

**FILE**

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison :  
Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating : Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO  
Company and The Toledo Edison Company for :  
Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer :  
Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143 in the Form of an :  
Electric Security Plan. :

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**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF  
TAMARA S. TURKENTON**

**RATES & TARIFFS DIVISION  
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

Staff Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_

**October 6, 2008**

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1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Tamara S. Turkenton. My business address is 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

2. Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio as a Public Utilities Administrator 2, in the Rates & Tariffs Division of the Utilities Department.

3. Q. Please briefly summarize your educational background and work experience.

A. I have earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Business Pre-Law (BBA) from Ohio University. I have also earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Capital University and a Master of Tax Laws (MT) degree from Capital Law School.

I have been continuously employed by the Commission since July 1994 involved in the Electric Fuel Component (EFC) section, the Telecommunications section, the Competitive Retail Electric Service (CRES) section working on all aspects of electric deregulation and S.B. 3, and most recently, the Rates & tariffs section, working on electric utility rates, rules, and regulations including green energy renewable programs.

1 4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Commission?

2 A. Yes.

3  
4 5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

5 A. My testimony focuses on aspects of the Companies request for proposed  
6 Rider FCA (Fuel Cost Adjustment), Rider FTE (Fuel Transportation Sur-  
7 charge and Environmental Control), Rider PSR (Power Supply Reserva-  
8 tion)-now Rider SBC (Standby Charge) per the errata sheet filed by the  
9 Companies on September 26, 2008, Rider GRN (Green Resource), and  
10 Rider DFC (Deferred Fuel Cost).

11 **RIDER FCA**

12 6. Q. Can you briefly describe the purpose and scope of Rider FCA?

13 A. Rider FCA is proposed to recover the 2011 cost of fuel in excess of the  
14 level of those fuel costs incurred during 2010. Per the Companies response  
15 to Staff discovery, the proposed costs to be recovered through Rider FCA  
16 in 2011 are delivered coal consumed, light-off and peaking oil consumed,  
17 natural gas consumed, nuclear fuel consumed (excluding Beaver Valley),  
18 and the fuel-related portion of OVEC purchased power.

19  
20 7. Q. Did you review workpaper Schedule 5e provided in the Companies Electric  
21 Security Plan (ESP) application pertaining to Rider FCA?

1 A. Yes. As indicated in the ESP filing, Schedule 5e is a "purely illustrative"  
2 example of how the mechanics of Rider FCA would work. None of the  
3 entries in Schedule 5e were based on forecasted costs/sales or revenue data  
4 for any projected fuel costs in 2011. Through discovery, I requested the  
5 2011 Rider FCA fuel forecast. The Companies stated that the 2011 Rider  
6 FCA forecast would be made available in December 2008.

7  
8 8. Q. Can you briefly describe your understanding of the proposed ESP plan  
9 period and the possibility of the ESP proposed plan period ending early?

10 A. In the Companies' ESP application, on pages 32 -33, they propose an ESP  
11 plan term of three years unless, after hearing, the Commission determines  
12 to terminate the plan effective January 1, 2011. Therefore, the Commission  
13 can after two years (if a final order by the Commission is issued by 12-31-  
14 2009) terminate the plan early for a variety of reasons , one of which  
15 might include an assessment/determination as to what generation market  
16 prices may be in 2011 compared to the proposed 2011 ESP-SSO generation  
17 price.

18  
19 9. Q. Do you have any recommendations regarding Rider FCA?

20 A. Given the uncertainty surrounding whether the Companies proposed ESP  
21 plan will ultimately be a two or three year plan and because the Companies  
22 have not provided a forecast of 2011 Rider FCA fuel costs on which to base

1 an opinion, I am recommending to the Commission that Rider FCA not be  
2 approved.

### 3 **RIDER FTE**

4 10. Q. Can you briefly describe the purpose of Rider FTE?

5 A. My understanding is Rider FTE, as proposed, seeks to recover two cate-  
6 gories of costs. The first category are fuel transportation (FT) surcharge  
7 costs in excess of \$30, \$20, \$10 million annually for 2009, 2010, and 2011,  
8 respectively. The second category of costs, (E), proposed for recovery in  
9 this rider are additional costs (in excess of \$50 million during the ESP plan  
10 period) for new requirements for renewable resources (other than the  
11 requirements for S.B. 221), new taxes, and new environmental laws or new  
12 interpretations of existing environmental laws that take effect after January  
13 1, 2008.

14  
15 11. Q. How do the mechanics/specifics of the first category of costs, fuel  
16 transportation (FT) surcharges, work?

17 A. In response to Staff discovery, the Companies indicated that surcharges for  
18 FT costs include additional transportation costs related to delivery of fuel to  
19 the FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) generating plants from rail, truck, or barge  
20 above a certain negotiated rate in the contract. It's my understanding,  
21 through Staff discovery, that the proposed \$30, \$20, \$10 million baselines

1 for 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively were based on a management judg-  
2 ment and reflective of the risk the Companies were willing to take during  
3 the ESP plan period.  
4

5 Although Staff requested all data, analysis, and projections of FT costs for  
6 2009-2011, the Companies provided no such documentation. However they  
7 did indicate through discovery that \$30 million has been budgeted as total  
8 FT surcharges that the Companies expect to pay for each year (2009-2011)  
9 above and beyond the negotiated contract prices. The budgeted \$30 million  
10 per year are not additional costs above the baselines of \$30, \$20, and \$10  
11 but total FT payments the Companies expect to make each year (2009-  
12 2011). The Companies stated, and Staff acknowledges as with any  
13 budgeted cost, that actual costs could be higher or lower based on the  
14 projected budgeted amount for that particular cost. The Companies also  
15 stated that in an effort to help keep the proposed generation rates down  
16 (7.5¢ in 2009, 8¢ in 2010 and 8.5¢ in 2011) they assumed more risk for FT  
17 costs (in regards to the baselines of \$30, \$20, and \$10 million) in the early  
18 part of the ESP than the latter.  
19

20 12. Q. Do you have any recommendations for the FT portion of Rider FTE?

21 A. Yes. I recognize and appreciate that the Companies are attempting to  
22 phase-in the FT surcharge costs gradually for ratepayers with minimal cost

1 recovery in the first part of the ESP plan. Although surcharges for FT have  
2 been more volatile in recent periods, historically these costs have been only  
3 a small fraction of overall fuel costs. It's my opinion that based on the fact  
4 that the ESP plan could potentially terminate early, prior to when recovery  
5 of the bulk of any FT costs would be sought (since the baseline is only \$10  
6 million in 2011) and given the fact that no specific FT forecast or analysis  
7 was provided for Staff review, I recommend that the Commission not  
8 approve the FT portion of Rider FTE.

9  
10 13. Q. If the Commission were to decide to approve the FT portion of Rider FTE  
11 do you have any recommendations for the FT portion of Rider FTE?

12 A. Yes. My concern is that per the Companies' filing, Rider FTE is proposed  
13 as a quarterly filing, with true-ups, but not necessarily with any annual  
14 prudence review. Staff must be able to audit all current re-negotiated  
15 contracts and any newly-negotiated contracts to ensure that any FT  
16 surcharges in the contracts were warranted and prudent. Per S.B. 221, costs  
17 shall be prudently incurred in order to obtain recovery. Therefore, any  
18 surcharges (including the type of the surcharges and associated dollar  
19 amounts) should be subject to Commission Staff review and audit to ensure  
20 that the Companies do not have incentive to shift costs in any new or  
21 renegotiated transportation contracts. For example, any incentive to  
22 negotiate contracts and reduce the base transportation delivery amount, and

1 increase the FT surcharge amount. If the Commission were to approve the  
2 FT portion of Rider FTE, I would recommend that the prudence of FT  
3 surcharges incurred and recovered through any automatic adjustment such  
4 as proposed Rider FTE be reviewed in a separate annual proceeding outside  
5 of the Companies ESP application. The process and timeframes for that  
6 separate proceeding should be set by order of the Commission.  
7

8 14. Q. Do you have any policy recommendations for the E cost category of Rider  
9 FTE?

10 A. Yes. Based on possible legislative action regarding any new carbon tax,  
11 new environmental or renewable laws, or new taxes I believe it is  
12 appropriate in this ESP proceeding to approve, as a placeholder rider, the E  
13 portion of Rider FTE. I recommend, that this portion of proposed Rider  
14 FTE be initially funded at a \$0 balance and used as a placeholder in the  
15 event costs incurred during the ESP plan period are in excess of the \$50  
16 million baseline. Additionally, since many of these costs are "unknown" at  
17 this time, the Commission should direct the Companies to consult with  
18 Staff regarding the "types of costs" for inclusion in the Rider and whether  
19 the \$50 million baseline has been exhausted by the Companies prior to  
20 recovery of any costs from customers in this Rider.  
21



1 15. Q. Do you have any procedural recommendations for the E portion of Rider  
2 FTE in the future?

3 A. Yes. Per S.B. 221, costs shall be prudently incurred in order to obtain  
4 recovery. Therefore, any such costs (including the type of costs and the  
5 associated dollar amounts) should be subject to Commission Staff review  
6 and audit. The nature of the costs incurred and to be recovered should be  
7 reviewed in a separate annual proceeding outside of the automatic recovery  
8 provision of the Companies ESP application. The process and timeframes  
9 for that separate proceeding should be set by order of the Commission.

#### 10 **RIDER SBC**

11 16. Q. Can you briefly describe the purpose of Rider SBC including the scope of  
12 Rider SBC that your testimony addresses?

13 A. Proposed Rider SBC is a standby charge that would be applied to the bills  
14 of customers who "elect to pay SBC" while shopping with a CRES sup-  
15 plier.

16  
17 In general, shoppers that "elect to pay Rider SBC", and who return to the  
18 Companies for generation service at any time during the plan period, will  
19 pay SSO for generation as outlined in Attachment C of the Companies ESP  
20 application. Those customers who "elect to pay Rider SBC" (including  
21 governmental aggregators) are subjected to a one (1) year minimum stay

1 provision, or the remaining term of the ESP plan period, whichever is  
2 shorter.

3  
4 In general, shoppers that “elect to not pay Rider SBC”, and who return to  
5 the Companies for generation service at any time during the plan period  
6 will pay a market price for generation as outlined in Attachment C of the  
7 Companies ESP application. Those customers who “elect to not pay Rider  
8 SBC” (with the exception of governmental aggregators) have no minimum  
9 stay provision.

10  
11 My testimony does not address the proposed level of the Rider SBC (1.5 ¢  
12 per kWh in 2009, 2¢ per kWh in 2010 and 2.5¢ per kWh in 2011), nor the  
13 proposed policies around those customers who “elect to not pay the SBC.”  
14 I address only the minimum stay provisions surrounding those who “elect  
15 to pay the SBC” and are required to stay for an entire year on SSO before  
16 they can switch to a CRES supplier.

17  
18 17. Q. What are your concerns surrounding the minimum stay aspect of Rider  
19 SBC for those who “elect to pay Rider SBC” during the ESP period?

20 A. My opinion is a minimum stay, by its very nature, discourages market  
21 development. The last Commission discussion regarding minimum stay  
22 issues was in Case 00-813-EL-EDI (00-813). In its May 16, 2002 Entry on

1 Rehearing in 08-813 paragraph (6), the Commission stated "No minimum  
2 stay shall be imposed upon residential or small commercial customers  
3 pending a hearing of this matter or as otherwise ordered by this  
4 Commission." Hearings were held, but no Commission order was ever  
5 issued. On January 20, 2003 the EDU's filed a joint stipulation in Case 00-  
6 813 which detailed a 12-month minimum stay with an exit fee. However,  
7 that stipulation was never approved or acted upon by this Commission.  
8 Although it is not clear whether this was the Commission's final statement  
9 on this issue, this is an indication that minimum stay provisions are  
10 disfavored, at least as to residential and/or small commercial customers.

11  
12  
13 18. Q. Do you have any recommendations surrounding the minimum stay aspect  
14 of Rider SBC?

15 A. Yes. As a means to continue to promote market development and customer  
16 choice; I would recommend to the Commission that no minimum stay be  
17 imposed for residential and small commercial customers who pay Rider  
18 SBC during the ESP plan period. In the alternative, if the Commission  
19 wishes to impose a minimum stay, I would recommend that it apply only to  
20 residential and small commercial customers who return during the summer  
21 months (May 16-Sept 15) and not at any other time during the year.

**RIDER GRN**

19. Q. Can you briefly describe the structure of the Green Resource Rider currently in place that ends 12-31-2008?

A. Yes. Generally, the Green Resource Rider is a voluntary green product tariff offering that allows customers to purchase portions of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The cost (price) per kWh set forth in the tariff was determined by a competitive bid process (RFP) plus the administrative cost of the green product program. Two simultaneous and independent RFP's were conducted, each for 75,000 RECs. One RFP used the definition for RECs as set forth in paragraph 9A (Green-e renewable definition) in Case No. 06-1112-EL-UNC (06-1112) Stipulation and Recommendation executed on May 27, 2007 by the Companies, OCC, and Staff. One RFP used the definition for RECs as set forth in paragraph 9B (alternative energy definition) in the same Case No. 06-1112 Stipulation and Recommendation executed on May 27, 2007 by the Companies, OCC, and Staff. The protocol for selling RECs to customers was a 50/50 split between RECs bid under the definition in paragraph 9A of the Stipulation and paragraph 9B. The first 25,000 RECs distributed to customers were to be those under paragraph 9a; the second 25,000 RECs were to be those under the paragraph 9B, and so on in an alternating fashion. Based on Staff discovery, to date, approximately 1750 RECs have been distributed to customers under paragraph 9A during the Green Resource Program.

1 20. Q. Do you have any observations regarding the Green Resource Rider (now  
2 Rider GRN) as structured in the Companies proposed filing?

3 A. Yes. Staff appreciates and fully supports the Companies' efforts to  
4 continue to make this voluntary green product offering available during the  
5 ESP plan period to customers who choose to support renewable and alter-  
6 native energy resources through the purchases of RECs. The Companies  
7 also stated in discovery that they would not seek recovery of additional  
8 administrative costs for administering Rider GRN during the ESP period.  
9 Green Resource Rider is an important program that should be continued  
10 and Staff appreciates the Companies efforts in that regard.  
11

12 21. Q. Do you have any concerns regarding the Green Resource Rider (Rider  
13 GRN) as structured in the Companies proposed filing?

14 A. The Companies state in Mr. Hussing's testimony on page 8, that Rider  
15 GRN for the ESP plan period will be similar to that approved in 06-1112.  
16 Although during the Green Resource Rider program RECs were never  
17 solicited from the 9B definition, the new competitive bid for the 2009-2011  
18 ESP plan period should solicit bids only under the 9A definition discussed  
19 above. This would create a Green Resource program that solicits only  
20 green renewable resources as outlined in the "Green-e" definition.  
21

1 22. Q. Do you have any thoughts regarding Rider GRN as proposed under any  
2 interim or short-term ESP that may be ordered by the Commission?

3 A. Yes. If an interim or short-term ESP were approved by this Commission, I  
4 would recommend that the Commission order, as part of a short-term or  
5 interim ESP, that the competitive bid process for the proposed Rider GRN  
6 start as soon as practicable. This would help to avoid any potential lapse in  
7 the current Green Resource program.  
8

9 23. Q. What are your final recommendations regarding Rider GRN?

10 A. I am recommending that the Commission approve Rider GRN in this ESP  
11 proceeding. Additionally, I recommend for consideration that the new  
12 competitive bid for the 2009-2011 ESP plan period only solicit bids under  
13 the 9A definition as set forth in paragraph 9A (Green-e renewable  
14 definition) in the 06-1112 Stipulation and Recommendation. Further, I  
15 would recommend, if the Commission orders a short-term or interim ESP,  
16 that the competitive bid process for the proposed Rider GRN start as soon  
17 as practicable to avoid any lapse in the current Green Resource program  
18 ending December 31, 2008.

19 **RIDER DFC**

20 24. Q. Can you briefly describe the purpose of Rider DFC, the history surrounding  
21 Rider DFC, and the scope of Rider DFC that your testimony addresses?

1           A.    Yes. As a brief history, on February 8, 2008, the Companies filed an  
2                   Application on Remand in Case No. 08-124-EL-ATA (08-124) to establish  
3                   a recovery mechanism for fuel costs deferred during 2006-2007. The  
4                   Companies application was filed pursuant to a Commission order issued in  
5                   Case No. 07-1003-EL-ATA, which directed the Companies to apply for an  
6                   alternative recovery mechanism to collect the 2006-2007 deferred fuel costs  
7                   and associated carrying costs previously established in Case Nos. 03-2144-  
8                   EL-ATA (RSP proceeding) and 05-1125-EL-ATA (RCP proceeding). In  
9                   this case, the Commission authorized an adjustment to the Companies  
10                  generation charge during 2006 and 2007 to recover increases in the cost of  
11                  fuel above a 2002 fuel cost baseline in excess of the fuel costs that have  
12                  already been collected from customers via the fuel recovery mechanism  
13                  (FRM) in 2006 and 2007.

14  
15                The Commission Staff conducted its investigation and submitted its  
16                findings in a Staff report issued on June 4, 2008. While 08-124 is currently  
17                pending before the Commission, the Companies have requested that this  
18                issue (through Rider DFC) be resolved in this ESP proceeding.

19  
20                I will address only the "overall dollar amount" the Companies should be  
21                authorized to request as an adjustment to its generation charge during 2006  
22                and 2007 to recover increases in the cost of fuel above its 2002 fuel cost

1 baseline in excess of the fuel costs that have already been collected from  
2 customers via the fuel recovery mechanism (FRM) in 2006 and 2007.

3  
4 The Companies have requested in Schedule 6a (Witness Wagner's  
5 workpaper page 4 of 5) 206,623,636 million for 2006-2007 deferred fuel  
6 recovery in this ESP case (excluding carrying charges and any CAT tax).  
7 The \$206,623,636 of deferred fuel comprises \$109,748,225 for 2006 and  
8 \$96,875,411 for 2007.

9  
10 25. Q. Do you have any recommendations regarding the Companies proposed  
11 Rider DFC requested recovery amount for the 2006-2007 deferred fuel?

12 A. Yes. After calculating the fuel cost and generation MWh adjustments pro-  
13 posed by Staff in its recommendations in 08-124, the \$109,748,225 deferral  
14 requested by the Companies for 2006 should be reduced to \$107,766,309.  
15 After calculating the fuel cost and generation MWh adjustments proposed  
16 by Staff in the recommendations in 08-124, the \$96,875,411 deferral  
17 requested by the Companies for 2007 should be reduced to \$89,721,766. In  
18 aggregate, the total 2006 and 2007 fuel deferral of \$206,623,636 should be  
19 reduced by \$9,135,561 to \$197,488,075.

20  
21 Therefore, I would recommend that the Companies be permitted to recover  
22 \$197,488,075 of deferred fuel for 2006 and 2007. This amount does not



1 include any carrying charges or commercial activity tax the Commission  
2 may deem appropriate nor does it include any Nov 2007 and Dec 2007  
3 true-ups or 2006 and 2007 CAT adjustments as outlined in Schedule 6a of  
4 Companies Witness Wagner. The true-up and adjustments to CAT tax  
5 amount to \$188, 220 per Schedule 6a of Witness Wagner. Upon proper  
6 verification of these costs, I have no objection to recovery of those costs by  
7 the Companies.

8  
9 26. Q. Do you have any other recommendations regarding the Companies pro-  
10 posed Rider DFC requested recovery amount for the 2006-2007 deferred  
11 fuel?

12 A. Yes. I propose and recommend that all non-monetary managerial  
13 recommendations made by Staff recommended in its 08-124 Staff Report  
14 be adopted by the Commission and implemented by the Companies and  
15 reviewed when a future audit of 2008 fuel costs occurs.

16  
17 27. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

18 A. Yes. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony as  
19 described herein, as new information subsequently becomes available or in  
20 response to positions taken by other parties.

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Tamara S. Turkenton, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.



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