

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the Application of :
Columbus Southern Power Company for :
Approval of its Electric Security Plan; an :
Amendment to its Corporate Separation :
Plan; and the Sale or Transfer of Certain :
Generating Assets. :

Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO

In the Matter of the Application of :
Ohio Power Company for Approval of :
its Electric Security Plan; and an :
Amendment to its Corporate Separation :
Plan. :

Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO

MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF
THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

By the above-styled applications, Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company seek approval of electric security plans pursuant to Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 221 ("SB 221"), the recently enacted legislation amending the Ohio statutory electric restructuring plan created by Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 3 in 1999. As more fully discussed in the accompanying memorandum, The Ohio Environmental Council ("OEC") has a real and substantial interest in these proceedings, and is so situated that the disposition of these proceedings may, as a practical matter, impair or impede its ability to protect that interest. Further, OEC's interest in these proceedings is not represented by any existing party, and its participation in this proceeding will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved without unduly delaying the proceedings or unjustly prejudicing any existing party.

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Accordingly, OEC hereby moves to intervene in these proceedings pursuant to Section 4903.221, Revised Code, and Rule 4901-1-11, Ohio Administrative Code.

WHEREFORE, OEC respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion to intervene.

Respectfully submitted,



Barth E. Royer (Counsel of Record)
Bell & Royer Co. LPA
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3927
(614) 228-0704 – Telephone
(614) 228-0201 – Fax
BarthRoyer@aol.com – Email

Nolan Moser
Air & Energy Program Manager
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
(614) 487-7506 – Telephone
(614) 487-7510 – Fax
nmoser@theOEC.org – Email

Trent A. Dougherty
Staff Attorney
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
(614) 487-7506 – Telephone
(614) 487-7510 – Fax
trent@theOEC.org – Email

Attorneys for
The Ohio Environmental Council

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
OF
MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF
THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

Section 4903.221, Revised Code, provides that any "person who may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding may intervene in such proceeding." The Ohio Environmental Council ("OEC") is a non-profit, charitable organization comprised of a network of over 100 affiliated group members, whose mission is to secure a healthier environment for all Ohioans. Over its 40-year history, OEC, relying on scientific principles, has been a leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use before the legislature and administrative agencies, as well as in the courts. In keeping with its mission, OEC was an active participant in the effort that led to the inclusion of energy efficiency mandates and renewable and alternative energy standards in SB 221, and has a real and substantial interest in assuring that these benchmarks are appropriately recognized in the electric security plans

ultimately approved in this case. Thus, there can be no question that OEC may be adversely affected by these proceedings.

Further, not only does OEC satisfy the underlying statutory test, but its also satisfies the standards governing intervention set forth in the Commission's rules.

Rule 4901-1-11(A), Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC"), provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

(A) Upon timely motion, any person shall be permitted to intervene in a proceeding upon a showing that:

(2) The person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding, and the person is so situated that the disposition of the proceeding may, as a practical matter, impair or impede his ability to protect that interest, unless the person's interest is adequately represented by existing parties.

OEC plainly has a real and substantial interest in proceedings that will impact Ohio's environment. Moreover, at this juncture, none of the pending motions to intervene in these cases have been granted. Thus, by definition, no existing parties adequately represent OEC's interest.

Although OEC does not believe this to be a close question, each of the specific considerations that the Commission may, by rule, take into account in applying the Rule 4901-1-11(A)(2), OAC, standard, also fully support granting OEC's motion to intervene. Rule 4901-1-11(B), OAC, provides as follows:

In deciding whether to permit intervention under paragraph (A)(2) of this rule, the commission, the legal director, the deputy legal director, or an attorney examiner case shall consider:

- (1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervenor's interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case.
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings.

(4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

(5) The extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties;

First, as explained above, OEC's interest in the proposals contained in these applications relating to the energy efficiency mandates and renewable and alternative energy standards set forth in SB 221 is obviously direct and substantial. Second, although OEC must necessarily await further developments before determining the specific positions it will adopt with respect to these issues, OEC will certainly advocate that the measures ultimately adopted for meeting these benchmarks be effective and consistent with the legislative intent underlying SB 221. Third, in view of the fact that the proceeding has just commenced, granting OEC's motion to intervene will not unduly delay or prolong the proceeding. Fourth, OEC will bring substantial technical expertise to bear on these issues. Finally, not only are there no existing parties that represent OEC's interest, but it would be inconsistent with the Commission's stated policy "to encourage the broadest possible participation in its proceedings" (*see, e.g., Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co.*, Case No. 85-675-EL-AIR, Entry dated January 14, 1986, at 2) to apply the Rule 4901-1-11(B)(5) standard in a manner that would favor one environmental advocate over others. Thus, granting OEC intervenor status is consistent with all the considerations set out in Rule 4901-1-11(B), OAC.

WHEREFORE, OEC respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion to intervene.

Respectfully submitted,



Barth E. Royer (Counsel of Record)
Bell & Royer Co. LPA
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3927
(614) 228-0704 – Telephone
(614) 228-0201 – Fax
BarthRoyer@aol.com – Email

Nolan Moser
Air & Energy Program Manager
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
(614) 487-7506 – Telephone
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Trent A. Dougherty
Staff Attorney
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
(614) 487-7506 – Telephone
(614) 487-7510 – Fax
trent@theOEC.org – Email

Attorneys for
The Ohio Environmental Council

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following parties by first class mail, postage prepaid, this 7th day of August 2008.


Barth E. Royer

Marvin I. Resnik
Steven T. Nourse
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Daniel R. Conway
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur
Huntington Center
41 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Janine L. Migden-Ostrander
Maureen R. Grady
Terry L. Etter
Jacqueline Lake Roberts
Michael E. Idzkowski
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

David F. Boehm
Michael L. Kurtz
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 1510
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

John W. Bentine
Mark S. Yurick
Matthew S. White
Chester, Willcox & Saxbe LLP
65 East State Street, Suite 1000
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4213