

FAX

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

PUCO

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In the Matter of the Application of Ohio]
Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric]
Illuminating Company, and The Toledo]
Edison Company for Authority to Provide]
For a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to]
R.C. 4928.143 in the Form of an Electric]
Security Plan.]

Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO

MOTION TO INTERVENE
FILED ON BEHALF OF THE
CONSUMER PROTECTION ASSOCIATION,
THE CLEVELAND HOUSING NETWORK.
AND
THE COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
IN GREATER CLEVELAND,
AND
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Now comes The Citizens Coalition including the Consumer Protection Association, The Cleveland Housing Network, and the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland, (hereinafter the "Coalition"), who, through their counsel, hereby Move to Intervene in the above-captioned matters, pursuant to Ohio Law, The Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and the relevant case law. All of these interveners are hereinafter referred to as "The Citizens Coalition".

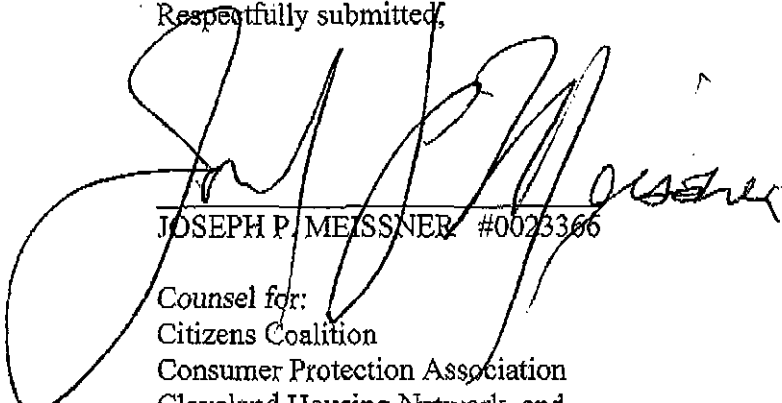
The Citizens Coalition specifically seeks the full powers and rights granted by the Commission specifically, by statute, and by the provisions of the Ohio

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Administrative Code to intervening parties.

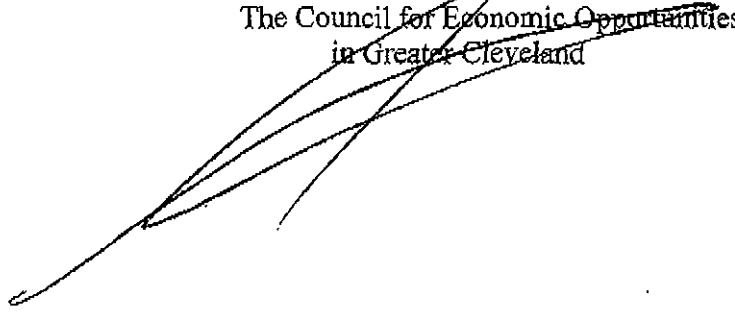
The reasons for granting this Motion are contained in the Memorandum in Support attached hereto and hereby incorporated herein.

Respectfully submitted,



JOSEPH P. MEISSNER #0023366

Counsel for:
Citizens Coalition
Consumer Protection Association
Cleveland Housing Network, and
The Council for Economic Opportunities
in Greater Cleveland



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The Citizens Coalition and its member groups should be permitted to intervene in these Matters pursuant to CivR.24 and Rule 4901-1-11 OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. All of these groups specifically meet the criteria for intervention pursuant to Ohio Law and OAC 4901-1-11[A][2] and [B].

In support of their Motion to Intervene, the Citizens Coalition notes that they are citizens groups and agencies whose members, clients, and supporters are seriously affected by the PUCO's decisions. Given the gravity of the current economic situation of the Greater Cleveland area, the still continuing and even worsening of the economy and employment for many people in our general area, the continuing Great Recession, the ongoing housing crisis with increasing numbers of foreclosures, the immense price increases in basic necessities including food, energy, gasoline and the adverse consequences any increases in electric rates could have on poor as well as moderate income families, it is incumbent upon the PUCO to grant all these parties intervention in this matter.

Our understanding is that the companies and FE are seeking immense changes in rate-making, changes in the ESP provisions, and significant increases in our rates.

Such rate increases and changes are especially burdensome to those represented by the Citizens Coalition who are low-income families. Many live on fixed and inadequate incomes. Many of their incomes are declining because of the loss of employment. Many are still heading downward economically, financially and socially. The Great Recession is becoming permanent. Any electric rate increases—coming

at this time of what even our President Barack Obama has characterized as the worst recession since the Great Depression—and other major changes in the ESP or other charges and changes will further hurt FE customers, especially the poor.

Thus, the Citizens Coalition and the low-income families represented by the Coalition have “a real and substantial interest” in the outcome of this current set of cases, as required by OAC 4901-1-11[A]. Disposition of these cases without permitting the Citizens Coalition to intervene will impair and impede their ability to protect the interests of this particular group of customers. While other parties to this proceeding may also be concerned about the issues that affect low-income families, they have other sets of customers groups which they also must represent, which may impact their legal assistance to low-income families.

Furthermore there are substantial aspects and measures in this ESP III proceeding which significantly concern the Citizens Coalition and the poor. This includes the Fuel Fund Program which somehow has been left out of the FE filing. This is a program which Mr. Anthony Alexander himself, the longtime brilliant CEO of First Energy, has praised in the past. Also the Citizens Coalition is seeking a new program based upon community organizations which will help low-income and vulnerable customers understand and respond appropriately to energy choice offerings. This would be the equivalent of a Consumer Reports for the poor and the vulnerable, but related to various energy offerings and marketing proposals and activities that the poor and the vulnerable encounter.

The following provides some background on the groups within the Citizens Coalition and how they bring special and particular perspectives to these proceedings which can be helpful in the PUCO's resolution of the issues.

The distinguished history of the Consumer Protection Association in serving low-income families warrants its involvement in this case. The Association has been in existence for almost forty years, working especially in local neighborhoods of our city.

The Cleveland Housing Network has also been involved in PUCO proceedings for many years. It also has specific concerns about the Companies in this case. The Cleveland Housing Network has been involved in many past PUCO cases. This agency especially helps with weatherization and conservation programs for their clients. It has administered funds both now and in the past from utility companies and other sources to carry out such programs. Such weatherization and conservation programs can actually reduce the need for expensive fuels and keep down electric rates. The Network has received funds from the companies involved in this proceeding, although, as has been stated in various past PUCO proceedings such funds have not been totally adequate to provide significant to meet the needs of low and moderate income families for weatherization and conservation. They seek to support substantial programs by the Companies to help low and moderate income families.

The third group, The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland has a very long and distinguished history of helping the poor in Greater Cleveland. They also have worked extensively and cooperatively with First Energy and its companies on a wide variety of energy programs, including the Fuel Fund program. They are quite concerned about the ever increasing costs of basic necessities including utility and electric rates. They seek this opportunity to advocate for lower electric rates and programs to help the poor and vulnerable.

The Commission in this case should consider ways in which weatherization and energy conservation programs should be included.

The foremost reason that has motivated the Citizens Coalition and the other three to seek intervention in this matter is their commitment to helping low and moderate income families. They are the only parties in this matter that are exclusively devoted to that goal.

The Citizens Coalition Center must be heard in this matter in order to protect the interests of low income families and individuals. They have real and substantial interests in this proceeding by virtue of the direct impact changes in rates determined through this case will have on their members, their supporters and clients located in the service territories of the relevant utility companies. Further, these groups have appeared in past PUCO cases and they have been recognized by the Commission in the past as advocates for consumers and particularly low-income consumers, all of whom will be affected by the outcome of this case. This is the time when these and other consumer groups should especially be welcomed by the PUCO to insure that proper, reasonable, fair and just precedents are established and that all the Laws related to utilities and energy's provisions are properly implemented. These groups will also advocate for adequate energy efficiency, environmental and renewable energy programs, and programs to help the poor and vulnerable.

The Citizens Coalition will not unduly prolong nor delay the proceedings. In fact, these groups in the past have worked cooperatively where possible with the utility Companies on efforts to resolve issues expeditiously. The Citizens Coalition has consistently held out the "olive branch" of negotiation to all parties in an effort to promote a timely and fair resolution of issues.

For the above reasons, these interveners have a direct, real and substantial

interest in this proceeding.

The rules of the Ohio Administrative Code were established to provide the Commission with best information needed to make decisions which are in the best interest of the citizens of Ohio. The Citizens Coalition will provide the best information they can in order to help the PUCO.

The Citizens Coalition and the other three groups will follow all the administrative rulings in this proceeding and their intervention along with any litigation that is required will not unreasonably delay these proceedings.

Wherefore, Citizens Coalition and the groups Consumer Protection Association, Cleveland Housing Network, and The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland respectfully request that based on this Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support, Coalition, they be recognized as parties in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

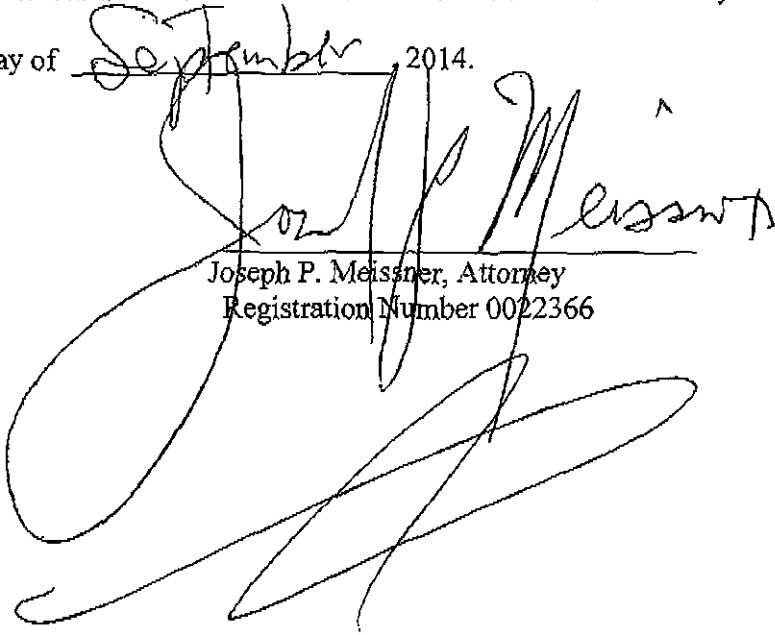


JOSEPH P. MEISSNER #0023366
Attorney at Law

Counsel for:
Citizens Coalition
Consumer Protection Association
Cleveland Housing Network, and
The Council for Economic Opportunities
in Greater Cleveland

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this Motion to Intervene, Memorandum
in Support, and Certificate of Service was filed with the PUCO and is available to any other
party on this 24 day of September 2014.


Joseph P. Meissner, Attorney
Registration Number 0022366