



Protecting Ohio Utility Consumers for 25 Years

As the largest public retail energy aggregation in Ohio, NOPEC supplies electricity and natural gas to customers in over 240 member communities. But that isn't all. NOPEC also provides important member benefits that support the communities, residents, and small businesses that we serve. One of those benefits is advocating for consumer-friendly utility rates and policies. Through our advocacy efforts working with other consumer advocacy groups including the Ohio Consumers' Council (OCC), NOPEC has helped save Ohio energy consumers hundreds of millions of dollars from reduced utility rate increases and refunds from the utilities.

Here are a few recent examples of how NOPEC has helped protect Ohio energy consumers.

FirstEnergy Ohio Significantly Excessive Earnings Case (2021)

Working closely with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and other intervenors, NOPEC was instrumental in negotiating a settlement at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) with FirstEnergy Ohio utilities involving its past earnings that exceeded the "significantly excessive earnings" test in Ohio law. **The FirstEnergy Ohio utilities agreed to refund \$306 million to their Ohio customers.** Residential customers served by FirstEnergy Ohio utilities will receive refunds of about \$85 each over several years, with small businesses receiving larger refunds. The first installment of the refund was received by NOPEC's CEI and Ohio Edison customers (and all other FirstEnergy Ohio Utilities customers) in January 2022.

**\$306
Million
Refund**

Columbia Gas of Ohio Rate Increase Case (2022)

NOPEC intervened in this Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) case on behalf of our Columbia Gas of Ohio aggregation customers. Working jointly with the OCC, PUCO Staff and others, NOPEC helped negotiate a settlement that resulted in a smaller natural gas distribution rate increase than what Columbia Gas of Ohio had proposed. Under the settlement approved by the PUCO, the utility received an increase in its base distribution rates of about \$68 million on an annual basis, only a third of the \$221 million the utility had requested. **That's a \$153 million reduction in the amount of the proposed increase.**

**\$153 Million
Reduction in
Amount of
Increase**

Advocating For Customer Refunds for Illegal Payments (2023 - 2024)

NOPEC has intervened in the four audit case investigations opened by the PUCO regarding unlawful payments made by FirstEnergy in connection with the HB 6 scandal involving former FirstEnergy executives, former PUCO Chair Randazzo, former Ohio Speaker of the House and former lobbyists for FirstEnergy. Together with other parties in the case, NOPEC has advocated for customer refunds, arguing that customers have been charged for illegal payments made by the company. **The cases are ongoing.**

For more information, visit nopec.org/advocacy.