BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

BEFOR		AISSION OF OHIO
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan, Accounting Modifications and Tariffs for Generation Service.)))))	Case No. 11-3549-EL-SSO
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio for Authority to Amend its Certified Supplier Tariff, P.U.C.O. No. 20.)	Case No. 11-3550-EL-ATA
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio for Authority to Amend its Corporate Separation Plan.)	Case No. 11-3551-EL-UNC

Direct Testimony In Support of October 24, 2011 Stipulation Of David I. Fein

On Behalf of The Retail Energy Supply Association

Dated: October 28, 2011

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1 I. INTRODUCTION

- 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.

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- 10 Q. Please describe your position with Constellation.
- 11 A. I am Vice President of Energy Policy in the Midwest and Pennsylvania for
- 12 Constellation as well as Director of Retail Energy Policy. On
- 13 Constellation's behalf I am also presenting testimony concerning how the
- 14 Stipulation in the matter at bar impacts Constellation. A more complete
- description of my duties with Constellation is contained in that direct
- prepared testimony.

- 18 Q. Please describe your educational and business experience.
- 19 A. From an educational perspective, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political
- 20 Science and Behavioral Science & Law from the University of Wisconsin-
- 21 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
- 23 Illinois State Bar Associations. I have more than 19 years of experience in
- 24 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.

Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?

I am testifying on the Retail Energy Supply Association ("RESA").

Currently, I serve as the President of RESA as well as the Chair of its Ohio

Electric group.

A.

Q. Please describe RESA.

RESA is a national trade association made up of a diverse group of retail energy suppliers who share the common vision that competitive retail energy markets deliver a more efficient, customer-oriented outcome than the traditional monopoly utility structure. Several RESA members are certificated as competitive retail electric service ("CRES") providers and active in the Ohio retail market. Specifically, some of RESA's members currently provide CRES service to residential, commercial, industrial, and governmental customers in Ohio including customers in the Duke Energy Ohio service area. RESA's members include ConEdison Solutions; Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.; Direct Energy Services, 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; NextEra Energy Services; Noble Americas Energy Solutions LLC; PPL EnergyPlus; and Reliant Energy Northeast LLC.

Q. Please describe RESA's interest in this proceeding.

13 A. RESA has an interest in participating in the instant proceeding as its
14 members provide electric power and energy to retail customers in the Duke
15 Energy service territory. Further, RESA members, because they
16 participate in the competitive retail markets in Ohio and across the country
17 can bring the experience and best practices in other states and utility
18 service areas.

II. SUPPORT OF THE STIPULATION AND RECOMMENDATION

21 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

22 A. To present the reasons that RESA supports the Stipulation and
23 Recommendation ("Stipulation") and why we believe Commission
24 approval of the Stipulation will be in the public interest. For the reasons

stated below, unlike the Application, RESA believes the Stipulation is a reasonable compromise and resolution of the issues. Based upon the advice of counsel, RESA believes that 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.

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Q. Please summarize why RESA supports the Stipulation.

- 8 **A.** The Stipulation provides settlement of a number of important issues that
 9 will lead to further development of the competitive market in the Duke
 10 Energy Ohio service territory. Those include:
 - The use of a competitive wholesale procurement process to establish the SSO;
 - The transfer of Duke Energy Ohio's legacy generation assets into a separate subsidiary;
 - The development of a variety of retail market enhancements, including:
 - O Development of a secure, web-based system that will provide electronic access to key customer usage and account data that can be accessed via a secure, supplier website that presents a variety of data and information. In the interim, Duke Energy Ohio agrees that certain information will be added to the existing web system;
 - o The provision of certain types of data via EDI transactions;

o A quarterly updated sync list to CRES providers showing the 1 2 accounts that are enrolled with the CRES provider and certain 3 other data and information; o The required interval meter threshold size requirement will 4 change from 100kW to 200kW; 5 o A collaborative process to discuss the deployment of an electric 6 7 vehicle (EV) ecosystem that works in tandem with a competitive 8 retail market; and 9 o Annual meetings or conference calls with registered CRES 10 providers to discuss supplier coordination issues affecting CRES 11 providers, including but not limited to CRES consolidated 12 billing. A guarantee that all energy efficiency programs and rebates are 13 14 available at the same terms and conditions to customers, regardless of 15 whether they purchase generation service from a CRES provider or Duke Energy Ohio. 16 17 SmartGrid meters and data are available to all customers on a competitively neutral basis and without regard to their status as a 18 19 shopping or non-shopping customer. 20 • The switching fee will be reduced from \$7.00 to \$5.00. 21 Bill-ready billing will be made functional and available as soon as 22 commercially and reasonably practicable, but in no event later than 23 September 30, 2013.

- The per-bill charges for consolidated, bill-ready billing will be reduced to 50 percent of the existing rate.
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- Q. Please explain why it is important that this ESP address retail competition in Duke Energy Ohio's service territory and not only a wholesale procurement.
- Of all the Ohio utilities today Duke Energy has the most thriving 7 A. competitive retail market. There are multiple suppliers behind Duke 8 9 serving customers of all classes from residential to industrial. An ESP 10 which focused solely on wholesale procurement while good for expanding 11 market reflective POLR service is pointless if customers no longer have the 12 ability to shop. This settlement balances both sides of a competitive market by eliminating certain barriers to information that limit the types 13 14 of retail supplier offers and raise costs to reach customers.

- 16 Q. Please discuss why you believe that Duke Energy's ESP will 17 promote the continued and further development of retail 18 competition within its service territory.
- 19 A. The Stipulation takes a number of important steps to facilitate the ability
 20 of CRES providers to provide competitive service to retail customers.
 21 Specifically, paragraphs IV. O, P, and T of the Stipulation address many of
 22 these important matters and they are listed above. As discussed above,
 23 under the Stipulation, Duke Energy Ohio has agreed to modify their
 24 existing retail tariffs and business practices so that CRES providers are

provided with a plethora of enhanced data and information to better enable the development of retail competition.

A.

Q. Why is it important that such information be provided to CRES Providers?

By providing this type of data and information, CRES providers will be better able to provide services to prospective customers, better able to meet the needs of existing customers, and better able to manage their businesses. More accurate and timely data allows suppliers to offer more customized price offerings to customers upfront rather than relying on customers to provide copies of their bills to receive more customized CRES offers. Further, provision of this type of data and information allows a CRES Provider to provide a prospective customer with a competitive offer for electric service, check the enrollment status of a new customer, and perform other functions designed to better serve customers.

A.

Q. Are there any more granular or specific issues associated with access to interval data for customers with interval meters?

Yes. If CRES providers do not receive timely and accurate delivery of interval data, this not only impacts suppliers' ability to provide price quotations to customers but also frustrates their ability to issue an invoice to a customer on a timely basis, which inconveniences customers and increases suppliers' costs.

- Q. Does the Stipulation address the billing options that are
 available for CRES providers?
- Yes, in a couple respects. First, Duke Energy Ohio has agreed to make the
 Bill Ready utility consolidated bill option functional. Second, Duke Energy
 Ohio has agreed to discuss Supplier Consolidated Billing options with
 interested CRES providers. Third, Duke Energy Ohio has agreed to
 implement a Purchase of Accounts Receivables (PAR) program with a zero
 discount and the flexibility that allows CRES providers to determine which
 customers and/or classes of customers that utilize the PAR program.

- Q. Are there any other aspects of the Stipulation that RESA would like to comment on?
- **A.** Yes. The Stipulation sets up a collaborative to work on electric vehicle
 14 issues. The electric vehicles collaborative will allow various market
 15 participants the opportunity to discuss policy and other issues related to
 16 successful deployment of electric vehicles and their supporting
 17 infrastructure.

- Q. Do you have any final comments on how the Stipulation will better promote retail competition in the Duke Energy service territory?
- **A.** Yes. By approving the Stipulation, the Commission will establish a framework that will better support the continued development of retail

competition, large-scale government aggregation, and competitive wholesale electric markets.

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4 III. <u>Conclusion and Summary of Recommendations</u>

- Q. Please summarize your conclusions and recommendations
 regarding the Stipulation in Duke Energy Ohio's ESP.
- 7 A. RESA believes that the Stipulation was negotiated among knowledgeable 8 and informed parties. Support for the Stipulation is widespread and 9 virtually unanimous and covers a broad and diverse group of stakeholder 10 Based upon the advice of counsel, RESA believes that the interests. 11 Stipulation violates no law, rule or regulatory principle. 12 Stipulation will move Duke Energy Ohio into a competitive wholesale market which should be of great benefit to all retail customers. This 13 14 should also lead to a more workable market structure that will lead to the 15 further development of retail and wholesale competition to the benefit of 16 Duke Energy Ohio consumers.

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The Commission has an opportunity to be a steadying force in the continued evolution of the competitive electric market in Ohio. The resolution of the issues pertaining to Duke Energy's ESP as presented in the Stipulation is the best means for the procurement of SSO. Pursuant to the Stipulation, Duke Energy's ESP will bring the benefits of wholesale competition to customers who do not choose a competitive alternative to

- Duke Energy's SSO and should help foster the continued evolution of the
- 2 competitive retail electric market.

- 4 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 5 **A.** Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served this 28th day of October, 2011 by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or by electronic mail, upon the persons listed below.

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