

FILE

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of 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)
Generation 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

**COLUMBUS SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY'S
AND OHIO POWER COMPANY'S
LIMITED MEMORANDUM CONTRA TO
JOINT MOTION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

On August 28, 2008 the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), Ohio Environmental Council, the Sierra Club, Ohio Chapter, and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (Joint Movants) filed a motion for local public hearings in these cases. Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company (collectively, AEP Ohio) do not oppose the scheduling of local public hearings, and will leave to the Commission to determine the appropriate number of hearings and the location and time of day of such hearings.

Regarding the appropriate notice to be published concerning the local public hearings, AEP Ohio opposes the Joint Movant's proposal that the notice should list eleven different "major issues" the Joint Movants believe are involved in these cases.

The form of notice proposed by the Joint Movants is likely to be counter-productive to the goal of informing the public concerning the purpose of the hearings.

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The first “major issue” listed by the Joint Movants best demonstrates the basis for AEP Ohio’s concern. The Joint Movants would have the Commission inform the public that they might want to address: “What is a fair case process and timeline that should be used for the parties and the public to participate in the development of the electric utility’s rate plan?”

The procedural schedule for these cases already is set. Even if the Commission were to modify the procedural schedule in response to a companion motion filed by the Joint Movants, AEP Ohio would expect that such a ruling would be made before any local public hearings. This expectation is supported by the need for all parties to know as soon as possible if the procedural schedule will be modified, coupled with Joint Movants’ request that the notice of local public hearing should be published at least thirty days prior to such hearings.

The public notice contents proposed by the Joint Movants are unnecessarily detailed. The Commission should use its discretion and extensive experience in preparing public notices to determine how best to advise the public of the opportunity to be heard.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of Columbus Southern Power Company's and Ohio Power Company's Limited Memorandum Contra To Joint Motion for Local Public Hearings was served by U.S. Mail and electronic mail upon counsel identified below this 2nd day of September, 2008.



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