitive marketplace.

In order to promote a modern electric grid, including cleaner energy in Ohio, AEP Ohio commits to submit a plan for the development of 900 megawatts of renewable energy and the retirement, refueling or repowering of the power plants associated with the PPA rider.

For more information on the PUCO's role in ESP proceedings and details of this decision, please review this **fact sheet**. A copy of the Commission opinion and

order is available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov under case number 14-1693-EL-RDR.

PUCO accepts results of electric and natural gas supply auctions



Customers of investor-owned utilities continue to have options when considering the supply of their electric or natural gas service. For those customers who have not selected a supplier or enrolled in a government aggregation, the utilities offer a standard choice offer (SCO) for natural gas and a standard service offer (SSO) for electric supply.

These rates are determined by market prices and competitive supply auctions. The PUCO, along with third-party auction managers, monitor the auction and competitive bidding process and then the auction results must be accepted by the Commission.

Throughout February to April, auctions were held for the SSO/SCO for Dominion East Ohio and the SSO for Duke Energy Ohio, AEP Ohio and FirstEnergy's three distribution utilities.



In the Dominion East Ohio auction, held Feb. 2, 2016, competitive suppliers submitted bids to supply natural gas to Dominion's customers resulting in a discount of \$0.05 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) off the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) month-end settlement price for Dominion's SSO/SCO for the April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 delivery period.



In Duke Energy Ohio's wholesale auction, held March 14, 2016, competitive suppliers submitted winning bids for a two-year product to supply electricity to Duke's customers. The auction resulted in an average clearing price of \$48.34 per megawatt hour (MWh) for the delivery period of June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2018.



In AEP Ohio's wholesale auction, held March 29, 2016, competitive suppliers submitted winning bids for a two-year product to supply electricity to AEP Ohio's customers. The auction resulted in an average clearing price of \$46.24 per MWh for the delivery period of June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2018.



During FirstEnergy's wholesale auction, held April 13, 2016,

competitive suppliers submitted winning bids for one-, two- and three-year products to supply electricity to FirstEnergy's Ohio utility customers. The auction resulted in an average clearing prices of \$48.46, \$49.36 and \$50.49 per MWh, respectively, for the delivery period of June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2019.

More information about how to choose a supplier is available at www.energychoice.ohio.gov. The PUCO's *Apples to Apples* offer comparison charts provide customers with a snapshot comparison of current electric supplier price options and contract terms. The charts are updated daily.

Copies of the reports issued by the auction managers are available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

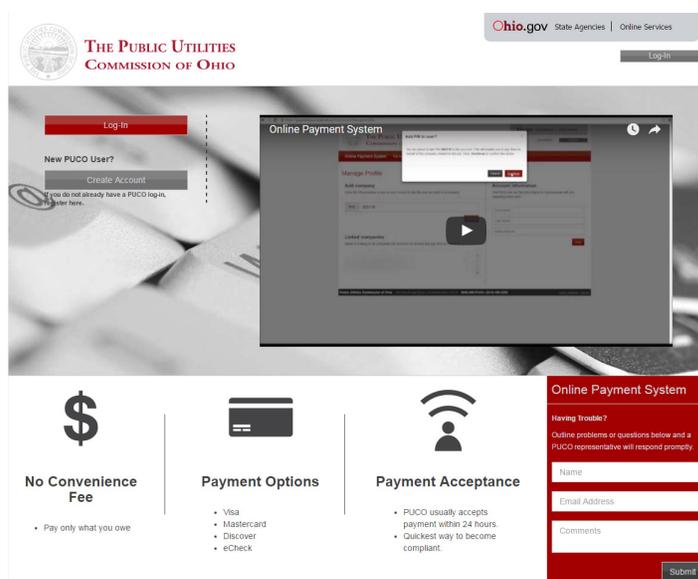
Online payment system available



Excavators, developers, designers or utility operators conducting business in Ohio that participate in the One-Call system must pay a registration fee. The fee for the 2016 calendar year is \$25. Invoices will be sent in April through June to the entities that are required to register and pay.

The PUCO has developed an **online payment system** to accept registration fees.

For more information on the enforcement of Ohio's damage prevention laws, visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov. To contact the PUCO Damage Prevention Section, call (800) 686-7826, option 4.



The PUCO online payment system is available for participants of the One-Call system.

PUCO IN FOCUS



A spotlight on the latest news affecting Ohio utility consumers.



Frequently asked questions: transportation network companies

On March 23, 2016, House Bill 237 regarding transportation network companies (TNC) in Ohio became effective. HB237 enacts chapters 4925 and 3942 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to require all TNCs in Ohio to apply for and receive a permit with the PUCO. These laws will help ensure safe and reliable service to all Ohio consumers who use TNCs.

What is a transportation network company?

A transportation network company is any company operating in Ohio that uses a digital network to connect riders with drivers who provide transportation services. This includes companies such as Lyft and Uber.

What is the PUCO's role?

The PUCO will issue a TNC permit to requesting or applying companies that do all of the following: applies for a permit, affirms that they will remain in compliance with state law and the PUCO's rules and submits a permit fee of \$5,000. Permits issued will be effective for one year from the issuance date. The permit application form is available on the PUCO website.

If there are complaints about any TNCs, where should they go?

Any complaints about a TNC should be directed towards that company's customer support. Pursuant to ORC 4925.05, each TNC is required to have complaint procedures and must disclose its complaint procedures on its network.

Where can I learn more about the new laws going into effect?

ORC 4925 and 3942 detail the procedures and requirements for the TNCs to obtain permits and operate in the state of Ohio. For more information about TNCs, visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

Energy efficiency and conservation tips
By practicing energy conservation, you can develop habits to reduce your energy usage and may save money on your utility bills.

- Set thermostat to 68 degrees or even lower while you are sleeping or away from home.
- When washing dishes or clothes, wait until you have a full load to start.
- Turn off lights and electric appliances you are not using.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible to keep heat in.
- Look for a furnace and appliances that are ENERGY STAR® approved.
- Visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov for more home and business energy savings tips.

Ohio Public Utilities Commission