

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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. 08-0917-EL-SSO) (Case No. 08-0917-EL-SSO)	RECEIVED COC
and		SMLEXCU
In the Matter of the Application of)	-f. 8
Ohio Power Company for Approval of) Case No. 08-918-EL-SSO	52 52
its Electric Security Plan; and an)	***
Amendment to its Corporate)	
Separation Plan)	

Direct Testimony on Remand of David I. Fein

Vice President, Energy Policy – Midwest Director of Retail Energy Policy Constellation Energy Group, Inc.

Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.
and
Constellation Energy Commodities
Group, Inc.

Dated: June 30, 2011

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I. <u>Introduction</u>

2 A. <u>Identification of Witness</u>

- 3 Q. Please state your name and your business address.
- 4 A. My name is David I. Fein, and my business address is 550 West
- 5 Washington Boulevard, Suite 300, Chicago, Illinois 60661.

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7 Q. By whom are you employed?

8 A. I am employed by Constellation Energy Group, Inc. ("Constellation").

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10 Q. Please describe your position with Constellation.

11 I am Vice President of Energy Policy in the Midwest and Pennsylvania for A. Constellation as well as Director of Retail Energy Policy. In my role as 12 Vice President of Energy Policy in the Midwest and Pennsylvania, I am 13 responsible for directing and implementing regulatory and legislative 14 15 policies for Constellation's retail, wholesale, and merchant business interests in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In my role as 16 Director of Retail Energy Policy, I am responsible for coordinating 17 Constellation's retail energy policy advocacy across the country. 18 19 Constellation, a FORTUNE 200 company, is the nation's largest 20 competitive supplier of electricity to commercial, industrial, and 21 governmental customers and the nation's largest wholesale power seller. 22 Constellation is also an active supplier of electric power and energy to residential customers. Constellation also manages fuels and energy 23 24 services on behalf of energy-intensive industries and utilities. It owns a

diversified fleet of 78 generating units located throughout the United

States, totaling approximately 8,700 megawatts of generating capacity.

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Q. Please describe your educational and business experience.

From an educational perspective, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Behavioral Science & Law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1989 and a Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law in 1993. I am a member of the American, Chicago, Energy, and Illinois State Bar Associations. I have more than 15 years of experience in all facets of the energy industry. Previously, I served as Senior Regulatory Counsel for Constellation and was responsible for providing legal and regulatory support to all of the regulatory activities of Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. ("CNE") before state and federal regulatory agencies across the country and in Canada. In addition, I acted as Senior Counsel providing primary legal support and counsel for all of CNE's commercial activities in Illinois and Alberta, Canada as well as support for other markets. My previous experience prior to joining Constellation includes five-and-a-half years at DLA Piper, LLP, a 3,600-lawyer law firm, specializing in energy and telecommunications law and regulation and four-and-a-half years as an Assistant State's Attorney, in the Illinois Cook County State's Attorney's Office, focusing on public utility law and regulation.

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Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?

1 A. I am testifying on behalf of CNE and Constellation Energy Commodities
2 Group, Inc. ("CCG").

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- Q. Please provide some background on the Constellation
 Companies on whose behalf you are testifying in the instant
 proceeding.
- 7 A. CNE provides electricity and energy-related services to retail customers in Ohio as well as in 15 other states, the District of Columbia, and two 8 Canadian provinces and serves more than 15,000 megawatts of load and 9 10 more than 10,000 customers. CNE holds a certificate as a competitive retail electric service ("CRES") supplier from the Public Utilities 11 Commission of Ohio ("PUCO" or "the Commission") to engage in the 12 competitive sale of electric service to retail customers in Ohio. CNE 13 14 currently provides service to retail electric customers in Ohio. CCG 15 provides wholesale power and risk management services to wholesale 16 customers (distribution utilities, co-ops, municipalities, power marketers, utilities and other large load serving entities), throughout the United States 17 18 and Canada, in both regulated and restructured, competitive energy 19 markets. CCG is active in the PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM") and 20 Midwest Independent System Operator wholesale power markets and has sold power for wholesale delivery in Ohio. CNE and CCG are subsidiaries 21 of Constellation. 22

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B. Purpose of Testimony

1 Q. Please describe Constellation's interest in this proceeding.

As a licensed CRES provider in the State of Ohio, a registered CRES provider in the service territories of the Columbus Southern Power Company ("Columbus Southern Power") and the Ohio Power Company ("Ohio Power") (collectively, "AEP"), and the largest seller of wholesale power in the U.S., Constellation has a direct pecuniary interest and is extremely interested in this proceeding.

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Q. Was Constellation active in the original AEP ESP proceeding before the PUCO that is the subject of this remand proceeding?

11 **A.** Yes. Constellation submitted testimony, participated in the hearings, and
12 filed briefs in the proceeding. Among other things, Constellation
13 addressed the issue of the proposed provider of last resort ("POLR") charge
14 that AEP was seeking to make non-bypassable for all customers.

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Q. Why is Constellation submitting testimony in this remand proceeding?

On April 19, 2011, the Ohio Supreme Court issued a decision reversing and remanding the PUCO decision in PUCO Docket Nos. 08-917 and 08-918 ("AEP ESP I proceeding"). The Ohio Supreme Court, among other things, found that the PUCO's decision on the issue of the amount of the POLR charge was not supported by the record. Specifically, the Court found that

¹ In re Application of Columbus S. Power Co., 128 Ohio St.3d 512, 947 N.E.2d 655, 2011-Ohio-1788 (2011).

the legal authorization for the POLR charge was purportedly cost-based, but that there was insufficient evidence of AEP's costs to support the Commission's finding. The Court overturned the tariffed POLR charge and gave the Commission the option of rehearing the case to allow AEP to either substantiate the cost of the POLR or provide a legal theory that permits AEP to raise its rates under Section 4928.143, Revised Code for other than its costs.

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Constellation believes that the Commission's decision on remand will have a substantial effect on whether there is any development of a competitive retail market in the AEP Ohio service area. In submitting its testimony in this remand proceeding, AEP Ohio President and Chief Operating Officer Joseph Hamrock included a cover letter that attempts to show a grave and dire situation if the PUCO fails to allow AEP to impose significant non-bypassable generation-related costs onto the backs of Ohio consumers without regard for various other policies articulated by the Ohio General Assembly. As such, the decision that the Commission will make in this remand proceeding will send a signal to the marketplace whether retail competition is viable in the AEP service territories and whether CRES providers like CNE have an opportunity to provide customers with an alternative to service with AEP. Due to its vast experience and participation in the competitive retail and wholesale markets in Ohio and across the country, Constellation will be able to assist in the development of a full and complete record to assist the Commission in its consideration of AEP's ESP Application.

- Q. Please summarize the issues that you will address in your Direct
 Testimony.
- I will address the proposed POLR Rider. As will be discussed below, if the
 Commission fails to alter AEP's proposal on remand, retail competition
 and governmental aggregation will be severely handcuffed and may not
 develop in AEP's service territory as envisioned by the General Assembly
 in the codified state energy policy Section 4928.02, Revised Code and in
 conflict with SB 221.

C. <u>Summary of Recommendations</u>

- Q. Do you have any specific recommendations regarding the proposed POLR Rider?
 - A. Yes. Constellation has two specific recommendations. First, despite the direction from the Ohio Supreme Court, AEP Ohio has failed to provide any legitimate estimate of the costs it incurs due to the Company's POLR obligation. Second, and regardless of the Commission's determination on whether AEP Ohio has met its burden of proof, the Commission should reject AEP's attempt to make the proposed POLR Rider non-bypassable for consumers that do not wish to purchase generation supply from AEP. AEP Ohio should not be allowed to utilize this remand proceeding as a means to change the POLR charge from a bypassable to a non-bypassable charge. This effort goes well beyond the scope of the remand proceeding as ordered by the Supreme Court and, as such, is inappropriate and unlawful.

2	II.	The Imposition of a Non-bypassable
3		POLR Charge Is Not Justified, Is Not

POLR Charge Is Not Justified, Is Not

Necessary, and Will Frustrate Retail Competition

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- 6 Ο. Under Senate Bill 221, do retail customers still retain the right to switch to a CRES provider to receive electric generation 7
- service? 8
- 9 Yes. SB 221 makes clear that the promotion of retail competition is one of A. 10 the policy goals of the State. We are hopeful that the Commission's decision on remand will ensure that Ohio consumers retain a realistic and 11 meaningful opportunity to exercise that fundamental right to choose a 12 13 CRES provider and that retail competition has a chance to develop for the 14 benefit of AEP's customers. One central component of promoting 15 meaningful competition is limiting AEP's recovery to only its actual costs required to serve customers of CRES providers. 16

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- Did the PUCO's original Order allow AEP to impose a non-0. bypassable POLR Charge?
- No. In the Commission's final order in the matter at bar, AEP's request to 20 A. 21 make the POLR charge non-bypassable was rejected and the Commission 22 permitted shopping customers to avoid the POLR charge so long as, if they came back during the Electric Security Plan term, they purchased 23 generation at the higher of market rates or the bundled standard service 24 25 offer rate.

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Q. Is AEP now proposing to make the POLR non-bypassable?

For all intents and purposes, yes. AEP witness Laura Thomas testifies that customers who shop can avoid paying the POLR fee if they agree to return at market rates.² What Ms. Thomas fails to mention is that AEP has apparently interpreted the Commission's March 2009 Opinion and Order in the matter at bar to mean that any customer who elected not to pay the POLR fee had made a permanent election and could never take standard service again at less than the higher of market price or the standard service offer.³ Constellation's experience in the Ohio retail electric market is that customers sign CRES supply contracts for a limited period of time, generally one to three years. Few customers would be willing to trade the avoidance of the POLR fee for 12 to 36 months in exchange for never being able to return to the standard service offer price, should it ever be below market again. That is why virtually nobody has elected to make the POLR fee bypassable.

A.

Q. Has AEP Ohio correctly interpreted the Commission's Opinion and Order as who, when a retail customer who does not pay the POLR charge, may return to standard service without penalty?

20 A. No, the Commission's March 18, 2009 Order stated:

"As noted by several intervenors and Staff, the risk of returning customers may be mitigated, not eliminated by requiring customers that switch to an alternative

² Direct Testimony of Laura Thomas at 6.

³ See the Response of CSP and OPC to the Staff Data Request, Turkenton Informal (June 7) Set served June 13, 2011.

supplier (either through a governmental aggregation or individual CRES providers) to agree to return to market price and pay market price, if they return to the electric utility after taking service from a CRES provider, for the remaining period of the ESP term or until the customer switches to another alternative supplier. (Emphasis added).

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- Q. What has been the effect of limiting the by-passability of the POLR to the permanent loss of the right to purchase bundled standard service at the higher of market or tariff rates?
- 12 **A.** As a practical matter, imposing such a risk makes the POLR fee a non-13 bypassable charge.

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- Q. Should all charges be bypassable when a customer takes service
 from a CRES provider?
- No, only those costs associated with the service they receive from a CRES 17 A. provider should be bypassable. This prevents customers from having to 18 19 pay the utility for services they no longer and do not wish to receive. For example, services which are distribution-related or non-generation supply 20 related should continue to be paid by all customers regardless of whether 21 22 they choose to select a CRES provider or remain with the utility. 23 Customers should only pay for the costs they cause from the services that they purchase. 24

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Q. How do non-bypassable charges potentially cost customers more when their supply offer is lower than the utility standard service offer ("SSO") supply?

It is fairly simple. When a customer takes supply from a CRES provider, 1 A. 2 they are receiving all of their generation-related service from that company. They are no longer taking generation-related service from the 3 4 utility. If a shopping customer is forced to continue to pay the utility for generation-related supply charges plus pay their CRES provider for 5 6 generation service, they are effectively paying twice for the same service. 7 Paying the utility for a service the customer is already receiving from the 8 CRES could cause the customer to pay more for electric power than had 9 they not switched to the CRES provider – even if the CRES supplier's 10 generation is at a lower cost than the standard service offer.

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- Q. Has the General Assembly addressed the issue of whether generation-related expenses can be collected in a utility distribution fee?
- Yes, in Senate Bill 221 the General Assembly amended Section 4928.02

 (H), Revised Code which addresses anti competitive subsidies by specifically: "...prohibiting the recovery of any generation-related costs through distribution or transmission rates".

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- Q. What is the effect on the competitive retail market when shopping customers are required to pay the utility for generation services they do not receive?
- A. Making shopping customers pay AEP for generation service that they do not receive has the potential to destroy the development of the competitive

1 retail market, and in fact was a major contributing factor in the collapse of retail competition and governmental aggregation programs in other Ohio 2 service territories in 2005. 3 4 5 Q. What is AEP's support on remand for making the proposed POLR charge non-bypassable? 6 7 AEP does not support its proposal to impose a non-bypassable POLR A. charge of any amount on all customers, even if that customer is taking 8 9 generation service from someone other than AEP, much less support the 10 amount that it seeks to charge customers. 11 12 Q. What was AEP's justification for imposition of the POLR Charge on a non-bypassable basis in the original proceeding? 13 In the original AEP ESP proceeding, then AEP Witness Baker based the 14 A. justification for a non-bypassable POLR charge on his belief that the 15 Governor, General Assembly, and/or the Commission will not stand by an 16 approved ESP plan if returning governmental aggregation customers have 17 18

to pay market prices. (AEP Witness Baker Direct, p. 27.)

20 How do other competitive retail markets address the POLR risk Q.

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of the default supplier? 21 22 In other well-functioning competitive retail electric markets, where A. 23 customers have the ability to select someone other than the incumbent

default supplier, we do not see the imposition of POLR charges of the

nature that AEP is continuing to propose in this proceeding. Rather, suppliers are asked to take on the risk that AEP describes, and the only source of recovery for this risk for any supplier is (appropriately) within the generation rate. Therefore, AEP's charge should be able to function in similar fashion. In other markets, there is no fee charged to shopping customers for the cost of electric generation, let alone the lost opportunity value of such generation. AEP should be precluded from doing so here.

- Q. If utilities in other states are not imposing a POLR charge on customers that wish to select a competitive retail supplier, how do they protect themselves from the POLR risks outlined by the various AEP witnesses?
- A. It has been our experience that such risks are addressed through switching rules, enrollment windows or notice provisions, and default service rates that compensate the POLR supplier for their actual costs to serve a returning customer. Other states require returning customers to take service that mimics or tracks a verifiable index such as the PJM West Hourly or Day-Ahead price for on-peak and off-peak power. For example, this approach is utilized as the default rate for customer classes that are declared "competitive" in the Commonwealth Edison Company service territory in Illinois.

Q. Do all Ohio POLR suppliers apply a POLR or Standby Charge on customers to address this POLR risk?

No. Neither the FirstEnergy Companies nor Duke Energy - Ohio ("DE-Ohio") impose a non-bypassable POLR charge. DE-Ohio does not impose any penalty on customers who elect not to pay the POLR charge and return after the Electric Security Plan term has ended. Further, if a customer who has elected not to pay the POLR charge does come back for standard service during the term of the Electric Security Plan, the rate is set at the standard service price plus 15%. Cleveland Electric Illuminating, Toledo Edison and Ohio Edison ("FE-Ohio") do not have a POLR charge. Customers are free to come and go from standard service and that migration risk is simply incorporated in the bid price. That is typical of all competitive procurements for full requirements – the supplier does not get additional funds for customers that switch back to utility load. Rather, by bidding out the responsibility for POLR to the wholesale providers, FE-Ohio has used the market to find the overall lowest cost provider of service.

A.

- Q. What is your opinion regarding the manner in which FE-Ohio and DE-Ohio address their POLR risks, as compared to that proposed by AEP?
- As a CRES provider to Ohio customers in the FE-Ohio and DE-Ohio service territories, the manner in which these other Ohio EDUs address the issue is preferable to the mandatory imposition of a non-bypassable POLR charge. Further, given the language of the Commission's March 18,

2009 Opinion and Order in this case, I believe the Commission thought it was implementing a somewhat uniform approach.

4 Q. What would be a reasonable POLR charge?

A. The basic POLR charge should be only the cost for the Company to stand ready to purchase generation for the customer in the open market. That should be nominal, if it exists at all. AEP should not be permitted to charge a reserve payment based on forecasted costs, based on a variety of assumptions that may be inaccurate. Instead, AEP should receive recovery of their actual costs, as those costs are incurred. In sum, if a customer switches back to utility service, AEP should only at that time be entitled to recovery, and should be limited to recovery of their actual costs. In accordance with the Remand Order from the Ohio Supreme Court, that POLR charge cannot be a black box calculation or option model if authorized under Section 4928.143, Revised Code; it must be based on actual costs.

18 III. Conclusion

- Q. Please summarize why the Commission should consider the effects of ESP pricing, which includes non-bypassable generation-related charges, on shopping customers.
- When reviewing the benefits of the ESP, the Commission must include in their analysis the fact that S.B. 221 retained the right of customers to select someone other than the utility for their electricity supply. The

Commission must consider the economic reality for customer choice and customer switching when evaluating AEP's POLR testimony.

Customers who shop with a CRES provider have a variety of products to choose from, including the ability to fix a rate at any point in the market. The imposition of non-bypassable charges, such as AEP's proposed POLR Rider, is detrimental to the ability of customers to shop — especially when market prices are competitive with or below the utility SSO price. At that point, the benefits of paying a lower price for generation outweigh any benefit of deferrals which may artificially lower prices in the short term but cost more in the long term. As I explained earlier, the imposition of a number of inappropriate non-bypassable charges only benefits AEP — to the detriment of customers. AEP should not be permitted to charge a reserve payment based on forecasted costs, based on a variety of assumptions that may be inaccurate. Instead, AEP should receive not more than recovery of their actual costs, as those costs are incurred.

- Q. Please summarize your recommendations regarding AEP's remand testimony in support of its' proposed POLR charge.
 - A. The Commission should **reject** AEP's attempts to impose generation-related costs, such as the proposed POLR Rider, onto consumers that do not purchase generation supply from AEP.
- 23 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 24 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served upon the following persons via email this 30th day of June, 2011.

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