BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbus Southern Power Company)
And Ohio Power Company for Authority) Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO
To Establish a Standard Service Offer) Case No. 11-348-EL-SSO
Pursuant to §4928.143, Ohio Rev. Code,)
In the Form of an Electric Security Plan.)
In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbus Southern Power Company)
And Ohio Power Company for) Case No. 11-349-EL-AAM
Approval of) Case No. 11-350-EL-AAM
Certain Accounting Authority.)

Direct Testimony of Teresa L. Ringenbach In Support of September 7, 2011 Stipulation

On Behalf of the Retail Energy Supply Association

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

September 13, 2011

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1 I. Introduction 2 A. **Identification of Witness** 3 Q. Please state your name and your business address. 4 My name is Teresa Ringenbach. My business address is 9605 El Camino Lane, A. 5 Plain City, Ohio. 6 7 Q. By whom are you employed? 8 A. I am the Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Midwest 9 for Direct Energy, LLC ("Direct Energy"). I am also the Ohio Retail Energy 10 Supply Association ("RESA") representative for electricity. 11 12 O. Please describe your position with Direct Energy. 13 A. I am responsible for monitoring, advocating and defending regulatory and 14 legislative activities which affect Direct Energy's ability to serve customers in 15 Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan. My responsibilities cover 16 electric, natural gas, and home services issues for all levels of customers from 17 residential to large industrial. As the RESA Ohio electric representative, my 18 responsibilities include advocating the RESA guiding principles for open, fair and 19 transparent markets in the retail electric markets. 20 21 Q. Please describe the Retail Energy Supply Association ("RESA") and your 22 role within the organization. 23 A. RESA is a broad and diverse group of retail energy suppliers who share the

common vision that competitive retail energy markets deliver a more efficient,

customer-oriented outcome than regulated utility structure. We are devoted to working with all stakeholders to promote vibrant and sustainable competitive retail energy markets for residential, commercial and industrial consumers. I was the Ohio state Chair of RESA's Electric Caucus for six years and am the current Ohio natural gas state chair.

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Q. Please describe your educational and business experience.

I hold a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in International Business from the University of Toledo. I started in the energy industry in 2001 with Integrys Energy Services, Inc., formerly WPS Energy Services, Inc., as a Customer Service and Marketing Specialist promoting and managing the recently opened Ohio residential and small commercial electric offers. In 2002, I accepted the position of Account Manager - Inside Sales where I sold and managed the Government Aggregation Programs for both gas and electric. In 2005, I accepted the position of Regulatory Specialist. In this position I was responsible for regulatory compliance and state registrations throughout the United States and Canada. In 2006, I accepted the position of Regulatory Affairs Analyst – East covering New England, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania gas and electric issues. In the spring of 2008, I accepted the Regulatory Affairs Analyst position for the Midwest region covering Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and all of Canada. In this position, I directed the regulatory and legislative efforts affecting Integrys Energy's gas and electric business. In August 2009, I joined Direct Energy as the Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Midwest. In June 2011 I was promoted to Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Midwest. As stated above this position advocates, protects and monitors regulatory and legislative activities affecting the gas, electric and home services business interests of Direct.

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Q. Please describe your experience with the introduction of electric competition in Ohio.

During the market development period established under Senate Bill 3, I was the Ohio Customer Service and Marketing Specialist for Integrys Energy Services. In that capacity, I was responsible for the administration and sales of electric government aggregation programs in Ohio. This role required an understanding of the electric government aggregation rules, an understanding of residential and small commercial pricing, coordination with FirstEnergy Supplier Support, PUCO staff, City governments, customer service and consumer education. implemented the internal policies of Integrys Energy to ensure compliance with all rules and regulations. I also created a newsletter and reviewed call center scripts to ensure customers were educated and aware of the latest information affecting the programs. My role included drafting the Plan of Operation and Governance plans, participation in public meetings, community events and charitable contributions in the communities we served. In addition, I acted as the liaison between our communities, pricing and legal for contract renewals and savings updates. My role grew to include participation and support for any company regulatory proceedings affecting our customers and providing the detailed information to support our regulatory efforts in Ohio. I participated in the

drafting and lobbying of Senate Bill 221 on behalf of Integrys. I testified before the legislature on SB 221. Subsequently, I have participated in rulemaking proceedings to implement SB 221. I have also testified in the FirstEnergy MRO/ESP proceedings, participated in Duke ESP I and MRO proceeding and in AEP Ohio's first ESP proceedings. Finally, as part of RESA, I have participated in workshops and assisted with filings concerning the Renewable Portfolio Standard established by SB 221.

9 Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?

A. I am testifying on behalf of RESA.

12 II. SUPPORT OF THE STIPULATION

- 13 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?
- **A.** To present the reasons that RESA supports the Stipulation and why they believe approval by the Commission will be in the public interest.¹

- 17 Q. Please summarize the reasons that RESA support the Stipulation.
- 18 A. In my original testimony filed in this proceeding on behalf of RESA, there were five key policy and tariff issues that were raised in regards to the Application.

¹ RESA's members include: Champion Energy Services, LLC; ConEdison Solutions; Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.; Direct Energy Services, LLC; Energetix, Inc.; Energy Plus Holdings, LLC; Exelon Energy Company; GDF SUEZ Energy Resources NA, Inc.; Green Mountain Energy Company; Hess Corporation; Integrys Energy Services, Inc.; Just Energy; Liberty Power; MC Squared Energy Services, LLC; Mint Energy, LLC; MXenergy; NextEra Energy Services; Noble Americas Energy Solutions LLC; PPL EnergyPlus, LLC; Reliant and TriEagle Energy, L.P.. The comments expressed in this filing represent the position of RESA as an organization but may not represent the views of any particular member of RESA.

The failure of the Application to adequately address those five policy and tariff issues was the basis for RESA to urge the Commission to reject the Application. For the reasons stated below, RESA believes the Stipulation adequately address all five of these issues. After consultation with counsel, RESA also believes that, unlike the Application, the Stipulation is not in violation of any statute or regulatory principle and is in the public interest. Thus, RESA supports the Commission's approval of the Stipulation as presented.

A.

Q. What was the first key policy and tariff issue?

The Application proposed the imposition of a litany of non-bypassable generation-related riders that would be charged to customers that selected generation service from a competitive retail electric service ("CRES") provider. In effect, these riders would have forced shopping customers to pay for AEP generation services that they were not using. The Stipulation eliminates those riders, including specifically: the Facilities Closure Cost Recovery Rider; the NERC Compliance Cost Recovery Rider; the Carbon Capture and Sequestration Rider; the Provider of Last Resort Rider; the Environmental Investment Carrying Charges Rider; the Rate Security Rider; and the non bypassable charges for environmental unit / rededication charges.

Q. What was the second key policy and tariff issue?

A. RESA believed that the lack of a competitive wholesale solicitation process for electric power and energy to help meet AEP Ohio's standard service offer

("SSO") and POLR needs violated the Ohio Energy Policy. The Ohio Energy Policy requires the provision of both reasonably priced energy and capacity as well as a regulatory structure which will provide a diversity of supplies and suppliers for retail customers.

Another key provision of the Stipulation is the agreement that AEP Ohio shall adopt a competitive wholesale procurement process (CBP) to serve the SSO. The CBP will be an auction-type format similar to that in current use by Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison and Cleveland Electric Illuminating (FirstEnergy). While RESA would prefer to see the CBP implemented immediately, RESA understands that there are unique factors associated with AEP's structure which inhibit an immediate move to the CBP. The fact that AEP Ohio is agreeing to set in motion a transition period that will lead to a competitive market model, is a reasonable compromise given AEP's unique situation.

In addition to agreeing to the use of a CBP to serve the SSO, the Stipulation calls for AEP Ohio to provide notice to PJM by March of 2012, that it intends to end its term as a Fixed Resource Requirement (FRR) entity and bid all of its load into the next base residual auction under the Reliability Pricing Model (RPM) construct. Further, the Stipulation [Appendix B] provides a timetable with milestones and penalties to assure that the numerous legal and administrative tasks necessary to complete the change to wholesale auction standard service procurement is accomplished by the 2015 PJM service year.

Simply put, RESA believes that a three-year transition from AEP's legacy capacity monopoly structure to a structure that relies upon a competitive wholesale procurement process that includes AEP Ohio moving its generation into the PJM RPM capacity auction in May 2012 represents a reasonable amount of time to implement a change in capacity use, dedication, and pricing of this magnitude.

A.

Q. What was the third key policy and tariff issue?

In my original testimony, I described how the increase in the capacity charge that AEP proposed in Case No. 10-2929-EL-SSO, to which RESA members Constellation and Direct Energy were parties, threatened retail shopping. Currently, in accordance with the December 8, 2010 Entry in Case No. 10-2929-EL-SSO, the Capacity Charge that AEP Ohio charges competitive retail electric service providers is set at an "interim rate" equal to the applicable PJM RPM auction price for the 2011-12 delivery year. In the referenced proceeding, AEP Ohio asked that the Commission set the Capacity Charge at \$347/MW-day. AEP Ohio filed similar requests to increase the Capacity Charge at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). Had this price been approved, customers of CRES providers who contracted for capacity at prevailing RPM prices would have experienced a significant price shock.

The Stipulation brings closure, and therefore regulatory certainty, to this important issue by granting intervenors like RESA their request to have the Capacity Charge based on the PJM RPM auction price and to dismiss the FERC

cases. The Stipulation provides that over the next 41 months, shopping customers will receive, on a modified first come first served basis, RPM-priced capacity until an increasing yearly limit of retail kWh is reached.

Specifically, in calendar year 2012, CRES providers will be able to offer RPM-priced capacity to customers whose load represents 21% of AEP Ohio's total retail load. Notably, on June 1, 2012, the RPM-priced capacity will drop from \$116.16/MW-day to \$16.52/MW-day. Any retail kWh that exceeds 21% of the total AEP Ohio retail load will be priced at AEP's \$255/MW-day capacity charge.

In calendar year 2013, the percentage of retail shopping load eligible for RPM-priced capacity (which in June 2013 will be set at \$27.73/MW-day) will increase to a range between 29% to 31%. The percentage will increase to 31% if AEP Ohio has fully implemented securitization of certain regulatory assets.

In calendar year 2014, 41% of retail load will be eligible for RPM-priced capacity (which will be \$125.94/MW-day starting in June of 2014).

Finally, in June 2015 when the auction procurement for SSO begins, all retail load in the AEP Ohio footprint will be set at the applicable RPM price.

In the instant proceeding, both RESA and Constellation took the position that all retail load that switches to a CRES provider should be subject to the applicable RPM rate for capacity. The Stipulation is a compromise in which RPM pricing will be universal for all AEP Ohio customers in June 2015. Until that date, there is a "glide path" of an increasing percentage of shopping load that can purchase capacity at the lower RPM rates. This compromise provides time

for AEP to transition away from FRR and into a full RPM model while protecting customers who have already switched from price shock and allowing customers who were looking to switch, but had not done so due to the uncertainty created by this case, to benefit from RPM-priced capacity. Should shopping percentages exceed the established level of RPM-priced capacity under the Stipulation, AEP Ohio would still make capacity available to CRES providers at a capacity charge of \$255/MW-day. The \$255/MW-day capacity charge under the Stipulation is significantly less than AEP's requested \$347/MW-day charge, but above the RPM auction results applicable during the transition period. In sum, there is no hard and fast cap on shopping itself, only a temporary limit on the availability of RPM-priced capacity for customers. Ultimately, the settlement agrees that capacity will be set at market rates through the RPM auction process thus removing the complications and limited transparency of setting CRES provider capacity pricing under FRR.

A.

Q. What was the fourth key policy and tariff issue?

The Application included a Generation Resource Rider ("GRRI") which was designed to recover the energy and capacity costs of new generation projects on a non bypassable basis. RESA believes that all new generation facilities must stand or fail in the competitive market based on the efficiencies of supply and demand. In addition, RESA believes customers who have contracted to buy their energy and capacity from a CRES provider should not be made to pay for utility projects dedicated to SSO customers. The Stipulation makes clear that in

accordance with Section 4928.143, Revised Code, AEP Ohio may seek approval for a non-bypassable generation unit, but the Stipulation does not preordain or approve such a filing. Thus, should AEP Ohio make such an application it would have to meet the statutory standards of showing need, proper dedication, and that the project was subject to a competitive bid. Further, all parties including the signatory parties can challenge such a project and take whatever position they choose.

A.

Q. What was the fifth key policy and tariff issue?

The fifth key policy and tariff issue with the Application as viewed by RESA was the failure of AEP Ohio to address long standing barriers which needlessly deter shopping in its utility territories. These barriers include: (i) the lack of data and information necessary to identify customers and create appropriately priced product offers available in a usable, timely manner to CRES providers; (ii) the 90 day notice that some customers were required to provide *prior* to submitting a switch to a CRES; (iii) the one year minimum stay requirement for large customers who have shopped and then returned to SSO; (iv) the \$10 switching fee and; (v) the seasonal shopping limits on customers returning to SSO. Paragraph S of the Stipulation addresses these concerns. Under the Stipulation, CRES providers will now be provided a Master Customer List, with PLC capacity and NSPL transmission information. Further, participating CRES providers on the AEP Ohio system will get historic usage via EDI 867 protocols and enrollment responses via the EDI 814 protocols. AEP Ohio will also eliminate the 90 day

notice that certain customers have to provide before they can shop, the minimum stay requirements for large customers, and the seasonal stay requirements of the smaller customers. Finally, AEP Ohio agrees to discuss reducing the \$10 switching fee.

Q. Does RESA support the GS-2 Shopping Credit Mechanism and the Exemption of GS-1 and GS-2 School buildings from the Market Transition

8 Rider?

A.

Yes. The purpose of the Market Transition Rider (MTR) is to mitigate the impact a market pricing transition could cause by creating a cross payment from customer classes that will transition to lower market prices to customer classes that will experience higher prices. The MTR is reduced each year and ends with the market procurement in June of 2015. For shopping GS-2 customers who are generally low load factor, the MTR is a non-bypassable fee which, on average, will cost Columbus Southern GS-2 customers 1.58¢ per kWh. When this non-bypassable rider is combined with the lower generation rate under the Stipulation, the shopping credit (the amount of the standard service price that can be offset by shopping) is substantially reduced for GS-2 customers. To assure that this market transition mechanism does not in and of itself prevent shopping, a shopping credit for GS-2 is established in the amount of 1.0¢ per kWh.

To mitigate the GS-2 credit impact to other customers, the GS-2 credit mechanism is capped at \$10 million dollars a year.

The MTR will substantially increase the cost of power to School districts who operate buildings that fall within GS-1 and GS-2 rate classes regardless of whether the School shops or not. While mitigating the transition to market has merit, the Commission should also be cognizant of the unintended consequences of the MTR to disproportionately increase the cost of electricity to schools which have buildings that belong to the GS-1 and GS-2 classes. This Commission has often treated Schools differently that other customers such as the School tariff rates in Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison, and Cleveland Electric Illuminating. The special treatment for schools under the Stipulation is an attempt to maintain their existing electricity rates and mitigate any increases schools may see during the transition in light of the reduction in state education funding. To achieve this goal, all GS-1 and GS-2 school buildings should be excluded from the MTR. Further, GS-2 school buildings that are shopping should receive the GS-2 credit to offset the effects of the Load Factor Rider. Many schools in the AEP territory are served by CRES providers and have been for the past ten years. The proposed credit and exemption ensure that they do not receive an unexpected rate hike under their existing contracts due to the Stipulation.

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Judging from the discovery that has been served on RESA it is clear that some opponents of the Stipulation believe that Schools should not receive the relief provided in the Stipulation. For them I would note that Schools serve an important social function, are largely tax payer supported and as such can be treated differently than other commercial class customers. Further, since schools do not compete commercially with other types of businesses the discrimination in

1	favor of schools will not unfairly treat commercial competitors and will benefit
2	all tax payers by reducing the cost of a publically financed activity.

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- 4 Q. Please summarize your recommendations regarding AEP's ESP Application.
- RESA believes that the Stipulation was negotiated among knowledgeable and informed parties. Support for the Stipulation is widespread and covers a broad and diverse group of stakeholder interests. The Stipulation violates no law, rule or regulatory principle. Finally, the Stipulation will ultimately move AEP Ohio to a competitive wholesale market which should be of great benefit to all retail customers. This transition should also lead to a more workable market structure that will lead to the further development of retail competition.

- 13 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 14 A. Yes, though I reserve my right to file rebuttal testimony.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties listed below via electronic mail and/or regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 13th day of

September, 2011.

M. Howard Petricoff

noth

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