



Maureen R. Wills
Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Consumer Alert

FirstEnergy's Proposed \$190 Million Rate Increase



Presenter:

Angela O'Brien

Deputy Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Toledo, Ohio

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024



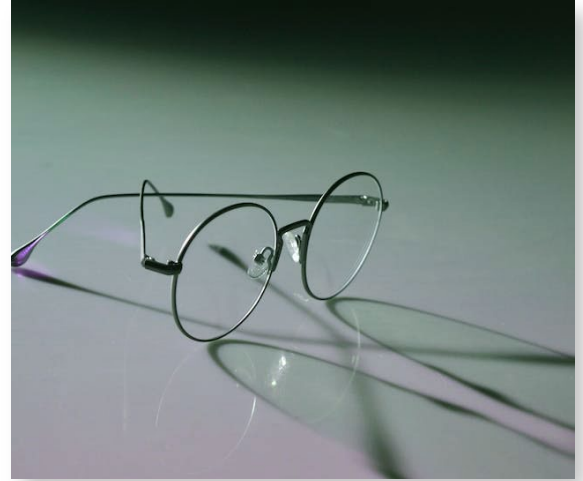
Ohio Consumers' Counsel's Mission

“OCC advocates for Ohio's residential utility consumers through representation and education in a variety of forums.”



Consumers' Counsel's Vision for Consumers

“Informed consumers can choose among a variety of affordable, quality utility services with options to control and customize their utility usage.”





What Could Increase?

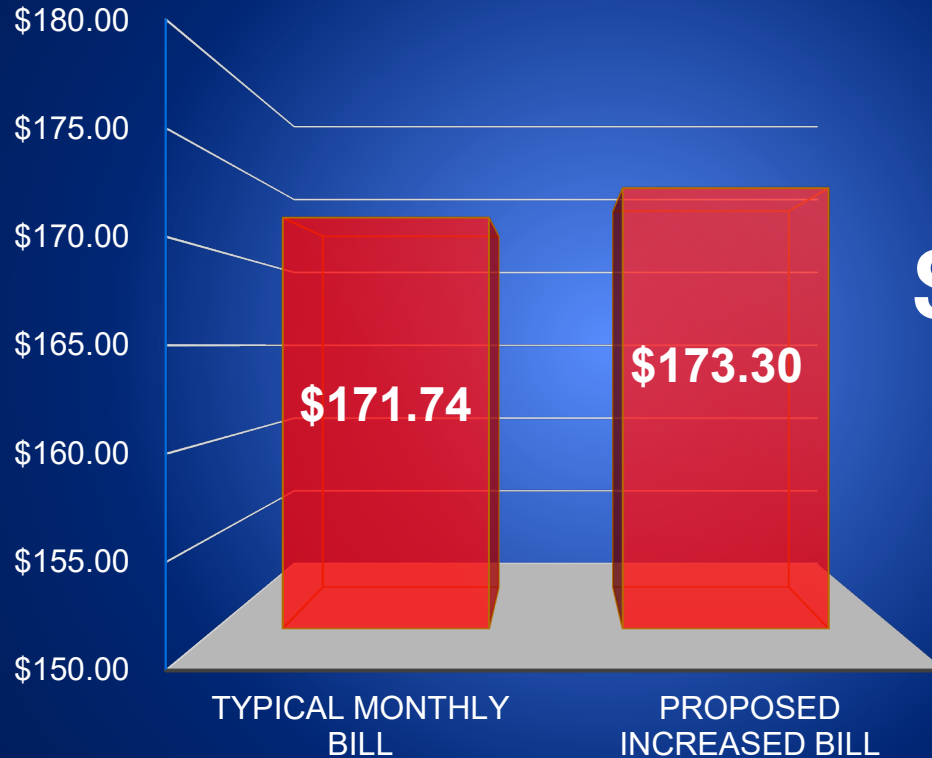
- ✓ FirstEnergy has filed to increase electric distribution rates
- ✓ Electricity supply costs are not affected by this case



Proposed Monthly Bill Increase



Toledo Edison Impact



**\$1.56 a month
increase**



Decision Process

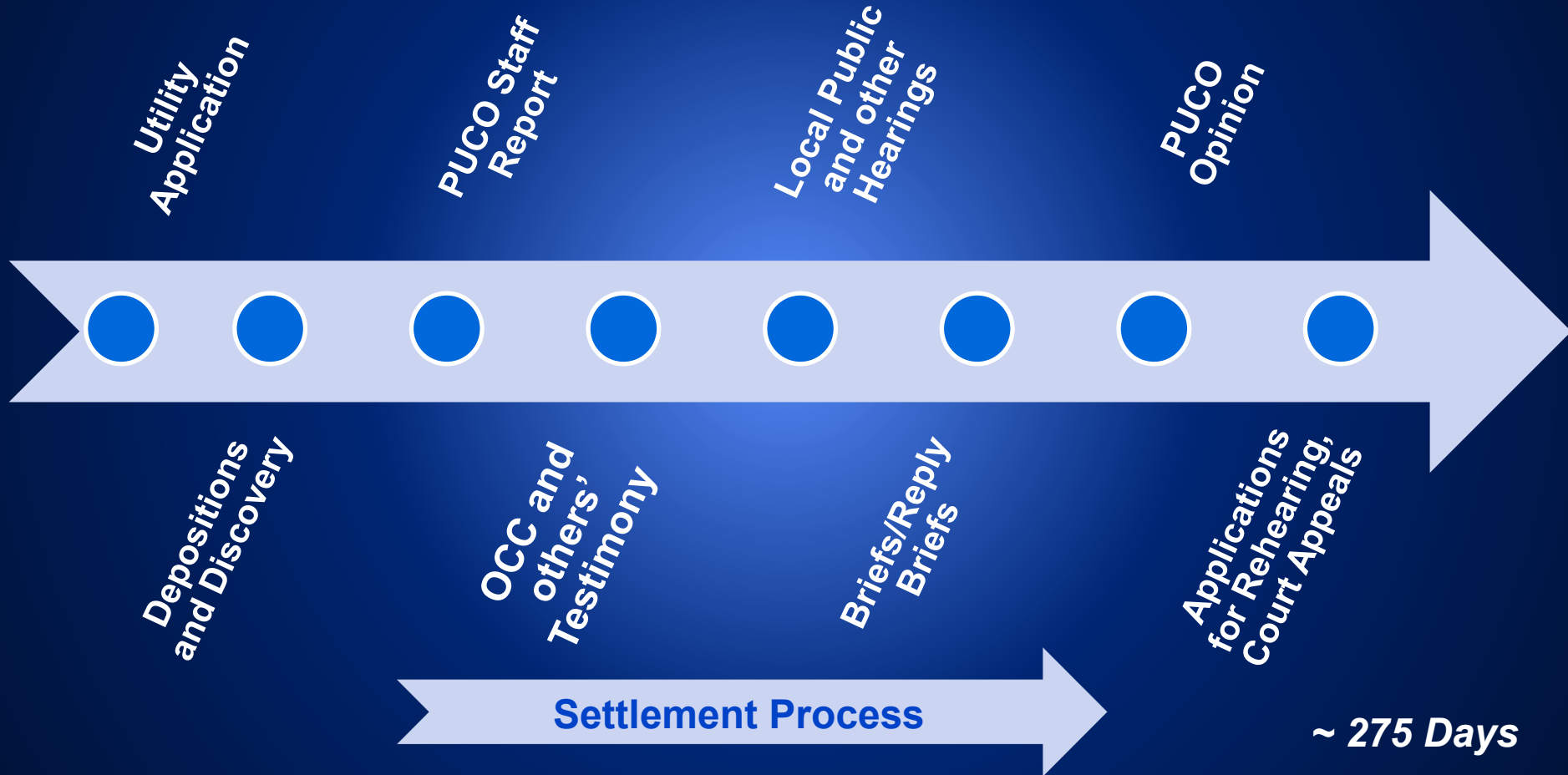
OCC is the lawyer for residential consumers and brings experts to the table.



The five PUCO Commissioners act as the court.



Timeline of a Rate Case



How You Can Participate

Your voice makes a difference



Local Public Hearings - TBD

- ✓ Plan to attend
- ✓ Encourage others to attend
- ✓ Share OCC's Consumer Alert on social media

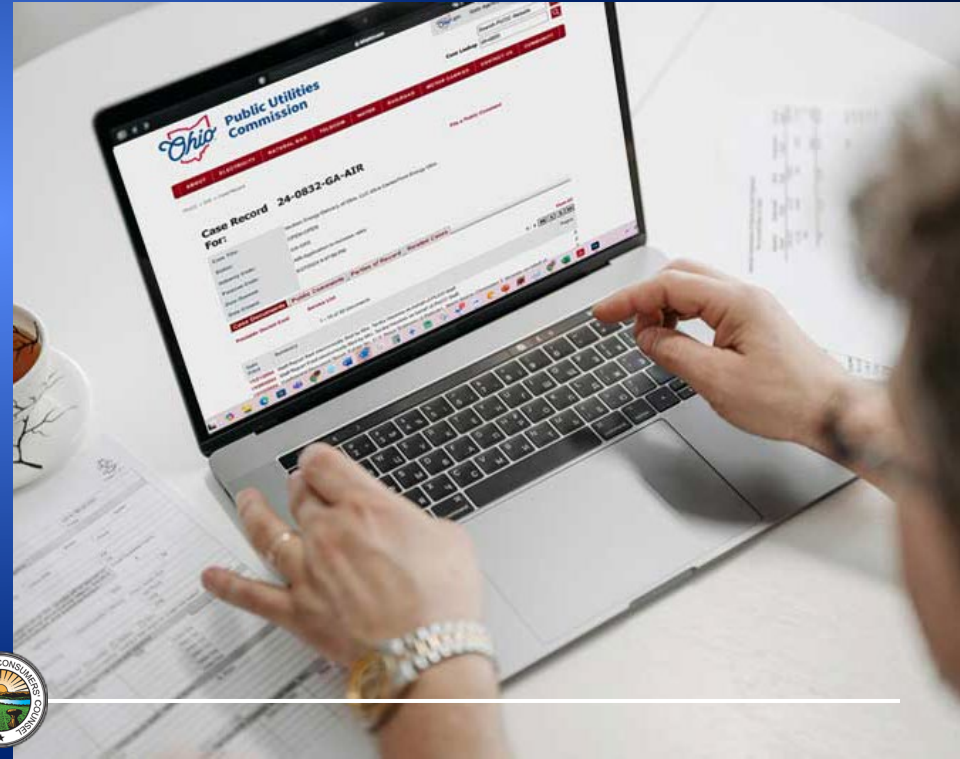
www.occ.ohio.gov/consumer-alerts



How You Can Participate

Your voice makes a difference

- ✓ Send a letter referencing Case 24-0468 to the PUCO; or
- ✓ “File a Public Comment” at



Stay Informed

See our Fact Sheets and
Consumer Alerts at
occ.ohio.gov



FIRSTENERGY ASKS THE PUCO FOR A \$190 MILLION RATE INCREASE



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"Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate"
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CONSUMER
ALERT

FirstEnergy is asking the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to order its consumers to pay \$190 million more for their electric distribution service. To protect FirstEnergy's nearly two million residential consumers, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) has a team of industry experts preparing to challenge FirstEnergy's request.

FirstEnergy estimates that, under its proposal, total bills for a typical Illuminating Company consumer using 1,000 kWh per month will jump from \$173.61 to \$186.63 per month. For a typical Ohio Edison consumer, the increase would be from \$170.23 to \$173.22 per month, and a typical consumer of Toledo Edison would see their average monthly bill rise from \$171.74 to \$173.30. Consumers of The Illuminating Company would see more than \$150 per year added to their bills under the proposal.

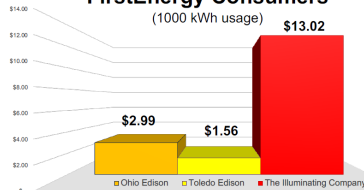
As the state agency designated to represent residential utility consumers, OCC is carefully examining the utility's facts, figures and evidence in the case and will advocate for just and reasonable rates for FirstEnergy consumers.

FirstEnergy officials once referred to the 2024 rate case as "The Ohio Hole" because they were concerned it could lead to a rate decrease. But now, FirstEnergy says a rate increase is needed.

Your voice as a consumer is critical in the case. See below for information on making your voice heard at the PUCO.

Get involved to make an impact in the case!

Proposed Monthly Bill Increases for FirstEnergy Consumers (1000 kWh usage)



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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THE PUCO



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"Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate"
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Did you know you can express your concerns to those making decisions about the utility rates you pay?

There are several ways to make your voice heard at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO):

- **Speak (testify) at a local public hearing.** This is important because your statement then becomes part of the record that the PUCO Commissioners use to make decisions on your utility rates.
- **Send a comment by website, email or letter.**

Get involved

The PUCO holds public hearings to give consumers an opportunity to comment about utility issues, such as proposed rate increases.

For cases involving potential rate increases, the PUCO must hold at least one public hearing within the utility's service area. In some cases, the PUCO will hold more than one public hearing. Since the pandemic, the PUCO has held some virtual public hearings to allow the public to provide comments through a video conference by phone or computer. The virtual public hearings can be viewed live through the PUCO's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@PUCOOhio.

If you would like to request a hearing in your community, call the PUCO at 1-800-686-7826.

Commenting at a local public hearing

It is okay to be nervous about public speaking, but do not let that stop you. Your voice and input are an important part of the process. Here are tips to help prepare for testifying:

- Write out a statement or notes beforehand;
- Keep it short and to the point; and
- Practice your comments in front of others ahead of time.



What happens at a hearing

When arriving at the local public hearing, you will be asked to sign your name on a list if you wish to speak. If it is a virtual public hearing, the PUCO will require you to register on the PUCO website a few days before the hearing. When it is your turn to speak, you will be asked to say and spell your name and address. You will also have to swear to tell the truth.

After you have made your statement, you may be asked questions by representatives of the PUCO, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), or the utility. You can ask questions too, but they will not be answered during the hearing. However, before or after the hearing company officials, PUCO and OCC representatives are generally available to assist you.

The content of your statement is up to you and can help the PUCO Commissioners understand how their decisions affect your life.

- You can talk about how a rate increase would affect you financially;
- How satisfied you are with the quality of your utility service; or
- You could support the position of someone who spoke before you.

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The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel offers materials featuring consumer information on a variety of topics.

General Information | Consumer Protection | Consumer Assistance | Energy Efficiency | Electric | Natural Gas | Telephone | Water | En Español

Thank You!

Any Questions?



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Call or email the Ohio
Consumers' Counsel, your
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