**Before**

**The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

In the Matter of the Application of )

Ohio Power Company to Adjust ) Case No. 14-193-EL-RDR

the Economic Development Cost )

Recovery Rider Rate. )

# Motion of Globe Metallurgical, Inc. to Extend

# the Protective Order and Memorandum In Support

Frank P. Darr (Reg. No. 0025469)

(Counsel of Record)

Matthew R. Pritchard (Reg. No. 0088070)

McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

21 East State Street, 17TH Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 469-8000

Telecopier: (614) 469-4653

fdarr@mwncmh.com

(willing to accept service by e-mail)

mpritchard@mwncmh.com

(willing to accept service by e-mail)

July 8, 2015 Attorneys for Globe Metallurgical, Inc.

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# Motion of Globe Metallurgical, Inc.

# to Extend the Protective Order

Pursuant to Rule 4901-1-24, Ohio Administrative Code (“O.A.C.”), Globe Metallurgical, Inc. (“Globe”) respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) to extend the Protective Order issued on March 26, 2014, in the above-captioned matter in order to protect the confidentiality and prohibit the disclosure of the confidential information contained in the application of Ohio Power Company (“AEP‑Ohio”) to adjust its Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider (“EDR”) rates filed by AEP-Ohio under seal on February 3, 2014 in this proceeding. The confidential information is not subject to disclosure and includes competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business information comprising trade secrets. The grounds for this Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Matthew R. Pritchard*

Frank P. Darr (Reg. No. 0025469)

(Counsel of Record)

Matthew R. Pritchard (Reg. No. 0088070)

McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

21 East State Street, 17TH Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

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# Memorandum in Support

1. **Introduction and background**

On July 16, 2008, AEP-Ohio filed an application for approval of a special arrangement with Globe.[[1]](#footnote-1) On November 12, 2010, the parties filed a Stipulation and Recommendation (“Stipulation”) for the Commission’s approval, which was supplemented and modified on March 21, 2011. On April 5, 2011, the Commission approved the November 2010 Stipulation as modified by the March 2011 filing.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In AEP-Ohio’s initial electric security plan (“ESP”) proceeding (Case Nos. 08‑917‑EL‑SSO, *et al.*), the Commission authorized AEP-Ohio’s EDR to recover economic development amounts authorized by the Commission in reasonable arrangement cases. In the ESP proceeding, the Commission also set the initial level of the rider at zero, to be updated quarterly.[[3]](#footnote-3) The EDR was reauthorized in AEP-Ohio’s second ESP proceeding (Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO, *et al.*), and third ESP proceeding (Case Nos. 13-2385-EL-SSO, *et al.*).[[4]](#footnote-4) The rider is calculated as a percentage of a customer’s distribution charges. On February 3, 2014, AEP-Ohio initiated this quarterly update case and filed an application requesting that the Commission adjust AEP-Ohio’s EDR. AEP-Ohio’s February 3, 2014 application contains Globe’s customer-specific information that was clearly marked as confidential and was filed under seal, separate from the redacted public version of the Globe-specific schedule. In an Order dated March 26, 2014, the Commission found that Globe’s customer-specific information constituted a trade secret.[[5]](#footnote-5) In its Order, the Commission specified that its Protective Order would extend for a period of 18 months, and specified that should Globe wish to extend the Protective Order it should file a motion requesting an extension at least 45 days before the expiration of the Protective Order.[[6]](#footnote-6)

For the reasons stated below, Globe respectfully requests that the Commission extend its Protective Order for a period of 24 months to protect Globe’s confidential customer-specific information included to support AEP-Ohio’s revised EDR adjustment.

1. **ARGUMENT**

The billing information of the Globe reasonable arrangement schedule filed by AEP-Ohio contains competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business information that constitutes trade secrets under Ohio law and the Commission’s rules. State law recognizes the need to protect information that is confidential in nature. Accordingly, the General Assembly granted the Commission statutory authority to exempt certain documents from disclosure.[[7]](#footnote-7) Pursuant to this statutory grant of authority, the Commission promulgated Rule 4901-1-24, O.A.C. Rule 4901-1-24(D), O.A.C., provides for the issuance of an order that is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed at the Commission to the extent that state and federal law prohibit the release of such information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code.

Trade secrets protected by state law are not considered public records and are therefore exempt from public disclosure.[[8]](#footnote-8) A trade secret is defined by Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code, as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any *business information or plans, financial information*, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code (emphasis added).

The Globe-related information contained within the Globe schedule is competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business and financial information falling within the statutory characterization of a trade secret.[[9]](#footnote-9) The information for which protective treatment is sought includes Globe’s billings paid for electricity based upon its actual and estimated usage. Public disclosure of the pricing information would jeopardize Globe’s business position and its ability to compete. The actual and projected billing information Globe seeks to protect derives independent economic value from not being generally known and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by Globe’s competitors. Additionally, the efforts to protect the confidential pricing information are reasonable under the circumstances. Further, actual customer usage and pricing terms are routinely accorded protected status by the Commission and the Commission accorded such treatment to Globe’s information in AEP-Ohio’s previous EDR update proceedings.[[10]](#footnote-10) Finally, the Commission has already found in this proceeding that Globe’s customer-specific information filed under seal in the confidential version of AEP-Ohio’s application was a trade secret and should be afforded protected status.[[11]](#footnote-11)

The non-disclosure of the actual usage and pricing information will not impair the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code, as the Commission and its Staff will have full access to the confidential information in order to complete its review process. Because Globe’s information constitutes a trade secret, it should be accorded protected status.

1. **CONCLUSION**

Globe respectfully requests that this Motion to Extend the Protective Order be granted and the Protective Order be extended for a period of 24 months for the reasons set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Matthew R. Pritchard*

Frank P. Darr (Reg. No. 0025469)

(Counsel of Record)

Matthew R. Pritchard (Reg. No. 0088070)

McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

21 East State Street, 17TH Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 469-8000

Telecopier: (614) 469-4653

fdarr@mwncmh.com

(willing to accept service by e-mail)

mpritchard@mwncmh.com

(willing to accept service by e-mail)

**Certificate of Service**

In accordance with Rule 4901-1-05, Ohio Administrative Code, the PUCO's e‑filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document upon the following parties. In addition, I hereby certify that a service copy of the foregoing *Motion of* *Globe Metallurgical, Inc. to Extend the Protective Order and Memorandum in Support* was sent by, or on behalf of, the undersigned counsel for Globe to the following parties of record this 8th day of July 2015, *via* electronic transmission.

*/s/ Matthew R. Pritchard*

Matthew R. Pritchard

Steven T. Nourse

American Electric Power Service Corporation

1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

stnourse@aep.com

**On Behalf of Ohio Power Company**

M. Howard Petricoff

Michael J. Settineri

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

52 E. Gay Street

Columbus, OH 43215

mhpetricoff@vorys.com

mjsettineri@vorys.com

**On Behalf of The Timken Company and TimkenSteel Corporation**

BRUCE J. WESTON

OHIO CONSUMERS’ COUNSEL

Maureen R. Grady, Counsel of Record

Assistant Consumers’ Counsel

Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel

10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800

Columbus, OH 43215-3485

maureen.grady@occ.state.oh.us

**On Behalf of the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel**

William L. Wright

Assistant Attorney General

Chief, Public Utilities Section

180 E. Broad Street, 6th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

William.wright@puc.state.oh.us

**On Behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

Sarah Parrot

Attorney Examiner

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

180 East Broad Street, 12th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

sarah.parrot@puc.state.oh.us

**Attorney Examiner**

1. *In the Matter of the Application for Approval of a Contract for Electric Service Between Ohio Power Company and Globe Metallurgical, Inc.*, Case No. 08-884-EL-AEC, Application (July 16, 2008). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *In the Matter of the Application for Approval of a Contract for Electric Service Between Ohio Power Company and Globe Metallurgical, Inc.*, Case No. 08-884-EL-AEC, Second Finding and Order at 9-10 (April 5, 2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company for Approval of an Electric Security Plan; an Amendment to its Corporate Separation Plan; and the Sale or Transfer of Certain Generating Assets*, Case Nos. 08-917-EL-SSO, *et al.,* Opinion and Order at 47-48 (Mar. 18, 2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan*, Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO, *et al.*, Opinion and Order at 66-67 (Aug. 8, 2012); *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan*, Case Nos. 13‑2385‑EL‑SSO, *et al.*, Opinion and Order at 69-70 (Feb. 25, 2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Finding and Order at 5 (Mar. 26, 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *See* Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, Revised Code. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Section 149.43(A)(1)(v), Revised Code; *State ex rel. The Plain Dealer v. Ohio Dept. of Insurance*, 80 Ohio St. 3d 513, 530 (1997). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Section 1333.61(D), Revised Code. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *See, e.g.*, *In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company to Adjust Their Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider Pursuant to Rule 4901:1-38-08(A)(5), Ohio Administrative Code*, Case No. 11-4570-EL-RDR, Finding and Order at 4 (Oct. 12, 2011); *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company to Adjust Its Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider Pursuant to Rule 4901:1-38-08(A)(5), Ohio Administrative Code*, Case No. 12-688-EL-RDR, Finding and Order at 4-5 (Mar. 28, 2012); *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company to Adjust Its Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider Pursuant to Rule 4901:1-38-08(A)(5), Ohio Administrative Code*, Case No. 12-2210-EL-RDR, Finding and Order at 5 (Sept. 26, 2012); *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company to Adjust Its Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider Pursuant to Rule 4901:1-38-08(A)(5), Ohio Administrative Code*, Case No. 13‑325‑EL‑RDR, Finding and Order at 4 (Mar. 27, 2013); *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company to Adjust Its Economic Development Cost Recovery Rider Rate*, Case No. 13‑1739‑EL‑RDR, Finding and Order at 4 (Sept. 18, 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Finding and Order at 5 (Mar. 26, 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)