

**From:** [Hosana Tekie](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Cc:** [Aaron Schill](#); [Lynn Kaufman](#)  
**Subject:** MORPC letter of support for AEP's gridSMART phase 3  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:19:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[01192021 AEP MORPC fiber support.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

On behalf of William Murdock, Executive Director please find MORPC's letter of support for AEP's gridSMART phase 3. If you should need additional information please let me know how I can be helpful.

Thanks,  
Hosana

**HOSANA TEKIE**

*Executive Assistant* | **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, OH 43215



Please note: Given increasing concerns and rapid changing conditions due to COVID-19, MORPC offices are currently closed to the public. In taking such steps, we are protecting the health and safety of our staff, members and the general public. During this time, MORPC will continue its operations remotely to provide services to our members and community partners. For updates and other information visit our website at [www.morpc.org/covid19](http://www.morpc.org/covid19)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through these unique challenges.

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
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January 19, 2021

Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: Fiber support

Dear Docking Division.

My name is William Murdock and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). MORPC is a voluntary association of 75 local governments across Central Ohio's rural, suburban, and urban areas. We provide programs, services, and funding related to transportation, land use, data, sustainability, and economic prosperity.

In conjunction with AEP Ohio's ("AEP Ohio" or "the Company") proposed gridSMART Phase 3 implementation pending before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") in Case No. 19-1475-EL-RDR, the Company has proposed installation of fiber optic cable to select Access Points rather than installing the traditional wireless communication to facilitate communication between AEP Ohio's smart grid components. The Company is proposing to install more fiber capacity than is needed for its own purposes to make dark fiber available to facilitate broadband services to unserved rural areas in and around the Company's service territory.

Installation of fiber connections will help address the lack of high-speed internet service affecting our community in numerous areas by providing middle mile infrastructure to address the ongoing issue of unserved or underserved broadband customers. Additional fiber connections in these areas will provide an economical option for Internet Service Providers ("ISP") to increase the accessibility of high-speed internet service to local consumers. With the increased access to broadband AEP Ohio will be able to expand its grid modernization, which will also benefit consumers. Given the wide-ranging benefits to multiple parties, we would like to offer our support Case No. 19-1475-EL-RDR as outlined in the Company's fiber proposal.

I would like to add that MORPC regularly convenes a group of public-sector information technology professionals called the Regional Data Advisory Committee. This group seeks to coordinate technological infrastructure and communication among our members, and broadband expansion is one of its top priorities. By giving communities the ability to apply for grant funding that builds our broadband system, communities in Central Ohio and across the state have the opportunity to further promote a robust economy, attract jobs, and improve access to education and workforce training.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Karen J. Angelou**  
Chair

**Erik J. Janas**  
Vice Chair

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Secretary

Ms. Jane Doe  
January 19, 2021  
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I look forward to our work ahead and please do not hesitate to contact me, at 614-233- 4101 or [wmurdock@morpc.org](mailto:wmurdock@morpc.org), whenever we can be of service to you or your constituents.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Murdock" clearly distinguishable.

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 19-1475-EL-RDR**

Summary: Public Comment of William Murdock on behalf of MORPC, via website,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing