

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Procurement of)
Standard Service Offer Generation for the) Case No. 15-792-EL-UNC
Customers of Ohio Power Company.)

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric utility as defined by R.C. 4928.01(A)(11) and an electric distribution utility as defined by R.C. 4928.01(A)(6).
- (2) R.C. 4928.141 provides that an electric distribution utility shall provide consumers a standard service offer (SSO) of all competitive retail electric services in accordance with R.C. 4928.142 or 4928.143.
- (3) In Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved, pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, AEP Ohio's application for an electric security plan (ESP), including a competitive auction-based SSO format, as well as a competitive bid procurement (CBP) process for the Company's auctions, for the period of June 1, 2015, through May 31, 2018. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Feb. 25, 2015) at 31. With respect to the auction schedule, the Commission determined that AEP Ohio's first and second auctions should occur sufficiently far in advance of the end of the current ESP term on May 31, 2015, and each offer a mix of 12-month (17 tranches), 24-month (17 tranches), and 36-month (16 tranches) products, with delivery to commence on June 1, 2015. In accordance with the approved bidding rules, the Commission has a two business day window from the conclusion of the auction for review of the results. AEP Ohio proposed to retain National Economic Research Associates, Inc. d/b/a NERA Economic Consulting (NERA) as the auction manager for the Company's auctions.
- (4) On May 13, 2015, in the above-captioned case, NERA and Boston Pacific Company, Inc. (Boston Pacific), a consultant retained by the Commission to monitor the auctions, filed reports regarding

the conduct of AEP Ohio's second auction, which was held on May 12, 2015, and included one-year, two-year, and three-year products. These reports consisted of confidential versions, filed under seal, and a redacted version of the report filed by NERA, which is publicly available in this docket.

- (5) According to the reports filed by NERA and Boston Pacific, for the one-year product, the auction resulted in a clearing price of \$55.42 per megawatt hour (MWh) for the June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016, delivery period. For the two-year product, the auction resulted in a clearing price of \$54.70 per MWh for the June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2017, delivery period. Finally, for the three-year product, the auction resulted in a clearing price of \$56.35 per MWh for the June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2018, delivery period. NERA and Boston Pacific each recommended that the Commission find that the auction, within the limits of its structures, had sufficient competitive attributes and resulted in a winning price that is reasonable.
- (6) The Commission finds that the reports filed by NERA and Boston Pacific do not contain any recommendation or evidence that the auction violated the CBP rules in such a manner as to invalidate the auction. Accordingly, the Commission will not reject the results of the auction.
- (7) On May 13, 2015, Staff filed a motion for protective order, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-24, requesting that both the report of the Commission's consultant regarding AEP Ohio's auction and the notification of the auction results filed on May 13, 2015, be kept confidential. In support of the motion, Staff submits that these documents are highly competitively sensitive, in that they identify the details of various bids and parties making the bids in the auction. According to Staff, disclosure of this information would be highly prejudicial to the bidding parties and the viability of any future auction in Ohio.
- (8) Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-24 provides that, unless otherwise ordered, protective orders issued pursuant to the rule automatically expire after 24 months. However, given the highly competitive and sensitive nature of the reports filed by NERA and Boston Pacific, the Commission finds that it would be appropriate to grant protective treatment indefinitely, until the Commission orders otherwise. Therefore, we find that Staff's motion for protective order of the information filed on May 13,

2015, is reasonable and should be granted, to the extent set forth in this Finding and Order. Accordingly, the Boston Pacific report and the following information related to the NERA report will be protected from public release: the names of unsuccessful bidders; price information, including starting price methodologies and round prices/quantities for individual bidders; all information contained in Part I and Part II of the bidder applications; and indicative preauction offers.

- (9) However, the Commission finds that certain information regarding the auction contained in the report submitted by NERA should be released to the public after a brief period of time to allow the winning bidders to procure any additional necessary energy or capacity to serve the SSO load. Therefore, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the following information will be subject to public release 21 days after the issuance of this Finding and Order, or on June 3, 2015: the names of bidders who won tranches in the auction; the number of tranches won by each bidder; the first round ratio of tranches supplied compared to tranches needed; and the redacted report filed by NERA detailing the auction proceedings, subject only to redaction of any confidential information enumerated in finding (8). The Commission's docketing division is directed to work with Staff to assure the appropriate public release of information.
- (10) Finally, all bidders are required to immediately disclose to the Commission and Staff all prices, terms, and conditions for any post-auction assignments of tranches obtained through the CBP, subject to appropriate protections for confidential or proprietary information.
- (11) Accordingly, the Commission finds that AEP Ohio should be authorized to file final tariffs implementing the rates for SSO customers consistent with this Finding and Order. The final tariffs shall be approved effective June 1, 2015, contingent upon final review by the Commission.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Staff's motion for protective order be granted and the information set forth in finding (8) be deemed confidential and remain under seal indefinitely, until otherwise ordered by the Commission. It is, further,

ORDERED, That, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the information set forth in finding (9) be subject to public release 21 days after the issuance of this Finding and Order, or on June 3, 2015. It is, further,

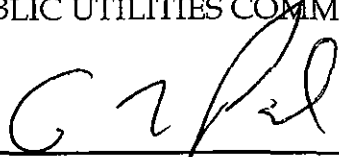
ORDERED, That AEP Ohio is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. AEP Ohio shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be June 1, 2015, contingent upon final review by the Commission. It is, further,

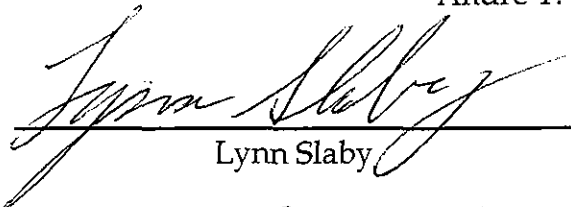
ORDERED, That AEP Ohio notify its customers of the changes to the tariff via bill message or bill insert within 30 days of the effective date. A copy of this notice shall be submitted to the Commission's Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department at least 10 days prior to distribution to customers. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



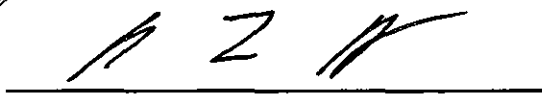
Andre T. Porter, Chairman



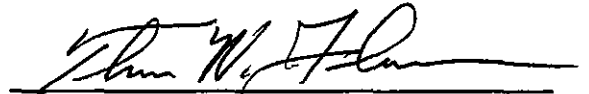
Lynn Slaby



M. Beth Trombold



Asim Z. Haque

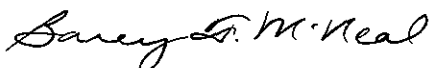


Thomas W. Johnson

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Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary