OCC EXHIBIT NO.___

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 Generation Assets.

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. 08-917-EL-SSO

Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO

RECEIVER-BREKETING BIV 2008 NOV 14 PH 12: 37 PUCO

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF BETH E. HIXON

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL 10 West Broad St., Suite 1800 Columbus, OH 43215

November 14, 2008

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ATTACHMENT

BEH-1	Beth E. Hixon -	 Utility Testimony 	^v Submitted
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1 I. INTRODUCTION

2	Q1.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND POSITION.
3	<i>A1</i> .	My name is Beth Hixon. My business address is 10 West Broad Street, Suite
4		1800, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485. I am employed by the Office of the Ohio
5		Consumers' Counsel ("OCC" or "Consumers' Counsel") as the Assistant Director
6		of Analytical Services.
7		
8	Q2.	WOULD YOU PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND
9		PROFESSIONAL HISTORY?
10	<i>A2</i> .	I received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from
11		Ohio University in June 1980. For the period June 1980 through April 1982, I
12		was employed as an Examiner in the Field Audits Unit of the Ohio
13		Rehabilitation Services Commission ("ORSC"). In this position, I performed
14		compliance audits of ORSC grants to, and contracts with, various service
15		agencies in Ohio.
16		
17		In May 1982, I was employed in the position of Researcher by the OCC. In
18		1984, I was promoted to Utility Rate Analyst Supervisor and held that position
19		until November 1987 when I joined the regulatory consulting firm of Berkshire
20		Consulting Services. In April 1998, I returned to the OCC and have
21		subsequently held positions as Senior Regulatory Analyst, Principal Regulatory
22		Analyst, and Assistant Director of Analytical Services.

1 Q3. WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE IN THE AREA OF UTILITY

2 **REGULATION?**

3	<i>A3</i> .	In my positions with the OCC, and as a consultant with Berkshire Consulting
4		Services, I have performed analysis and research in numerous cases involving
5		utilities' base rates, fuel and gas rates and other regulatory issues. I have worked
6		with attorneys, analytical staff, and consultants in preparing for, and litigating,
7		utility proceedings involving Ohio's electric companies, the major gas
8		companies, and several telephone and water utilities. At the OCC, I also chair
9		the OCC's cross-functional internal electric team, participate in and/or direct
10		special regulatory projects regarding energy issues, and provide training on
11		regulatory technical issues.

12

13 Q4. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE

14

REGULATORY COMMISSIONS?

A4. Yes. I have submitted testimony before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
("PUCO" or "Commission") in the cases listed in Attachment BEH-1. As shown
on this Attachment, I have also submitted testimony in a case before the Indiana
Utility Regulatory Commission.

19

20 **Q5.** WHAT DOCUMENTS HAVE YOU REVIEWED IN THE PREPARATION OF 21 YOUR TESTIMONY?

A5. In preparing my rebuttal testimony for this proceeding I reviewed documents such
as the Electric Security Plan ("ESP") Application filed by the Columbus Southern

.

1		Power Company ("CSP") and the Ohio Power Company (OP), (collectively,
2		"AEP Ohio" or "the Companies"), and the portions of the testimonies of AEP
3		Ohio witness Roush, PUCO Staff witness Hess and IEU-Ohio witness Murray
4		that address issues related to what Mr. Hess describes as the "Alternative 1/1/09
5		Plan." I have also reviewed certain documents and Opinion and Orders from
6		other proceedings.
7		
8	11.	PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY
9	Q6	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS
10		PROCEEDING?
11	A6	My testimony will address the Alternative 1/1/09 Plan presented by PUCO Staff
12		witness Hess and provide my recommended changes to that Alternative 1/1/09
13		Plan. Specifically, for the period between the end of the Companies' December
14		2008 billing month and the effective date of approved ESP rates, I recommend the
15		Commission authorize the Companies to continue charging customers the
16		Standard Service Offer ("SSO") tariff rates that were in effect on July 31, 2008
17		(the effective date of S.B. 221) and not the Alternative 1/1/09 Plan presented by
18		Mr. Hess. The continuation of those July 31, 2008 tariff rates would result in no
19		increase to generation tariff rates for customers if the Companies do not have
20		Commission-approved standard service offers under an ESP or a Market Rate
21		Option ("MRO") as of January 1, 2009.

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1	Q 7.	WHAT ARE THE CHANGES YOU RECOMMEND TO PUCO STAFF'S
2		ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN?
3	A7.	I recommend the Commission reject the following parts of PUCO Staff's
4		Alternative 1/1/09 Plan. For the period beginning January 1, 2009 until the
5		effective date of the Commission Order in the ESP case, there should be:
6		• No increases for generation rates of 3% for CSP and 7% for OP
7		• No full additional 4% increase of generation rates for both companies
8		• No elimination of the RTC rider for CSP
9		• No market pricing of the former Monongahela Power
10		("Monongahela") customers load
11		• No market pricing of the Ormet load ¹
12		I recommend elimination of these parts of PUCO Staff's recommendation since it
13		is my opinion that each conflicts with the statutory requirement for a utility to
14		charge customers standard service offer rates based on its tariffs in effect on July
15		31, 2008, if the utility does not have a Commission-approved standard service
16		offer under an ESP or MRO on January 1, 2009.
17		
18		In addition, I recommend the Commission reject the Staff's inclusion in the
19		Alternative 1/1/09 Plan of a recommendation to "leave the line extension policy in
20		place" since line extension issues and charges are not related to standard service
21		offer rates and are matters that should be dealt with in a distribution rate case.

¹ While I have listed the Monongahela Power and Ormet loads as separate parts of PUCO Staff's recommendation, in his testimony PUCO Staff witness Hess refers to these loads in a combined manner.

1 III. PUCO STAFF ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN

2 Q8. WHAT IS THE PUCO STAFF'S ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN?

- *A8.* Mr. Hess recommends the Commission authorize the Companies to "continue the
 rate stabilization plan" which would include the following provisions that would
 be allowed during the period until the effective date of the final Opinion and
 Order in this case:
 Allow increases for generation rates of 3% for CSP and 7% for OP
- Allow the full additional 4% increase of generation rates for both
 companies,
- 10 Keep the existing Provider of Last Resort ("POLR") rates in place,
 - Leave the line extension policy in place,
- Price the Monongahela load at the market price recommended by OCC
 witness Smith
- Price the Ormet load at the market price recommended by OCC witness
 Smith
- Eliminate the Regulatory Transition Charge ("RTC") for CSP
- 17

- 18 Mr. Hess also recommends there be no reconciliation of the Alternative 1/1/09
- 19 Plan rates to the rates determined by the Commission in its final Order.

1 Q9. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PUCO STAFF'S' ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09

2

PLAN RECOMMENDATION?

3 A9. No. I have determined that parts of PUCO Staff's recommendation to "continue the rate stabilization plan" do not comply with R.C. 4928.141, which, counsel has 4 5 advised me, requires that the "rate plan" of a utility shall continue until a utility's first standard service offer is authorized by the Commission under R.C. 4928.142 6 7 or 4928.143. "Rate plan" is defined under R.C. 4928.01(A) (33) as "the standard service offer in effect on the effective date of the amendment of this section by 8 S.B. 221." It is my understanding, based on advice of counsel, that the standard 9 service offer in effect on July 31, 2008 (the effective date of S.B. 221) is the 10 11 utility's rates in tariffs in effect on that date. Therefore, I have based my review 12 of PUCO Staff's Alternative 1/1/09 Plan for AEP Ohio in this case on my opinion that, if on January 1, 2009 the Companies do not yet have their first standard 13 service offers approved by the Commission under either an ESP or MRO, then 14 customers are to be charged the Companies' standard service offer rates based on 15 the tariffs that were in effect on July 31, 2008. This means that no changes should 16 be made to the standard service offer rates in tariffs in effect on July 31, 2008. 17

18

PUCO Staff's recommendation includes several provisions that result in changes to the standard service offer rates in tariffs in effect on July 31, 2008. First, the Alternative 1/1/09 Plan contains two provisions that inappropriately allow CSP and OP to increase, by at total of 7% and 11% respectively, the rates contained in the Companies' tariffs that were in effect as of July 31, 2008. Second, in a

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1		similar, but opposite manner, the Alternative 1/1/09 Plan inappropriately
2		eliminates the CSP "RTC rider" which would decrease the rates contained in the
3		utility's tariffs that were in effect as of July 31, 2008.
4		
5		With respect to the CSP RTC, while I believe this would be discontinued after
6		2008 under a first permanent ESP, based upon my understanding of SB221, the
7		only exception is if there is no new first ESP, the entire July 31, 2008 standard
8		service offer rate continues in effect. This means that the RTC charge would only
9		continue for a short limited time until the first permanent ESP is approved by the
10		Commission. This is consistent with my position that there be no changes in the
11		July 31, 2008 standard service offer rates whatsoever until a new ESP is decided.
12		
13	Q10.	ARE THERE OTHER PARTS OF PUCO STAFF'S ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09
13 14	Q10.	ARE THERE OTHER PARTS OF PUCO STAFF'S ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER
	Q10.	
14	Q10. A10.	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER
14 15	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008?
14 15 16	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008? Yes. PUCO Staff's recommendations regarding the Monongahela and Ormet
14 15 16 17	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008? Yes. PUCO Staff's recommendations regarding the Monongahela and Ormet load would allow changes to those rates. Mr. Hess does not explain fully the
14 15 16 17 18	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008? Yes. PUCO Staff's recommendations regarding the Monongahela and Ormet load would allow changes to those rates. Mr. Hess does not explain fully the recommendation to "price the Monongahela and Ormet loads" at the market price
14 15 16 17 18 19	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008? Yes. PUCO Staff's recommendations regarding the Monongahela and Ormet load would allow changes to those rates. Mr. Hess does not explain fully the recommendation to "price the Monongahela and Ormet loads" at the market price recommended by OCC Witness Smith. (OCC Witness Smith testifies on the
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	-	PLAN THAT ALLOW FOR CHANGES TO STANDARD SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 31, 2008? Yes. PUCO Staff's recommendations regarding the Monongahela and Ormet load would allow changes to those rates. Mr. Hess does not explain fully the recommendation to "price the Monongahela and Ormet loads" at the market price recommended by OCC Witness Smith. (OCC Witness Smith testifies on the estimated market prices that should be used in evaluating the Companies ESP and

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1	recommending a similar, but modified, continuation of the rate treatment for
2	former Monongahela Power customers that was approved by the Commission in
3	its November 5, 2005 Order in Case No. 05-675-EL-UNC. In that case the
4	Commission allowed former Monongahela Power customers that were transferred
5	to CSP's service territory to be charged CSP's generation rates during the period
б	2006 through 2008, but allowed CSP to recover, through a rider charged to all
7	customers, the incremental fuel cost of providing generation to the former
8	Monongahela Power customers. Thus, it is my opinion that PUCO Staff's
9	proposal in its Alternative 1/1/09 Plan to price the Monongahela load at a new
10	market price is in conflict with the statutory requirement for the utility to continue
11	to charge customers the rates in tariffs in effect on July 31, 2008.
12	
12 13	With regard to the "pricing" of the Ormet load, it is my understanding that
	With regard to the "pricing" of the Ormet load, it is my understanding that PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's
13	
13 14	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's
13 14 15	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment
13 14 15 16	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment approved by the Commission in its November 8, 2006 Supplemental Opinion
13 14 15 16 17	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment approved by the Commission in its November 8, 2006 Supplemental Opinion and Order in Case No. 05-1057-EL-CSS. In that case, for the period January 1,
13 14 15 16 17 18	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment approved by the Commission in its November 8, 2006 Supplemental Opinion and Order in Case No. 05-1057-EL-CSS. In that case, for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, Ormet was to be charged both a specified
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment approved by the Commission in its November 8, 2006 Supplemental Opinion and Order in Case No. 05-1057-EL-CSS. In that case, for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, Ormet was to be charged both a specified generation rate and specified rates for distribution and transmission service by
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	PUCO Staff is recommending a continuation, and modification, of Ormet's electric services contract with AEP Ohio, and the associated rate treatment approved by the Commission in its November 8, 2006 Supplemental Opinion and Order in Case No. 05-1057-EL-CSS. In that case, for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, Ormet was to be charged both a specified generation rate and specified rates for distribution and transmission service by AEP Ohio. For the purpose of compensating AEP Ohio for the differential

1	amortization did not fully compensate AEP Ohio for the Ormet rate and market
2	price differential, the Commission stated that the Companies would be permitted
3	recovery under the "Additional 4%" provision of their rate stabilization plan.
4	
5	Mr. Hess' testimony on the market pricing of Ormet does not specifically indicate
6	whether Ormet will be charged the specified generation rate that was approved for
7	2006 through 2008 and also does not indicate whether, or how, AEP Ohio will be
8	compensated for the differential between that rate and the market price he
9	recommends.
10	
11	If PUCO Staff's intent is to permit AEP Ohio to recover the differential in a
12	manner similar to that permitted by the Commission in Case No. 05-1057-EL-
13	CSS, then such compensation would occur through the allowance of the "full
14	additional 4% increase in generation rates" under the Alternative 1/109 Plan. As I
15	have previously stated, this PUCO Staff recommended generation increase (which
16	is part of the total 7% and 11% increases) inappropriately increases the generation
17	rates contained in the Companies' tariffs that were in effect as of July 31, 2008. If
18	PUCO Staff's intent is to permit AEP Ohio to recover the differential through a
19	new rider charged to customers, this too would inappropriately increase
20	generation rates contained in the Companies' tariffs that were in effect as of July
21	31, 2008.

1	Q 11.	DOES THE PUCO STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON LINE EXTENSION
2		POLICY IN THE ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN CHANGE THE STANDARD
3		SERVICE OFFER RATES IN TARIFFS THAT WERE IN EFFECT AS OF
4		JULY 31, 2008?
5	A11.	No. The PUCO Staff's recommendation to "leave the line extension policy in
6		place" is not related to the standard service offer because line extension policy
7		and charges are distribution related matters. Mr. Hess explains on page 4 of his
8		testimony that line extension issues raised by the Companies in this ESP case
9		should instead be dealt with in a distribution rate case. As such, Mr. Hess
10		recognizes that line extension policy and charges are not part of standard service
11		offer rates in tariffs.
12		
13		Mr. Hess does not fully explain in his testimony the implications of "leaving the
14		line extension policy in place." However, one such implication can be seen
15		through the testimony of AEP Ohio witness Earl who explains the Companies'
16		existing line extension policy and charges and who also proposes that changes be
17		made in this ESP case. Under the Companies' current tariffs monthly line
18		extension surcharges for most customer classes are scheduled to expire on
19		December 31, 2008.
20		
21		It seems that Mr. Hess' recommendation would allow the Companies to continue
22		to bill customers the monthly surcharges, rather than having them end on
23		December 31, 2008. To allow AEP Ohio to extend these distribution-related line

1		extension rates through an Alternative 1/1/09 Plan in an ESP case is
2		inappropriate. The Commission has stated that such charges should end regarding
3		a proposal by the FirstEnergy companies to extend monthly payments that were
4		authorized by the same Order that approved AEP Ohio's line extension charges. ²
5		
6	IV.	RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION
7	Q12.	WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PUCO STAFF'S
8		ALTERNATIVE 1/1/09 PLAN?
9	<i>A12</i> .	I believe the Commission should reject the parts of PUCO Staff's Alternative
10		1/1/09 Plan that conflict with the statutory requirement for the Companies to
11		charge customers the standard service offer rates in tariffs in effect on July 31,
12		2008. Therefore, I recommend that, if the Companies do not have a Commission-
13		approved standard service offer on January 1, 2009, then for the period until the
14		effective date of the Commission Order in this ESP case customers should be
15		charged the standard service offer rates in tariffs in effect on July 31, 2008.
16		Under those SSO rates during that period, there would be:
17		 No increases for generation rates of 3% for CSP and 7% for OP
18		 No full additional 4% increase of generation rates for CSP and OP
19		 No elimination of the RTC rider for CSP
20		 No changes to rates due to market pricing of the Monongahela load
2 1		 No changes to rates due to market pricing of the Ormet load

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² In re: First Energy Application, Case Nos. 07-548-EL-ATA et al., Order (July 11, 2007). The line extension charges for the FirstEnergy companies and AEP Ohio were approved together in 2002 by the Commission in Case No. 01-2708-EL-COI, Order (November 7, 2002).

1		I also recommend no reconciliation of those SSO rates to the rates approved by
2		the Commission in this ESP case. I recommend rejection of Staff's proposal to
3		"leave the line extension policy in place" as part of the Alternative 1/1/09 Plan,
4		since line extension policy and charges are matters that should be examined in a
5		distribution rate case. The Commission's rejection of this part of Staff's proposal
6		would allow for the December 31, 2008 expiration of monthly line extension
7		surcharges to occur as scheduled in the Companies' tariffs.
8		
9	Q13.	DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
10	A13.	Yes. However, I reserve the right to incorporate new information that may
11		subsequently become available. I also reserve the right to supplement my
12		testimony in the event that AEP Ohio or the PUCO Staff submits new or corrected
13		information in connection with this proceeding.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the Rebuttal Testimony of Beth E. Hixon on behalf

of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, has been served upon the following parties

via regular U.S. Mail service, postage prepaid (and a courtesy copy via electronic

transmission) this 14th day of November, 2008.

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Beth E. Hixon Utility Testimony Submitted

As an employee of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC):

Company	Docket No.	Date
Ohio Power	83-98-EL-AIR	1984
Ohio Gas	83-505-GA-AIR	1984
Dominion East Ohio Gas	05-474-GA-ATA	2005
Dayton Power & Light	05-792-EL-ATA	2006
Duke Energy Ohio	03-93-El-ATA et al.	2007
Dominion East Ohio	08-729-GA-AIR	2008

As an employee of Berkshire Consulting Service:

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Company	Docket No.	Date	Client
Toledo Edison	88-171-EL-AIR	1988	OCC
Cleveland Electric Illuminating	88-170-EL-AIR	1988	OCC
Columbia Gas of Ohio	88-716-GA-AIR et al.	1989	OCC
Ohio Edison	89-1001-EL-AIR	1990	OCC
Indiana American Water	Cause No. 39595	1993	Indiana
	Office of the Utility Consumer Counsel		
Ohio Bell	93-487-TP-CSS	1 994	OCC
Ohio Power	94-996-EL-AIR	1995	OCC
Toledo Edison	95-299-EL-AIR	1996	OCC
Cleveland Electric Illuminating	95-300-EL-AIR	1996	OCC
Cincinnati Gas & Electric	95-656-GA-AIR	1 996	City of
	Cincinnati, OH		