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December 18, 2006



To: PUCO Docketing

Fax #: 614-466-0313

From: James W. Burk

\_\_\_\_6\_\_, including this cover page

Subject: PUCO Case No. 06-1335-EL-ATA

Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company Memo Contra Office of The Consumers' Counsel Motion to Intervene

**Comments:** Please docket this letter in the abovementioned Case No. 06-1335-EL-ATA. The original and required number of copies will be sent via overnight mail for delivery on Tuesday, December 19, 2006. If you have any questions, please call me at 330 384-5861. Thank you.

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PAGES MENTIONED ABOVE, PLEASE CALL CONFIRMATION NO. 330-384-5861 or 330-384-5308.

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FA

December 18, 2006

### **VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Ms. Renee J. Jenkins Director, Administration Department Secretary to the Commission Docketing Division The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

RE: PUCO Case No. 06-1335-EL-ATA Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company Memo Contra Office of The Consumers' Counsel Motion to Intervene

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Enclosed for filing please find the original and twelve (12) copies of *Motion to Intervene* regarding the above-referenced case which was fax-filed today. Please file the attached. File-stamp the <u>two</u> extra copies and return them to the undersigned in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

ames W Burk

James W. Burk

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James W. Burk Senior Allorney

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#### BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for Approval of Adjustment to Shopping Credit Adder Rider,

Case No. 06-1335-EL-ATA

## OHIO EDISON COMPANY, THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY AND THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY MEMO CONTRA OFFICE OF THE CONSUMERS' COUNSEL MOTION TO INTERVENE

Now Come Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company ("Companies") and respectfully submit this Memorandum Contra the Office of the Consumers' Counsel Motion to Intervene filed in this matter on December 14, 2006.

While styled as a Memo Contra OCC's Motion to Intervene, the Companies do not necessarily oppose the intervention of the OCC in this proceeding, although OCC does not oppose the Shopping Credit Adder as proposed by the Companies. OCC moved to intervene to make two requests: first, that the Commission confirm that the amounts associated with the cost of fuel being deferred by the Companies, as approved in the RCP proceeding, Case No. 05-1125-EL-ATA et seq., are not being considered for recovery as part of this proceeding; and second, that OCC be provided the same monthly fuel cost deferral information that the Commission ordered be provided to the Commission Staff as part of its approval of the RCP.

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## Rate Recovery of Fuel Deferrals is not sought as part of this proceeding.

The Companies are not seeking to recover fuel deferral amounts in retail rates as a part of this proceeding. The Shopping Credit Adder was approved by the Commission in the RCP case. In the RCP proceeding, the Commission also authorized the Companies to defer fuel costs for recovery in a future base rate case. As is stated in the RCP Stipulation, at the time the Companies do seek to recover the fuel deferrals in retail rates, no party is precluded from challenging the "reasonableness of the level of a particular type of expenditure included in the deferrals." *RCP Stipulation* at page 11. The Commission need not make any determination or declaration in this proceeding regarding the reasonableness of the fuel costs or the recovery of the fuel deferral amounts in retail rates, since all parties will have the opportunity to challenge the level of a particular type of expenditure included in the deferrals in a later proceeding.

### Fuel Deferral Information given to Commission Staff.

The Commission ordered the Companies to provide monthly fuel cost information to the Commission Staff, at the Staff's request, as part of its RCP Order, to allow the Staff to determine the actual fuel cost increase for use in establishing both the deferral amount and for use in determining the shopping credits. *RCP Order* at page 7. The disclosure of monthly fuel data to the Commission Staff was a change to the RCP as originally proposed and the disclosure of this information on a limited basis was accepted as part of the Companies' decision to go forward with the RCP as modified. The OCC now seeks the Commission to change this aspect of its RCP Order. FIRSTENERGY LEGAL

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The Companies oppose OCC's request to be provided fuel cost information on an ongoing monthly basis and ask the Commission to deny the request for the following reasons. First, it was contemplated that the sensitive fuel cost information would be provided only to the Commission Staff, and the Commission Staff is already receiving and reviewing the information for its use to support the Shopping Credit Adder, which is the scope of this proceeding. Second, changes to the Shopping Credit Adder occur on an annual basis, but only through 2008. Therefore, there will only be one additional adjustment to the Shopping Credit Adder before it expires at the end of 2008. In other words, this will not be an ongoing adjustment. Third, no amount of fuel cost deferrals is being included for recovery from customers at this time, and parties will not be precluded from challenging the reasonableness of the level of a particular type of expenditure included in the fuel deferrals during the rate proceeding where such deferrals are included in rate base for recovery.

While the Companies will cooperate with the OCC in a review of the information in the future Shopping Credit Adder application for 2008, they do not believe it is necessary or advisable to provide sensitive monthly fuel information to OCC for this purpose, and such would be inconsistent with the RCP Order.

Respectfully submitted,

mes W. Buch

James W. Burk Senior Attorney FirstEnergy Service Company 76 South Main Street Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone 330-384-5861

Fax 330-384-3875 Email: burkj@firstenergycorp.com Attorney for The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company Ohio Edison Company The Toledo Edison Company

#### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Memo Contra was served upon The Office of Consumers' Counsel via first class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 18<sup>th</sup> day December 2006.

ames W. Buch

James W. Burk Senior Attorney

Kimberly W. Bojko 10 West Broad Street Suite 1800 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

Duane Luckey, Section Chief Assistant Attorney General Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215