BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Complaint of Michael and Patricia Evans,)
Complainants,)
v.) Case No. 07-673-EL-CSS
The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company,)
Respondent.)

<u>ENTRY</u>

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On June 4, 2007, Michael and Patricia Evans filed a complaint against The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI). Complainants allege that power surges and electrical outages are common occurrences in their home and have caused damage to several of their electrical appliances. Complainants state that they have repeatedly complained to CEI about these problems.
- (2) On June 26, 2007, CEI filed an answer denying the material allegations of the complaint.
- (3) In accordance with the Commission's goal of reducing the number of adversarial proceedings before it, this matter should be scheduled for a settlement conference. The purpose of the settlement conference will be to explore the parties' willingness to negotiate a resolution of this complaint in lieu of an evidentiary hearing. In accordance with Rule 4901-1-26, Ohio Administrative Code, any statements made in an attempt to settle this matter without the need for an evidentiary hearing will not generally be admissible in future proceedings in this case or be admissible to prove liability or invalidity of a claim. Nothing prohibits any party from initiating settlement negotiations prior to the scheduled settlement conference. An attorney examiner from the Commission's legal department will facilitate the settlement process.

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- (4) Accordingly, a settlement conference should be scheduled for July 31, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th floor, Hearing Room 11-B, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. The parties should being all relevant documents with them to the conference. If it becomes apparent that the parties are not likely to settle this matter, the parties should be prepared to establish a procedural schedule for discovery and a hearing date to facilitate the timely and efficient processing of this complaint.
- (5) As is the case in all Commission complaint proceedings, the complainant has the burden of providing the allegations of the complaint, pursuant to *Grossman v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 5 Ohio St.2d 189 (1966).

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That a settlement conference be scheduled in this case for July 31, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th floor, Hearing Room 11-B, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

By: Scott Farkas

Attorney Examiner

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Entered in the Journal

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Reneé J. Jenkins

Secretary