

**From:** Fleck, Katherine  
**Sent:** Tue 9/15/2020 5:08 PM (GMT-00:00)  
**To:** Randazzo, Samuel  
**Cc:** Elisar, Scott; Ryan, John  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Got it!

**From:** Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** Fleck, Katherine <Katherine.Fleck@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Cc:** Elisar, Scott <Scott.Elisar@puco.ohio.gov>; Ryan, John <John.Ryan@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Thank you –

One option ( and I really think we need to get other Commissioners and Staff into a proactive mode):

We could, on our own initiative, issue a show cause order to FE directing FE to demonstrate that no costs associated with HB 6 have been included in any riders or base rates.

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PUCO & OPSB Chair  
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**From:** Fleck, Katherine <Katherine.Fleck@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

I'm gonna have John check in with each commissioner and meet with Tammy, Angela, Greg, Scott and Matt at 2. I can include others. I want to get something together for people to edit and comment on that isn't email.

Happy to do whatever works best for you – I wanted to allow you to keep working on your stuff for tomorrow and Thursday while we actually get some work done on both options.

Thoughts?!

**From:** Randazzo, Samuel <[Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov)>  
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**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Discuss with who?

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**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Hello all!

If this works, I'd like to discuss a few potential paths and get them to folks to review. I think that might be more efficient. We can get a game plan together ASAP.

**From:** Randazzo, Samuel <[Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov)>  
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**To:** Trombold, Beth <[Beth.Trombold@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Beth.Trombold@puco.ohio.gov)>; Schilling, Matt <[matt.schilling@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:matt.schilling@puco.ohio.gov)>;

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**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

I don't care which path we take – waiting until the next meeting has risks as well. I have a slight preference for doing something sooner.

In the meantime, a little education is in order. We already audit the many FE riders and only includable costs are recoverable there. Non rider revenue comes through the base rates which are based on a rate case revenue requirement. When was FE's last rate case?

My point here is that we need to be proactive about doing what we can to help people understand how the rates and audit process work.

On a more selfish not, I am busy getting ready to testify in the House tomorrow and for the OPSB meeting on Thursday. If other Commissioners want to weigh in here, it would be appreciated.

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Scott <[Scott.Elisar@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Scott.Elisar@puco.ohio.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Just thinking out loud...since this issue has grabbed media attention would it be better to have commissioners issue something asking for comments at our next meeting instead of an AE? Just wondering if it signal better that we are engaged.

**From:** Randazzo, Samuel <[Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov)>  
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**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

So, we need to do something to respond to OCC's request for an investigation. It was/is my understanding that we were going to put out an AE entry requesting comments on OPCC request.

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**To:** PUCO Commissioners-Aides <[CommissionersandAides2@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:CommissionersandAides2@puco.ohio.gov)>; Fleck, Katherine <[Katherine.Fleck@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Katherine.Fleck@puco.ohio.gov)>; Elisar, Scott <[Scott.Elisar@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:Scott.Elisar@puco.ohio.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

Sandusky Register <https://sanduskyregister.com/news/277562/puco-needs-to-connect-the-dots/>

## PUCO needs to 'connect the dots'

Nearly two months after former Ohio House speaker Larry Householder was arrested by federal agents charging him with participating in a \$60 million bribery scheme, a key question remains unanswered, officially, at least. Federal prosecutors still have not identified the "Company A" their documents indicate funneled money to Householder and a few cronies.

Householder and the other defendants are accused of taking the money in exchange for help in pushing through a law — still on the books but on the verge of being repealed — to help a former affiliate of FirstEnergy Corp. The measure provides a taxpayer-funded bailout, with an estimated price tag of \$1 billion, to help the affiliate's two nuclear power plants. Another section of the law aids a pair of coal-fired power plants.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio members are being asked to pursue an investigation of FirstEnergy to learn whether it used money from consumers improperly in connection with the bail-out law. Such a probe seems obvious, given the appearance that "Company A" is FirstEnergy. In fact, it has been reported the company's CEO admitted recently that about 25% of the \$60 million referred to in the Householder case came from the firm.

Where, one wonders, did the remaining \$45 million originate?

Though federal investigators have been tight-lipped about the matter, they clearly are looking into FirstEnergy. Why, then, should the PUCO pursue a separate probe?

Because the FBI's interest is in finding evidence of crimes — not necessarily in making Ohio energy consumers whole if their money was used to pay bribes. Leave it up to the feds, then, to prosecute and perhaps punish any corporate officials involved in wrongdoing.

A PUCO investigation should be launched to connect all the dots regarding whether consumers' utility payments were used for bribes — and how to hold any corporate interests

**Matt Schilling**

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**From:** Public Utilities Commission of Ohio <[PUCO@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:PUCO@public.govdelivery.com)>

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**Subject:** PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

# PUCO Clips for September 15, 2020

6 clips

## **There's a lot of important stuff in Ohio House Bill 6 besides the nuclear bailout**

Jeremy Pelzer - Cleveland Plain Dealer

As state lawmakers start the process of repealing House Bill 6 following ex-House Speaker Larry Householder's bribery scandal, most attention has been given to the law's \$1 billion-plus ratepayer bailout of two Northern Ohio nuclear power plants. But there are a lot of other things HB 6 does in addition to the nuclear bailout, including offer subsidies to specific coal and solar plants around the state, dismantle the state's green-energy standards for utilities, and allow FirstEnergy Corp. and other utilities to lock in a guaranteed level of ratepayer revenue for years to come.

[OPEN NEWS AT CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER WEBSITE](#)

## **Toledo pair indicted for possession of stolen motor coach vehicles, fraud and operating a chop shop**

U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Cleveland has returned an eleven-count indictment charging Derrick Lamont Jones, 56, and Kelly Marie Thomas, 50, both of Toledo, with conspiracy to transport stolen vehicles, possession of stolen vehicles, operating a chop shop, violation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

[OPEN NEWS AT US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WEBSITE](#)

## **Editorial: Still plenty of HB 6 nonsense to be sorted out**

As the U.S. Justice Department continues its investigation of what it says are the corrupt origins of Ohio's now-infamous House Bill 6, we're glad others are raising questions about this lousy legislation, too. Two examples: The Ohio Consumers' Counsel wants to know whether the \$60 million the feds say went to the fund that former House Speaker Larry Householder controlled came from utility ratepayers; and environmental and consumer groups are calling hooey on HB 6 backers' claim that it saves ratepayers money.

[OPEN NEWS AT COLUMBUS DISPATCH WEBSITE](#)

## Preparing for power shutoffs: what to do if you can't pay your bill

Steph Krane - WOIO

FirstEnergy is encouraging people to take steps ahead of disconnection. Right now, disconnections are temporarily suspended until the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approves a plan to return to pre-COVID operations. Customers of FirstEnergy's Ohio utilities, Ohio Edison (OE), The Illuminating Company (CEI) and Toledo Edison (TE), may be eligible for one or more of the following programs...

[OPEN NEWS AT WOIO WEBSITE](#)

## Column: Repeal HB6 to bring more solar for schools

T.J. Kancuzewski - Lima News

In the 12 years since I co-founded a Midwest solar company, I have witnessed exciting and dynamic growth in the solar energy market across the Midwest. While our industry is accustomed to the ebbs and flows in the political energy landscape, I was particularly disappointed in 2019 when Ohio lawmakers passed HB6 and — with a single piece of legislation — reduced the viability of clean energy projects in Ohio.

[OPEN NEWS AT LIMA NEWS WEBSITE](#)

## CenturyLink rebrands as Lumen Technologies

Mike Robuck - Fierce Telecom

It's a bold, new era for CenturyLink as it rebrands under three separate entities: Lumen Technologies, CenturyLink and Quantum Fiber. Lumen Technologies' platform brings together a global fiber network, edge cloud capabilities, and security and communication and collaboration solutions while Quantum Fiber is a subscription-based, fully digital platform for delivering fiber-based products and services to residents and small businesses.

[OPEN NEWS AT FIERCE TELECOM WEBSITE](#)

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