

**BEFORE**

**THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 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	)	Case No. 14-841-EL-SSO
an Electric Security Plan, Accounting	)	
Modifications and Tariffs for Generation	)	
Service.	)	

In the Matter of the Application of Duke	)	
Energy Ohio for Authority to Amend its	)	Case No. 14-842-EL-ATA
Certified Supplier Tariff, P.U.C.O. No. 20.	)	

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**DUKE ENERGY OHIO'S MEMORANDUM CONTRA  
MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSES TO DISCOVERY**

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Pursuant to the provisions of O.A.C. 4901-1-12(B)(1) and the attorney examiner's schedule for these proceedings, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., (Duke Energy Ohio or Company) hereby files its memorandum contra a Motion to Compel Responses to Discovery (Motion to Compel Responses), filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) on July 18, 2014, by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC).

Duke Energy Ohio respectfully submits that the Commission should deny the Motion to Compel Responses.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

In yet another motion, OCC again addresses the question of terms for a confidentiality agreement between OCC and the Company, pursuant to which OCC may obtain access to the Company's proprietary information. OCC entitles this motion as one

to “compel responses to discovery.” But the body of the document reveals that OCC’s true intent is to compel Duke Energy Ohio<sup>1</sup> to enter into a confidentiality agreement that, based upon recent experience, fails to provide the Company with adequate protections in the event of a breach.

OCC fails to provide any factual or legal basis for its motion. It should be denied.

## II. ARGUMENT

OCC structures the Motion to Compel Responses as if it were actually embroiled in an unresolvable dispute with Duke Energy Ohio over whether Duke Energy Ohio must answer specific discovery requests. It even includes boilerplate language discussing the statutory right to ample discovery. But there is no dispute. The discovery responses that the Company has not provided to OCC are ones that seek confidential, proprietary information; they are not ones that the Company has refused to answer on the ground of irrelevance. OCC knows this. Indeed, as OCC admits, “the PUCO should find that [OCC’s draft] protective agreement . . . is appropriate and adopt it for purposes of allowing OCC access to information . . .” “The PUCO should . . . rule that [OCC’s draft] protective agreement . . . must be executed by Duke.”<sup>2</sup> There is no existing dispute, as defined in O.A.C. 4901-1-23(A), in need of Commission resolution.

It is noteworthy that O.A.C. 4901-1-23, pursuant to which OCC claims to have filed, does not address matters related to confidentiality. Rather, such issues are covered

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<sup>1</sup> The actual language in OCC’s motion requests that the Commission compel DP&L to enter into a protective agreement. In order not to waste the Commission’s time any further, Duke Energy Ohio will simply assume that OCC meant to say “Duke” and will not move to strike this motion. *Cf., In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for an Increase in Gas Rates*, Case No. 12-1685-GA-AIR, *et al.*, Joint Motion to Strike by the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel, Kroger Company, Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Request for Expedited Ruling (moving to strike Duke Energy Ohio’s motion based on feigned confusion resulting from typographical error).

<sup>2</sup> Motion to Compel Responses, pp. 2, 11.

by O.A.C. 4901-1-24. That rule specifically states that a motion concerning how confidential material is to be disclosed is to be filed only by the party from whom discovery is sought. That party is the Company, not OCC. Its effort to cast its motion as one to compel discovery is an effort to circumvent the Commission's rules.

OCC also misstates the parties' resolution efforts. From OCC's filing, it appears that:

- The Company "is steadfast in its belief that its newly revised protective agreement should be the basis for agreement."
- The Company "has been willing to negotiate some of the terms."
- OCC has been "persistent."<sup>3</sup>

What is not clear from this document is that the Company has heavily revised its proposal, including the deletion of substantively important terms, and that OCC is "steadfast" in its unwillingness to compromise whatsoever.

With regard to the specific complaints that OCC again raises with regard to the Company's proposed confidentiality agreement, these items have, largely, been previously briefed by both parties. The Company will not waste the Commission's time with any further discussion. Rather, the Company incorporates herein its Reply to Memorandum Contra Motion for Protective Order, filed in these proceedings on July 17, 2014.

One elaboration by OCC does deserve a response. OCC complains about contractual language through which parties would agree, prior to any breach, that a violation of the contract's terms would have a specified impact. OCC asserts that such a

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<sup>3</sup> Motion to Compel Responses, pp. 1-2 (emphasis added).

provision is “unreasonable and inconsistent with the burden of proof in a breach of contract action.” OCC is wrong. This is not an uncommon provision in a contract, although it certainly does impact what issues must be proven in case of breach. And that is intentional. If a recipient of the Company’s proprietary information chooses to breach the confidentiality agreement, Duke Energy Ohio should not have to prove these issues. To avoid any negative impact of this provision, OCC need only abide by the terms of the confidentiality agreement it signs.

The additional provisions that OCC demands “for protection as a state agency” were never fully addressed between the parties, as OCC refused to sign the document before it even reviewed the modifications that Duke Energy Ohio agreed to. Despite this behavior, OCC now ironically urges specific protections that it needs as the potential recipient of another entity’s confidential information, yet cannot even discuss the adequate protections that that entity needs to provide such information.

That OCC’s version of a confidentiality agreement is based on one that has been used before is irrelevant and of no legal import. There is nothing to say that an agreement that was once satisfactory must continue to be so. But perhaps more troubling than OCC’s refusal to even consider a revised confidentiality agreement is its disregard for Commission rules. It is accepted – and undeniably understood – that a motion to compel is not summarily filed. Litigants are required first to endeavor to resolve a dispute amongst themselves, prior to burdening the Commission. Here, however, OCC did no such thing and its purported demonstration of “good faith” is misplaced.

OCC, through counsel, made no attempt to communicate with Duke Energy Ohio as to any of the responses the Company provided in respect of the discovery set forth in

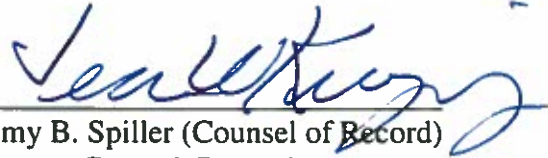
Exhibit 3 to the Motion to Compel. Indeed, counsel's affidavit mentions no such efforts. Rather, counsel's attestations recount only those exchanges relating to a confidentiality agreement. Despite this blatant omission, counsel offers her sworn testimony under O.A.C. 4901-1-23, suggesting that somehow a conversation on one matter satisfies her obligation to exhaust all extrajudicial means of reaching an amicable resolution with regard to specific discovery requests and responses thereto. This disregard for the rules, demonstrated at a time when the Commission has before it the Company's Motion for Protective Order, cannot be cured by simply cloaking inapplicable statements in an affidavit.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Duke Energy Ohio respectfully submits that the Commission should deny the Motion to Compel Responses.

Respectfully submitted,

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.



Amy B. Spiller (Counsel of Record)  
Deputy General Counsel

Rocco O. D'Ascenzo

Associate General Counsel

Jeanne W. Kingery

Associate General Counsel

Elizabeth H. Watts

Associate General Counsel

139 E. Fourth Street, 1303-Main

P.O. Box 961

Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-0960

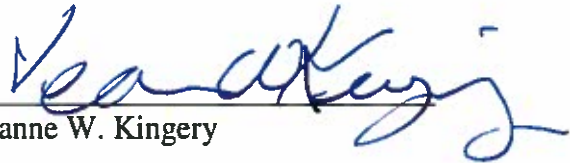
(513) 287-4359 (telephone)

(513) 287-4385 (facsimile)

Amy.Spiller@duke-energy.com (e-mail)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was delivered by U.S. mail (postage prepaid), personal, or electronic mail, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2014, to the parties listed below.

  
Jeanne W. Kingery

Steven Beeler  
Thomas Lindgren  
Ryan O'Rourke  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Public Utilities Section  
180 East Broad St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[Steven.beeler@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:Steven.beeler@puc.state.oh.us)  
[Thomas.lindgren@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:Thomas.lindgren@puc.state.oh.us)  
[Ryan.orourke@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:Ryan.orourke@puc.state.oh.us)

**Counsel for Staff of the Commission**

Kevin R. Schmidt  
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1770  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[schmidt@sppgrp.com](mailto:schmidt@sppgrp.com)

**Counsel for the Energy Professionals  
of Ohio**

David F. Boehm  
Michael L. Kurtz  
Jody M. Kyler Cohn  
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry  
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 1510  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
[dboehm@BKLawfirm.com](mailto:dboehm@BKLawfirm.com)  
[mkurtz@BKLawfirm.com](mailto:mkurtz@BKLawfirm.com)  
[jkylercohn@BKLawfirm.com](mailto:jkylercohn@BKLawfirm.com)

**Counsel for the Ohio Energy Group**

Mark A. Hayden  
Jacob A. McDermott  
Scott J. Casto  
FirstEnergy Service Company  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
[haydenm@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:haydenm@firstenergycorp.com)  
[jmcdermott@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:jmcdermott@firstenergycorp.com)  
[scasto@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:scasto@firstenergycorp.com)

**Counsel for FirstEnergy Solutions  
Corp.**

Maureen R. Grady  
Joseph P. Serio  
Edmund "Tad" Berger  
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485  
[Maureen.grady@occ.ohio.gov](mailto:Maureen.grady@occ.ohio.gov)  
[Joseph.serio@occ.ohio.gov](mailto:Joseph.serio@occ.ohio.gov)  
[Edmund.berger@occ.ohio.gov](mailto:Edmund.berger@occ.ohio.gov)

**Counsel for the Ohio Consumers' Counsel**

Kimberly W. Bojko  
Mallory M. Mohler  
Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP  
280 Plaza, Suite 1300  
280 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[Bojko@carpenterlipps.com](mailto:Bojko@carpenterlipps.com)  
[Mohler@carpenterlipps.com](mailto:Mohler@carpenterlipps.com)

**Counsel for the Ohio Manufacturers' Association**

Joseph M. Clark  
Direct Energy  
21 East State Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[joseph.clark@directenergy.com](mailto:joseph.clark@directenergy.com)

**Counsel for Direct Energy Services, LLC and Direct Energy Business, LLC**

Judi L. Sobecki  
The Dayton Power and Light Company  
1065 Woodman Drive  
Dayton, Ohio 45432  
[Judi.sobecki@aes.com](mailto:Judi.sobecki@aes.com)

**Counsel for The Dayton Power and Light Company**

Joseph Oliker  
Matthew White  
6100 Emerald Parkway  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
[joliker@igsenergy.com](mailto:joliker@igsenergy.com)  
[mswhite@igsenergy.com](mailto:mswhite@igsenergy.com)

**Counsel for Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.**

Gerit F. Hull  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC  
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
[ghull@eckertseamans.com](mailto:ghull@eckertseamans.com)

**Counsel for Direct Energy Services, LLC and Direct Energy Business, LLC**

Samuel C. Randazzo  
Frank P. Darr  
Matthew R. Pritchard  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
21 East State Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[sam@mwncmh.com](mailto:sam@mwncmh.com)  
[fdarr@mwncmh.com](mailto:fdarr@mwncmh.com)  
[mpritchard@mwncmh.com](mailto:mpritchard@mwncmh.com)

**Counsel for Industrial Energy Users-  
Ohio**

Trent Dougherty  
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201  
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449  
[tdougherty@theOEC.org](mailto:tdougherty@theOEC.org)

**Counsel for the Ohio Environmental  
Council**

Andrew J. Sonderman  
Margeaux Kimbrough  
Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter LPA  
Capitol Square, Suite 1800  
65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4294  
[asonderman@keglerbrown.com](mailto:asonderman@keglerbrown.com)  
[mkimbrough@keglerbrown.com](mailto:mkimbrough@keglerbrown.com)

**Counsel for People Working  
Cooperatively, Inc.**

Colleen L. Mooney  
Cathryn N. Loucas  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
231 West Lima Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45839-1793  
[cmooney@ohiopartners.org](mailto:cmooney@ohiopartners.org)  
[cloucas@ohiopartners.org](mailto:cloucas@ohiopartners.org)

**Counsel for Ohio Partners for  
Affordable Energy**

Steven T. Nourse  
Matthew J. Satterwhite  
Yazen Alami  
American Electric Power Service  
Corporation  
1 Riverside Plaza 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[stnourse@aep.com](mailto:stnourse@aep.com)  
[mjsatterwhite@aep.com](mailto:mjsatterwhite@aep.com)  
[yalami@aep.com](mailto:yalami@aep.com)

**Counsel for Ohio Power Company**

Christopher J. Allwein  
Todd M. Williams  
Williams Allwein and Moser, LLC  
1500 West Third Avenue, Suite 330  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
[callwein@wamenergylaw.com](mailto:callwein@wamenergylaw.com)  
[toddm@wamenergylaw.com](mailto:toddm@wamenergylaw.com)

**Counsel for the Sierra Club**



Rebecca L. Hussey  
Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP  
280 Plaza, Suite 1300  
280 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[Hussey@carpenterlipps.com](mailto:Hussey@carpenterlipps.com)

Douglas E. Hart  
441 Vine Street  
Suite 4192  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
[dhart@douglasshart.com](mailto:dhart@douglasshart.com)

**Counsel for The Kroger Company**

**Counsel for The Greater Cincinnati Health Council**

M. Howard Petricoff  
Michael J. Settineri  
Gretchen L. Petrucci  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, LLP  
52 East Gay Street  
P.O.Box 1008  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008  
[mhpetricoff@vorys.com](mailto:mhpetricoff@vorys.com)  
[mjsettineri@vorys.com](mailto:mjsettineri@vorys.com)  
[glpetrucci@vorys.com](mailto:glpetrucci@vorys.com)

Cynthia Fonner Brady  
Exelon Business Services Company  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, Illinois 60555  
[Cynthia.brady@constellation.com](mailto:Cynthia.brady@constellation.com)

**Counsel for Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. and Exelon Generation Company, LLC**

**For Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.**

David I. Fein  
Vice President, State Government  
Affairs - East  
Exelon Corporation  
10 South Dearborn Street, 47<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
[David.fein@exeloncorp.com](mailto:David.fein@exeloncorp.com)

Lael Campbell  
Exelon  
101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 2001  
[Lael.Campbell@constellation.com](mailto:Lael.Campbell@constellation.com)

**For Exelon Corporation**

**For Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.**

M. Howard Petricoff  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, LLP  
52 East Gay Street  
P.O. Box 1008  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008  
[mhpetricoff@vorys.com](mailto:mhpetricoff@vorys.com)

**Counsel for Miami University and the  
University of Cincinnati**

Nicholas McDaniel  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
1207 Grandview Ave., Suite 201  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
[NMcDaniel@elpc.org](mailto:NMcDaniel@elpc.org)

**Counsel for the Environmental Law &  
Policy Center**

Samantha Williams  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
[swilliams@nrdc.org](mailto:swilliams@nrdc.org)

**Counsel for the Natural Resources  
Defense Council**

M. Howard Petricoff  
Michael J. Settineri  
Gretchen L. Petrucci  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, LLP  
52 East Gay Street  
P.O.Box 1008  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008  
[mhpetricoff@vorys.com](mailto:mhpetricoff@vorys.com)  
[mjsettineri@vorys.com](mailto:mjsettineri@vorys.com)  
[glpetrucci@vorys.com](mailto:glpetrucci@vorys.com)

**Counsel for the Retail Energy Supply  
Association**

Gregory J. Poulos  
EnerNOC, Inc.  
471 E. Broad Street, Suite 1520  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[gpoulos@enernoc.com](mailto:gpoulos@enernoc.com)

**Counsel for EnerNOC, Inc.**

Thomas J. O'Brien  
Bricker & Eckler LLP  
100 South Third Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4291  
[tobrien@bricker.com](mailto:tobrien@bricker.com)

**Counsel for the City of Cincinnati**

Rick D. Chamberlain  
Behrens, Wheeler, & Chamberlain  
6 N.E. 63rd Street, Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
[rchamberlain@okenergylaw.com](mailto:rchamberlain@okenergylaw.com)

Donald L. Mason  
Michael R. Traven  
Roetzel & Andress, LPA  
155 E. Broad Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[dmason@ralaw.com](mailto:dmason@ralaw.com)  
[mtraven@ralaw.com](mailto:mtraven@ralaw.com)

**Counsel for Wal-Mart Stores East, LP  
and Sam's East, Inc.**

**Counsel for Wal-Mart Stores East, LP  
and Sam's East, Inc.**

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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**Case No(s). 14-0841-EL-SSO**

Summary: Memorandum Duke Energy Ohio's Memorandum Contra Motion to Compel Responses to Discovery electronically filed by Carys Cochern on behalf of Kingery, Jeanne W Ms.