# BEFORE <br> 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 Authority to Increase Rates for Distribution Service, Modify Certain Accounting Practices and for Tariff Approvals.

: Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR
: Case No. 07-552-EL-ATA
: Case No. 07-553-EL-AAM
: Case No. 07-554-EL-UNC

REFILED TESTIMONY
OF
TRISHA J. SMITH
Accounting \& Electricity Division
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

## STAFF EXHIBIT

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This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case fils document delivarai in the regular course of business. Technician


February 11, 2008

1. Q. Please state your name and business address.
A. My name is Trisha J. Smith. My business address is 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
2. Q. By who are you employed?
A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
3. Q. What is your current position with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio?
A. My current position is a Utility Specialist 2 in the Accounting and Electricity Division of the Utilities Department.
4. Q. Would you briefly state your educational background?
A. I received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the Ohio State University in June 1992, with a major in Accounting. I began my current employment with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in April 1993.
5. Q. What are your responsibilities in this proceeding?
A. I am responsible for advertising expense, the Staff's calculation of payroll expense and related taxes, pension and OPEB expenses, and rate case expense.
6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
A. The purpose of my testimony is to respond to the following objections to the Staff Reports of Investigation filed on December 4, 2007; I will respond to the Applicant's Operating Income Objection I to advertising expense, Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8 and OCC's Operating Income Objection 2 to labor expense, the OCC's Operating Income Objection 5 and IEU's Operating Income Objection 7 for OE, 20 for CEI and Objection 35 for TE, relative to pension and OPEB expenses, the OCC's Operating Income Objection 3 to incentive compensation, the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 9 and OCC's Operating Income Objection 7 to FICA tax expense, OCC's Operating Income Objection 7 relative to FUTA and SUTA payroll taxes, and Applicant's Operating Income Objection 24 to rate case expense.
7. Q. Does your testimony regarding these objections, unless otherwise stated, apply to all three operating companies?
A. Yes, it does.
8. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 1 that Staff eliminated advertising expenses intended to educate and inform customers and/or to encourage energy conservation and energy efficiency?
A. The Applicant objects to the exclusion of recruiting expenses, which includes costs for job placement ads, recruiting brochures and other recruiting expenses. The Applicant also objects to the exclusion of service improvements, because it contends these expenses were for radio and television spots created to inform ratepayers of improvements that the Companies have made to customer service and service reliability. Utilities engage in four basic types of advertising: institutional, promotional, consumer informational, and conservational. Staff supports recovery of costs associated with informational or conservational advertising because those advertisements provide "obvious" direct, primary benefits to consumers. Promotional and institutional advertising don't provide those benefits. Staff would only support recovery of such advertising expenses if the utility can clearly demonstrate a direct, primary benefit to its customers. The Staff agrees that the recruiting expenses should be allowed. In our view, these expenses meet the test for recovery. After reviewing the script of the radio ads and reviewing the copies of the television spots, Staff determines that the predominant theme of these ads do not provide any direct customer benefits and should be disallowed. These advertisements are merely promotional and customers should not be required to pay for the company to promote itself. The Staff agrees with the Applicant that the recruiting expenses should be includable in test year expense at $\$ 8,686$ for CEI and $\$ 11,461$ for $O E$.
9. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8, in part, that states that Staff erred in the employee levels it used to calculate test year labor expense?
A. No, I do not. The Staff used an average of the most recent six months of actual employee counts in its labor expense calculation. The Staff used an average employee count to smooth any variances in employee counts. Only actual employee counts may be used when calculating labor expense, any forecasted number is neither known nor measurable. The Commission has historically relied on the known and measurable requirement when determining proper employee levels.
10. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Objection 8, in part, and OCC's Operating Income Objection 2, that test year labor expense should include hourly wage increases only for certain employee groups?
A. Yes, I do. Test year labor expense should include hourly wage increases only for employee groups that had not yet received their annual increase as of the last pay period in August. The last pay period in August was used to derive hourly rates for each employee group that were used in determining test year labor. The adjustments are reflected on the attached TJS Exhibits OE 2, TE 2 and CEI 2.
11. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8, in part, in regards to the annual wage increase for non-union Ohio Edison employees?
A. Yes, I do. The annual percentage increase for non-union employees of Ohio Edison should be reflected at 3 and $1 / 2$ percent as opposed to 3 percent as it is reflected in the Ohio Edison Staff Report of Investigation. This adjustment is reflected on the attached TJS Exhibit OE 2.
12. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8, in part, in regards to over time percentages?
A. Yes, I do. The proper overtime percentages should be applied to each applicable operating company. The adjustments are reflected on the attached TJS Exhibits OE 2 and CEI 2.
13. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 9 regarding FICA Tax?
A. Yes, I do. The Medicare portion of the FICA tax should be calculated by multiplying the effective tax rate times test year O\&M labor expense. This correction, for all three operating companies, is reflected on the attached TJS Exhibit FICA.
14. Q. Do you agree with the OCC's Operating Income Objection 7 that payroll taxes should be adjusted to reflect necessary adjustments to labor expense?
A. FUTA and SUTA payroll taxes are based on the number of employees. No change was made to the number of employees; therefore no change is required to the FUTA and SUTA taxes. FICA payroll tax is based on O\&M labor expense. The FICA tax has been adjusted to reflect the updated O\&M labor expense for each operating company. This adjustment is reflected on TJS Exhibit FICA.
15. Q. Do you agree with the OCC's Operating Income Objection 5, IEU's Objections 7 for OE, 20 for CEI, 35 for TE, and OEG's Operating Income Objections 1 and 2, that pension expense and OPEB expense should not have been adjusted to reflect only the service cost component for each?
A. No, I do not. If test year pension and OPEB expenses were to reflect the full accrual, or net periodic cost, for each, then a corresponding asset must be reflected on the balance sheet to be included in rate base and therefore earn a return on. FAS 158 requires that the funded status of the pension plan be reported on the balance sheet. It is to be measured as the difference between the fair value of the plan assets and its projected benefit obligation. The Staff was unable to determine the funded status of the plan applicable to the operating companies. Therefore, the Staff agrees with the Applicant
in that only the service cost component of the pension and OPEB expenses is reflected in test year expense.
16. Q. Do you agree with OCC's Operating Income Objection 3 in regards to incentive compensation?
A. The Staff agrees with that some portion of incentive pay should be excluded from the calculation of labor expense. However, incentive pay based on the achievement of specific operating goals benefit ratepayers and should be included in labor expense. Incentive pay based on the achievement of specific financial goals should be the responsibility of shareholders and not included in test year labor. The Applicant's response to OCC 4179 states that approximately $20 \%$ of total incentive compensation is related to the achievement of financial goals. The Staff agrees that $20 \%$ of incentive compensation should be eliminated from test year expenses for each operating company and the service company. The adjustments are reflected on the attached TJS Exhibits OE 2, TE 2, CEI 2, and FESC 1.
17. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 24 regarding rate case expense?
A. No, I do not. The Commission has historically amortized rate case expense over a period of three to five years. This approach assumes that rates are to be in effect for at least this range.

1 18. Q Does this conclude your testimony?
2 A. Yes, it does.

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Trisha J.
Smith, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, was
served by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, hand-delivered, and/or delivered via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this $/ \mathbb{T V}$ day of February, 2008.

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## FirstEnergy

Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR
Calculation of FICA Tax
For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

1 Arnualized O\&M Labor Expense (a)

2 Percentage of OASDI Taxable Wages (b)

3
OASDI Taxable Wages (1 x 2)

Effective Tax Rate

5 Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI)Portion of FICA Tax (3 x 4)

6 Medicare Effective Tax Rate

7
7 Medicare Expense Portion of FICA Tax (1 x 6)

8 FICA Tax Expense $(5+7)$
OE
TE
CEI

| \$81,930,061 | \$31,667,193 | \$64,984, 500 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 97.19\% | 97.11\% | 96.38\% |
| \$79,627,826 | \$30,752,011 | \$62,632,061 |
| $6.20 \%$ | 6.208 | $6.20 \%$ |
| \$4,936,925 | \$1,906,625 | \$3.883,188 |
| 1.45\% | 1.45\% | 1.45\% |
| \$1,187,986 | \$459,174 | \$942,275 |
| \$6,124,911 | \$2,365,799 | \$4,825,463 |

(a) TJS Exhibit OE 2, TE 2 and CEI 2.
(b) Staffig DR 69

Ohio Edison Company<br>Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR<br>Adjustment for Labor Expense Annualization<br>For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

(1) Annualized Test-year Labor (a) ..... \$92,709,869
(2) Average Annual Bonus Dollars (b) ..... $\$ 654,147$
(3) Average Annual Severance Dollars (b) ..... \$2,883,528
(4) Total Direct Labor (1) through (3) ..... \$96,247,544
(5) O\&M Expense Ratio (c)(6) O\&M Labor Expense (4) $\times$ (5)(7) Jurisdictional Allocation Factor (d)(8) Jurisdictional O8M Labor Expense (6) $\times(7)$(9) O\&M Labor Expense Allocated from FE Service Company (e)(10) Total O\&M Labor Expense (8) $+(9)$(11) Test Year Labor Expense (f)$\$ 82,606,482$(12) Adjustment (10) - (11)( $\$ 676,421$ )
(a) TJS Exhibit OE 2
(b) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 60
(c) Applicant's Workpaper C-3.2m.
(d) Applicant's Workpaper C-3.20.
(e) Staff's Schedule WPC-3.2b
(f) Applicant's Schedule C-2.1


## The Toledo Edison Company

Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR
Adjustment for Direct Company Labor Expense Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

| (1) | Annualized Test-year Labor Expense (a) | \$33,640,569 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (2) | Average Annual Bonus Dollars (b) | \$101,166 |
| (3) | Average Annual Severance Dollars (b) | \$339,721 |
| (4) | Test-year Employee Discount (c) | \$122,127 |
| (5) | Total Test Year Expense (1) thru (4) | \$34,203,583 |
| (6) | O\&M Expense Ratio (d) | $53.24 \%$ |
| (7) | O\&M Labor Expense (5) x (6) | \$18, 209,988 |
| (8) | Jurisdictional Allocation Factor (f) | 95.878 |
| (9) | Jurisdictional O\&M Labor Expense (7) $\times$ (8) | \$17,457,915 |
| (10) | Labor Expense Allocated from FE Service Company (e) | \$14,209,278 |
| (11) | Total O\&M Labor Expense (9) + (10) | \$31,667,193 |
| (12) | Test-year Labor Expense (g) | \$31,877,113 |
| (13) | Adjustment (11) - (12) | (\$209,920) |

(a) TJS Exhibit TE 2
(b) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 60
(c) Staff's Data Request 77
(d) Applicant's Schedule C-3.6b.
(e) Staff's Schedule C-3.2b
(f) Applicant's Workpaper C-3.20.
(q) Applicant's Schedule C-2.1.


$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Total } \\
\hline \text { 434 } \\
\\
\$ 25,852,118 \\
\$ 6,136,137 \\
\$ 1,652,314 \\
\$ 33,640,569 \\
\hline \hline
\end{gathered}
$$

Calculation of Direct Company Labor Annualization
For the Twelve Months Enced February 29, 2008

## The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company <br> Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR <br> Adjustment for Labor Expense Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

$\$ 77,198,580$
$\$ 337,682$
$\$ 649,730$
$\$ 527,697$
$\$ 78,713,689$
$51.20 \%$
$\$ 40,301,409$
95.15\%
$\$ 38,346,791$
$\$ 26,637,709$
$\$ 64,984,500$
$\$ 62,887,639$
$\$ 2,096,861$
(a) TJS Exhibit CEI 2
(b) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 60
(c) Derived From Staff's Data Request 77
(d) Applicant's Workpaper WPC-3.2m
(e) Staff's Schedule WPC-3.2b
(f) Applicant's Workpaper WPC-3.2q
(g) Applicant's Schedule C-2.1
TJS Exhibit ${ }^{\prime}$ cer $2^{4}$


First Energy Service Company Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR
Calculation of FE Service Company Labor Annua:ization
For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008
For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

|  | Union $\text { Locals } 19 / 245$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Part-Time } \\ \text { Bargaining } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Part-Time Non-bargaining | Student Intern | Temporary Bargaining | Temporary Non-bargaining |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (1) Number of Employees (a) | 220 | 18 | 25 | 33 | 26 | 82 |
| (2) Annual Straight-Time Hours (b) | 2,080 | 1,163 | 925 | 144 | 538 | 598 |
| (3) Total Straight-Time Hours (1) $\times$ (2) | 457,600 | 20,934 | 23.125 | 4,752 | 13.988 | 49.036 |
| (4) Average nourly Rate (c) | \$25.62 | \$19.50 | \$18.83 | \$16.35 | \$18.51 | \$15.95 |
| (5) Hourly wage Increase (d) | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$0.66 | \$0.57 | \$0.00 | \$0.56 |
| (5) Average Hourly Rate with wage Increase (4) + (5) | \$25.62 | \$19.50 | \$19.49 | \$16.92 | \$18.51 | \$16.51 |
| (7) Straight-Time Dollars (3) $\times(6)$ | \$11,723,712 | \$408. 213 | \$450,685 | \$80.415 | 5258,918 | \$809. 501 |
| (8) Overtime Percentage (e) | 2.298 | 5.23\% | 0.008 | $0.00 \%$ | 0.008 | 0.008 |
| (9) Overtime Dollars (7) $\times$ (8) | \$268.473 | \$21,350 | 50 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| (10) Incentive compensation Percentage (f) | 6.008 | $6.00 \%$ | 12.00\% | $12.00 \%$ | 0.008 | 12.008 |
| (11) Incentive Doilares (7) $\times(10) \times 80 \%$ | \$562,738 | \$19.594 | \$43.266 | \$7,720 | \$0 | \$77.712 |
| (12) Total Direct Labor Dollars (7) + (9) + (11) | \$12.554,923 | \$449.157 | \$493,951 | \$88.135 | \$258.918 | \$887,213 |
| (13) Average Annual Bonus Dollars (g) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (14) Average Annual Severance Doilaxs (g) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (15) Total Company Labor Dollars (12) + (13) + (14) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (16) OSM Expense Ratio (h) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (17) Total O\&M Labor Expense (15) $\times$ (16) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (18) Labor Expense Allocated to CEI (15) $\times 14.218$ (i) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (19) Labor Expense Ailocated to TE (15) $\times 7.588$ (i) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (20) Labor Expense Allocated to OE (155) $\times 17.228$ (i) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(a) Derived From Applicant's Resporise to Staff's Data Request 5
(b) Derived From Staff's Data Request 52 . Full-Time Employees
(b) Derived From Staff's Data Request 52. Full-Time Employees at 2.080 Hours
(c) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 56
(d) Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 25 For Non-Bargaining Employe
(d) Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 25 For Non-Bargaining Employees, Union xx Current Contract For Bargaining Employees
(e) Derived From Applicant's C-9.1, Three-Year Average $2004-2006$
(f) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 60

