

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval of) Case No. 14-2128-EL-UNC
Changes to Bill Format.)

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke) is a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (2) On November 21, 2014, Duke filed an application for approval of a revised bill format for electric service and for approval of certain accounting authority. In its application, Duke proposed to add logos of certified retail electric service (CRES) providers to customer bills and to standardize the price-to-compare language. Further, Duke asserts that its application was filed pursuant to the Commission's Order in Case No. 12-3151-EL-COI. *In re Comm.'s Investigation of Ohio's Retail Elec. Service Market*, Case No. 12-3151-EL-COI, Finding and Order (Mar. 26, 2014) at 25-32. Duke notes that it presented its proposal to the market development working group before filing it with the Commission, consistent with the Commission's Order.
- (3) By Entry issued on January 5, 2015, the attorney examiner suspended the 45-day automatic approval process for Duke's application in order for the Commission and its Staff to further review the application.
- (4) On January 20, 2015, Duke filed an amended application for approval of a revised bill format for electric service and approval of certain accounting authority. In its amended application, Duke provided revised bill specimens proposing revisions to its proposed price-to-compare language and placement of CRES provider logos. The two bill specimens provided by Duke in the amended application show a rate-ready billing scenario and a bill-ready billing scenario.

- (5) Thereafter, on February 4, 2015, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene, a memorandum in support, and comments regarding Duke's application. OCC asserts that the Commission should grant its motion to intervene because Duke's residential customers may be adversely affected by this case, specifically regarding customers' ability to understand and interpret their bills. OCC avers that it meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and Commission precedent for intervention on behalf of the residential customers of Duke. OCC then asserts in its comments that the Commission should properly analyze Duke's proposed bill format changes to determine if the costs are justified and whether the proposed revisions make customer bills easier to understand.
- (6) On February 10, 2015, Duke filed a memorandum contra to OCC's motion to intervene and reply comments. Duke notes that it withdrew its request for cost recovery or deferral authority when it filed an amended application in this proceeding. Duke asserts that its amended application merely requests approval of the proposed bill formats. Duke then argues that the Commission should deny OCC's motion to intervene because OCC's comments are based upon the matters of cost recovery and deferral authority, which are no longer at issue in this case.
- (7) Subsequently, on February 17, 2015, OCC filed a reply to Duke's memorandum contra to OCC's motion to intervene. In its reply, OCC reasserts that the Commission should grant its motion to intervene because it has a real and substantial interest in this matter.
- (8) Upon consideration of OCC's motion to intervene, the Commission finds that it is reasonable and should be granted.
- (9) The Commission notes that it has reviewed Duke's proposed bill formats for rate-ready and bill-ready billing and finds that they will make customer bills easier to understand. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Duke's application for approval of revised bill formats for electric service, as filed on November 21, 2014, and amended on January 20, 2015, is reasonable and should be approved.

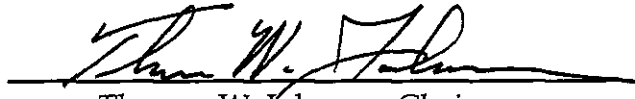
It is, therefore,

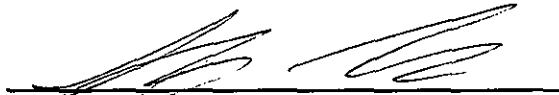
ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,

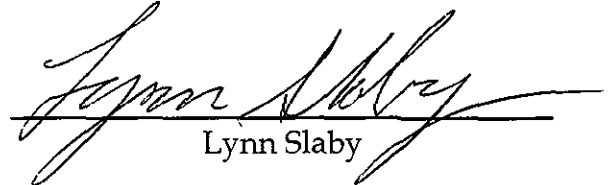
ORDERED, That Duke's application for approval of a revised bill format be approved, in accordance with Finding (9). It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman


Steven D. Lesser


Lynn Slaby

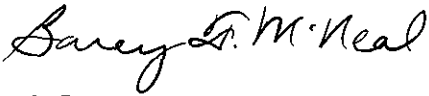

M. Beth Trombold


Asim Z. Haque

BAM/sc

Entered in the Journal

FEB 25 2015


Barcy F. McNeal

Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary