BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

PUCO AMII: 45

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

PREFILED TESTIMONY **OF** TRISHA J. SMITH

ACCOUNTING & ELECTRICITY DIVISION UTILITIES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

STAFF EXHIBIT

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February 11, 2008

l.	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.
	 3. 	A. Q. A. 4. Q. A. 5. Q.

- 1 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
- 2 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
- 4 to the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 1 to advertising expense,
- 5 Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8 and OCC's Operating Income
- 6 Objection 2 to labor expense, the OCC's Operating Income Objection 5 and
- 7 IEU's Operating Income Objection 7 for OE, 20 for CEI and Objection 35
- 8 for TE, relative to pension and OPEB expenses, the OCC's Operating
- 9 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.
- 15 7. Q. Does your testimony regarding these objections, unless otherwise stated,
- apply to all three operating companies?
- 17 A. Yes, it does.

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19 8. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 1 that Staff
20 eliminated advertising expenses intended to educate and inform customers
21 and/or to encourage energy conservation and energy efficiency?

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 OE.

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- 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.
- 12 10. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Objection 8, in part, and OCC's Operat-13 ing Income Objection 2, that test year labor expense should include hourly 14 wage increases only for certain employee groups?
- 15 A. Yes, I do. Test year labor expense should include hourly wage increases
 16 only for employee groups that had not yet received their annual increase as
 17 of the last pay period in August. The last pay period in August was used to
 18 derive hourly rates for each employee group that were used in determining
 19 test year labor. The adjustments are reflected on the attached TJS Exhibits
 20 OE 2, TE 2 and CEI 2.

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1	11.	Q.	Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8, in part,
2			in regards to the annual wage increase for non-union Ohio Edison employ-
3			ees?

A. Yes, I do. The annual percentage increase for non-union employees of

Ohio Edison should be reflected at 3 and ½ 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.

9 12. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 8, in part, in regards to over time percentages?

11 A. Yes, I do. The proper overtime percentages should be applied to each
12 applicable operating company. The adjustments are reflected on the
13 attached TJS Exhibits OE 2 and CEI 2.

13. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 9 regarding
 FICA Tax?

17 A. Yes, I do. The Medicare portion of the FICA tax should be calculated by
18 multiplying the effective tax rate times test year O&M labor expense. This
19 correction, for all three operating companies, is reflected on the attached
20 TJS Exhibit FICA.

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- 1 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.

- 10 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.

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4 16. Q. Do you agree with OCC's Operating Income Objection 3 in regards to incentive compensation?

6 A. The Staff agrees with that some portion of incentive pay should be 7 excluded from the calculation of labor expense. However, incentive pay 8 based on the achievement of specific operating goals benefit ratepayers and 9 should be included in labor expense. Incentive pay based on the achieve-10 ment of specific financial goals should be the responsibility of shareholders 11 and not included in test year labor. The Applicant's response to OCC 4-12 179 states that approximately 20% of total incentive compensation is related to the achievement of financial goals. The Staff agrees that 20% of 13

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18 17. Q. Do you agree with the Applicant's Operating Income Objection 24 regard-19 ing rate case expense?

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.

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.

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TJS Exhibit FICA

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

		OE	TE	CEI
1	Annualized O&M Labor Expense (a)	\$81,930,061	\$31,667,193	\$64,984,500
2	Percentage of OASDI Taxable Wages (b)	97.19%	97.11%	96.38%
3	OASDI Taxable Wages (1 x 2)	\$79,627,826	\$30,752,011	\$62,632,061
4	Effective Tax Rate	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
5	Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI)Portion of FICA Tax (3 x 4)	\$4,936,925	\$1,906,625	\$3,883,188
6	Medicare Effective Tax Rate	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
7	Medicare Expense Portion of FICA Tax (1 x 6)	\$1,187,986	\$459,174	\$942,275
8	FICA Tax Expense (5 + 7)	\$6,124,911	\$2,365,799	\$4,825,463

⁽a) TJS Exhibit OE 2, TE 2 and CEI 2.

⁽b) Staff's DR 69

Ohio Edison Company Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR Adjustment for Labor Expense Annualization 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)	58.64%
(6)	O&M Labor Expense (4) x (5)	\$56,4 39,560
(7)	Jurisdictional Allocation Factor (d)	87.97%
(8)	Jurisdictional Allocation Factor (d) Jurisdictional O&M Labor Expense (6) x (7)	87.97% \$49.649,881
•	• •	
(8) (9)	Jurisdictional O&M Labor Expense (6) x (7)	\$49,649,881
(8) (9) (10)	Jurisdictional O&M Labor Expense (6) x (7) O&M Labor Expense Allocated from FE Service Company (e)	\$49,649,881 \$32,280,180

- (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-3.2o.

- (e) Staff's Schedule WPC-3.2b
- (f) Applicant's Schedule C-2.1

Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR Ohio Edison Company

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

		Non-Bargaining	Union IBEW 1194	Union UWUA 118/126	Part-Time Bargaining UWUA 118/126	Fart-Time Non-bargaining	Student Intern	Total
(1)	Number of Employees (a)	502	204	545	_	2	3	1,263
(2)	Annual Straight-Time Hours (b)	2,080	2,080	2,080	691	554	227	
(3)	Total Straight-Time Hours (1) x (2)	1,044,160	424,320	1,133,600	4,837	1,108	681	
(4)	Average Hourly Rate (c)	\$29.92	\$27.92	\$26.16	\$17.68	\$16.32	\$19.53	
(2)	Hourly wage Increase (d)	\$1.05	\$0.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.57	\$0.68	
(9)	Average Hourly Rate with Wage Increase (4) +	\$30.97	\$28.76	\$26.16	\$17.68	\$16.89	\$20.21	
(7)	Straight-Time Dollars (3) x (6)	\$32,334,712	\$12,202,425	\$29,654,976	\$85,518	\$18,715	\$13,765	\$74,310,111
(8)	Overtime Percentage (e)	10.00%	24.00%	24.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
(6)	Overtime Dollars (7) x (8)	\$3,233,471	\$2,928,582	\$7,117,194	9\$	0\$	0\$	\$13,279,247
(10)	Incentive Compensation Percentage (f)	12.00%	6.008	6.00%	6.00%	12.00%	12.00%	
(11)	Incentive Dollars (7) x (10) x 80%	\$3,104,132	\$585,717	\$1,423,439	\$4,105	\$1,797	\$1,322	\$5,120,511
(12)	Total Direct Labor Dollars(7) + (9) + (11)	\$38,672,315	\$15,716,724	\$38,195,609	\$89,623	\$20,512	\$15,087	\$92,709,869

Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 51 (£) (£) (£) (£) (£)

Derived From Staff's Data Request 52. Full-Time Employees at 2,080 hours

Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 56

Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 25 For Non-Bargaining Employee, Union xx Current Contract For Bargaining Employees.

Derived From Applicant's Schedule C-9.1, Three-Year Average 2004-2006. Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 79

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)	95.87%
(9)	Jurisdictional O&M Labor Expense (7) x (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.

⁽g) Applicant's Schedule C-2.1.

Calculation of Direct Company Labor Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008 The Toledo Edison Company Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR

	Non-Bargaining	Union focal 19	Union Local 245	Part-Time Bargaining	Temporary Non-Bargaining	Total
(1) Number of Employees (a)	111	06	228	м	N	434
(2) Annual Straight-Time Hours (b)	2,080	2,080	2,080	751	241	
(3) Total Straight-Time Hours (1) \times (2)	230,880	187,200	474,240	2,253	482	
(4) Average Hourly Rate (c)	\$36.04	\$20.17	\$27.48	\$14.01	\$19.05	
(5) Hourly wage Increase (d)	\$1.26	\$0.00	\$0.82	\$0.00	\$0.67	
(6) Average Hourly Rate with Wage Increase (4) + (5)	\$37.30	\$20.17	\$28.30	\$14.01	\$19.72	
(7) Straight-Time Dollars (3) κ (6)	\$8,612,147	\$3,775,824	\$13,423,079	\$31,565	\$9,503	\$25,852,118
(8) Overtime Percentage (e)	14.678	28.33%	28.338	0.00%	0.00%	
(9) Overtime Dollars (7) x (8)	\$1,263,115	\$1,069,817	\$3,803,205	\$0	0\$	\$6,136,137
(10) Incentive Compensation Percentage (f)	12.00%	800-9	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
(11) Incentive Dollars (7) x (10) X 80%	\$826,766	\$181,239	\$644,308	0\$	0\$	\$1,652,314
(12)Total Direct Labor Dollars(7) + (9) + (11)	\$10,702,028	\$5,026,880	\$17,870,592	\$31,565	\$9,503	\$33,640,569

⁽a) Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 51
(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 Employee, 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 79

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR

Adjustment for Labor Expense Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

(1) Annualized Test-year Labor Expense (a)	\$77,198,580
(2) Average Annual Bonus Dollars (b)	\$337,682
(3) Average Annual Severance Dollars (b)	\$649,730
(4) Test-year Employee Discount (c)	\$527,697
(5) Total Direct Labor (1) through (4)	\$78,713,689
(6) O&M Expense Ratio (d)	51.20%
(7) O&M Labor Expense (5) x (6)	\$40,301,409
(8) Jurisdictional Allocation Factor (f)	95.15%
(9) Jurisdictional O&M Labor Expense (7) x (8)	\$38,346,791
(10) Labor Expense Allocated from FE Service Company (e)	\$26,637,709
(11) Total O&M Labor Expense (9) + (10)	\$64,984,500
(12) Test-year Labor Expense (g)	\$62,887,639
(13) Adjustment (11) - (12)	\$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

Calculation of Direct Company Labor Expense Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008 The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR

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·	Full-Time Non-Bargaining	Full-Time Part-Time Student Intern Union UWUA 270 Non-Bargaining Non-bargaining	Part-Time Ton-Bargaining	Student Intern Non-bargaining	Total
	322	664	m	m	895
•	2,080	2,080	1,146	220	
	091,760	1,381,120	3,438	099	
	\$32.40	\$26.33	\$23.91	\$18.28	
•	\$1.13	\$0.00	\$0.84	\$0.64	
	\$33.53	\$26.33	. \$24.75	\$18.92	
	\$22,459,732	\$36,364,890	\$85,080	\$12,487	\$58,922,189
	13.32%	31.28%	0.00%	0.00%	
	\$2,991,636	\$11,374,938	0\$	0\$	\$14,366,574
	12.00\$	6.00%	12.00%	0	
	\$2,156,134	\$1,745,514	\$8,168	0\$	\$3,909,817
	\$27,607,502	\$49,485,342	\$93,248	\$12,487	\$77,198,580

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Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 51

Derived From Staff's Data Request 52. Full-Tme Employees at 2,080 Hours

Derived Prom Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 56

Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 25 for Non-Bargaining Employee, Current Contract for Bargaining Employees.

Derived From Applicant's C-9.1, Three-Year Average 2004-2006

Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 79

First Energy Service Company

Case No. 07-551-EL-AIR

Calculation of FE Service Company Labor Annualization For the Twelve Months Ended February 29, 2008

	Union Locals 19/245	Part-Time Bargaining	Part-Time Non-bargaining	Student	Temporary Bargaining	Temporary Non-bargaining	Total
(1) Number of Employees (a)	220	18	25	33	26	82	3,202
(2) Annual Straight-Time Hours (b)	2,080	1,163	925	144	538	598	
(3) Total Straight-Time Hours (1) x (2)	457,600	20,934	23,125	4,752	13,988	49,036	
(4) Average Bourly Rate $\{c\}$	\$25.62	\$19.50	\$18.83	\$16.35	\$18.51	\$15.95	
(5) Hourly wage Increase (d)	0.00	0.00	\$0.68	\$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	\$258,918	\$809,501	
(8) Overtime Percentage (e)	2.298	5.238	\$00.0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
(9) Overtime Dollars (7) x (8)	\$268,473	\$21,350	0\$	0\$	0\$	0\$	
(10) Incentive Compensation Percentage (f)	6.008	6.00\$	12.00%	12.00%	0.00%	12.008	
(11) Incentive Dollares (7) \times (10) \times 80%	\$562,738	\$19,594	\$43,266	\$7,720	0\$	\$77,712	\$20,620,498
(12) Total Direct Labor Dollars (7) + (9) + (11)	\$12,554,923	\$449,157	\$493,951	\$88,135	\$258,918	\$887,213	\$243,919,306
(13) Average Annual Bonus Dollars (g)							\$4,073,759
(14) Average Annual Severance Dollars (g)							\$1,983,584
(15) Total Company Labor Dollars (12) + (13) + (14)							\$249,976,649
(16) O&M Expense Ratio (h)							74.998
(17) Total O&M Labor Expense (15) x (16)							\$187,457,489
(18) Labor Expense Allocated to CEI (15) x 14.21% (1)							\$26,637,709
(19) Labor Expense Allocated to $T\!E$ (15) $ imes$ 7.58% (i)							\$14,209,278
(20) Labor Expense Allocated to OE (15) \times 17.22% (i)							\$32,280,180

Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 56
Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 25 For Non-Bargaining Employees, Union xx Current Contract For Bargaining Employees
Derived From Applicant's C-9.1, Three-Year Average 2004-2006
Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 60 (a) Derived From Applicant's Response to Staff's Data Request 51
(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
(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