



**MINUTES OF THE
TWO HUNDRED NINETY SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL GOVERNING BOARD
June 4, 2013**

Members Present: Gene Krebs, Chairman
Jason Clark
Sally Hughes
Joe Logan, Vice Chairman
Susheela Suguness
Fred Yoder
Stuart Young

Members Absent: Tony Jones
Mike Watkins

Guests: Jeff Clark, Attorney General's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Krebs called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Mrs. Knight called the roll.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Yoder moved to approve the March 19, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW EMPLOYEES

New employees were introduced. Mr. Weston introduced Scott Gerfen, Public Affairs Liaison and Ms. Hixon introduced Sari Fink, Senior Regulatory Analyst.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTHS

Employees of the months were introduced. Mr. Weston described Jim Williams' service to consumers as employee of the months for November and December 2012; Ms. Yost described Wilson Gonzalez' service to consumers as employee of the months for January and February 2013.

Chairman Krebs asked that a letter be prepared for PUCO Chairman Snitchler thanking him for speaking to the Board on May 21, 2013.

UPDATE ON CONSUMER BENEFITS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mr. Gonzalez presented on the benefits of energy efficiency.

OCC testified that FirstEnergy should bid all eligible energy efficiency and load management into Base Residual Auctions to be held in 2013, 2014, and 2015. This recommendation would reduce what customers pay for future capacity.

Chairman Krebs requested that OCC provide the Board with maps that show service territories for utilities, PJM, and MISO.

CONSUMERS' COUNSEL'S REPORT

Mr. Weston reported on manufactured gas plants. There are 90 plants across Ohio dating back to the early 1800s.

The Duke natural gas and electric rate cases were settled.

Duke is requesting \$63 million from customers for manufactured gas plant remediation. The PUCO Staff recommended that Duke only recover \$6.4 million and stated that the manufactured gas plants are not used and useful and are therefore not recoverable from customers in natural gas rates.

An amendment has been considered for Sub. H.B. 59 that would weaken statutory standards that protect natural gas utility customers from paying certain environmental remediation costs. Additionally, an amendment has been sought by the telephone industry that would allow changing basic telephone service to an unregulated voice service.

Chairman Krebs asked that Board resolutions be prepared that express concern over the amendments concerning environmental remediation costs and unregulated voice service.

Discussion ensued.

The Board was in recess from 10:45 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Weston stated that another potential amendment to the budget bill allows re-opening cases at the PUCO related to energy efficiency and potentially renewables in the event the General Assembly passes legislation later this year.

A provision on utility "reasonable arrangements" with customers, an issue included in the original House version of the budget bill, has been removed.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Krebs stated that NOPEC is invited to present to the Board at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Logan moved to enter executive session to consider the employment of a public employee or official. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Young left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 1:00 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Krebs presented for the Board's approval, Bd. R. 13-2, In Support of Legislative Deference to Regulatory Processes at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and In Opposition to Weakening Statutory Standards that Protect Natural Gas Utility Customers from Paying Certain Environmental Remediation Costs.

Mr. Yoder moved to approve the resolution with modifications. Mr. Logan seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Krebs presented for the Board's approval, Bd. R. 13-3, In Support of Basic Local Telephone Service for Ohio Consumers.

Mr. Logan moved to approve the resolution with modifications. Mrs. Hughes seconded the motion. Mrs. Knight called the roll. The motion passed unanimously.


The July 16, 2013 Governing Board Meeting will be held at Young's Dairy.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

I verify that the above meeting minutes have been approved and ratified by the OCC Governing Board on this 16th day of July, 2013.



Gene Krebs, Chairman
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board



Laurie C. Knight, Secretary
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board