

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbus Southern Power Company to) Case No. 11-1353-EL-RDR
Update its gridSMART Rider.)

ENTRY

The Attorney Examiner finds:

- (1) On March 18, 2009, the Commission issued its opinion and order in Columbus Southern Power Company's (CSP) and Ohio Power Company's (OP) (jointly, AEP-Ohio or the Companies) electric security plan (ESP) cases (ESP Order).¹ By entries on rehearing issued July 23, 2009 (First ESP EOR) and November 4, 2009 (Second ESP EOR), the Commission affirmed and clarified certain issues raised in AEP-Ohio's ESP Order. As ultimately adopted by the Commission, AEP-Ohio's ESP directed CSP to create the gridSMART rider.² The rider was updated and adjusted to a rate of \$0.52/month for residential customers and \$2.27/month for non-residential customers effective with the first billing cycle of September 2010.³
- (2) On March 18, 2011, CSP filed the instant application to update its gridSMART rider. CSP explains that, as directed by the Commission in the ESP cases, the company pursued and was awarded funding through the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) from the United States Department of Energy (USDOE). CSP states that ARRA funding further required enhancement of the gridSMART plan presented to the Commission in the ESP cases to include realtime pricing, community energy storage, smart appliances, cyber security operation center, and plug-in electric vehicle components. CSP notes that in the ESP cases, the Commission approved CSP's initial gridSMART rider subject to annual reconciliation based on the Companies' prudently incurred costs and receipt of ARRA grant

¹ In re AEP-Ohio ESP cases, Case Nos. 08-917-EL-SSO and 08-918-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (March 18, 2009).

² ESP Order at 34-38; First ESP EOR at 18-24.

³ In re CSP, Case No. 10-164-EL-RDR, Finding and Order (August 11, 2010); Entry on Rehearing (October 22, 2010).

funding. CSP explains that its contract with USDOE was not finalized until May 25, 2010 and, so as to avoid exceeding the reimbursement limitations for 2010, CSP slowed the pace of the gridSMART project until the contract was finalized. Thereafter, the Company states that while it resumed gridSMART deployment and spending, the company did not reach its 2010 spending projections. CSP over recovered for 2010. As of the filing of the application, CSP had over recovered \$6,181,337. CSP has increased its 2011 gridSMART spending projection to reflect escalating project deployment and expects delivery of all equipment for phase 1 of the project by December 31, 2011. CSP expects that the 2010 over recovery will decrease as spending reaches the projected levels for the project. CSP requests that the current gridSMART rider rate be maintained effective with the first billing cycle of July 2011.

- (3) Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) filed a motion to intervene in this proceeding on March 29, 2011. OPAE asserts that it has a substantial interest in this case, and that the disposition of the case may impair or impede OPAE's ability to protect that interest.
- (4) The Attorney Examiner finds that OPAE has set forth reasonable grounds for intervention in the gridSMART case, and, accordingly, OPAE's motion for intervention should be granted.
- (5) In an effort to efficiently process the company's gridSMART rider application in a timely manner, the Attorney Examiner finds that it is necessary to shorten the discovery response time to ten calendar days and direct that service of discovery requests and responses be served by e-mail. Any interested person, including Staff, that wishes to file comments/objections to AEP-Ohio's gridSMART rider application must do so by April 22, 2011. Reply comments are due by April 29, 2011.
- (6) After comments and reply comments are received and the issues raised therein considered, a decision will be made whether a hearing is warranted. The Attorney Examiner notes that should it be determined that a hearing is necessary, this matter will proceed on an expedited basis and requests for a continuance, extension, or additional time may not be viewed favorably.

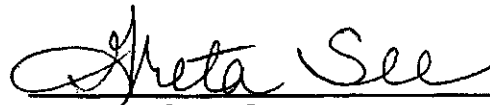
It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That OPAA's motion for intervention be granted. It is, further,


ORDERED, That comments be filed with the Commission by April 22, 2011, and reply comments be filed by April 29, 2011. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon all persons of record in this case.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

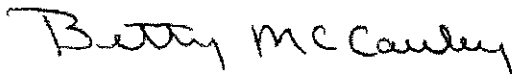


By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

/dah 

Entered in the Journal

APR. 01 2011 .



Betty McCauley
Secretary