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 an Electric Security Plan, Accounting Modifications and Tariffs for Generation)))))	Case No. 14-841-EL-SSO
Service.)	
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. 14-842-EL-ATA

THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI AND MIAMI UNIVERSITY'S JOINT MEMORANDUM IN RESPONSE TO THE APPLICATIONS FOR REHEARING OF DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. AND OHIO ENERGY GROUP

Pursuant to Rule 4901-1-35(B), Ohio Administrative Code, the University of Cincinnati and Miami University (collectively "Universities") jointly file this memorandum in response to the application for rehearing filed by Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke") with respect to Duke's first two assignments of error regarding the Price Stabilization Rider ("Rider PSR") and the application for rehearing filed by the Ohio Energy Group ("OEG") with respect to the phase-out of the Load Factor Adjustment Rider ("Rider LFA"). These proceedings involve the terms of Duke's third electric security plan ("ESP III"), which commences in short order on June 1, 2105.

The Universities first request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") deny the rehearing arguments from Duke as to Rider PSR on the ground that Duke, in contravention of the Commission's rules on rehearing, has raised nothing new for

consideration. As to the rehearing application of OEG, the Universities request that the Commission grant the request and clarify that the phase-out of Rider LFA will take place over all three years of the Electric Security Plan and there will be rider credits during all three years of the plan's term as detailed below.

II. The Commission should reject Duke's claims of error regarding Rider PSR.

Duke's first two assignments of error involve Rider PSR:

Assignment of Error #1: The Commission's conclusion with regard to Rider PSR unreasonably prohibits the Company from offering its customers a hedge against volatile wholesale prices, even though the Commission agrees that the proposed rider would act as a hedge.

Assignment of Error #2: The Commission's conclusion that Rider PSR should be approved, but that it should remain at zero until such time as the Company provides additional evidence, is unreasonable, in that sufficient evidence is currently available in the existing record.

The Commission correctly determined that Duke's proposed Rider PSR should not be approved and that, before Duke can actually charge customers under such a rider, further relevant evidence must be presented and evaluated. Rider PSR was the issue that garnered the most attention during these proceedings, and the Commission examined the issue extensively. A fair review of that portion of the Commission's decision clearly shows that the Commission considered the facts and legal arguments. Despite the lengthy summary and conclusion in the April 2nd Opinion and Order, Duke is asking the Commission to reverse itself and approve Duke's proposed Rider PSR. Duke however has not presented in its application for rehearing any new argument to support approval of its Rider PSR based in the hearing record. Actually, Duke raises the same points it raised earlier in the proceedings. Duke is entitled to take issue

¹ Opinion and Order at 13-48.

² Compare Duke's Application for Rehearing at 6-11 with its earlier evidence and arguments – Duke Ex. 2 (Henning Direct Testimony) at 4-5, 8-11; Duke Ex. 6 (Wathen Direct Testimony) at 12-15; Duke Initial Brief at 21-24; and Duke's Reply Brief at 43-44, 54-55, 58, and 67.

with the Commission's finding that Rider PSR has not been shown to be of benefit to customers, but it is not entitled to a reversal of that decision without evidence from the record which shows error in the manner in which the Commission weighted the evidence. Duke has the burden of proof in this case to demonstrate that it proposed Rider PSR is of benefit. The Commission's determination was the contrary: "the Commission is **not persuaded**, based on the evidence of record in these proceedings, that Duke's PSR proposal would provide customers with sufficient benefit from the rider's financial hedging mechanism or any other benefit that is commensurate with the rider's potential cost." (Emphasis added.)

While Duke also claims error with regard to the Commission's inclusion of guidance for a future PSR application (if Duke seeks to establish a rider rate at some point in the future), there was no error. The Commission has the discretion to include such information in its decisions, and it chose to exercise that discretion because Duke did not convince the Commission that its proposed Rider PSR should be adopted. Nothing presented by Duke in the first two assignments of error in its application for rehearing demonstrates that the Commission unjustly and unreasonably weighed the Rider PSR evidence. Accordingly, Duke's first two assignments of error should be rejected.

III. The Commission should clarify that the phase-out of Rider FLA will occur during all three years of the ESP III term, as described by OEG in the second option presented in its application for rehearing.

OEG explains in its application for rehearing that there are two ways in which to interpret the Commission's decision to phase-out Rider LFA "over the term of the ESP" and calculate the

³ Opinion and Order at 46. See, also, the Commission's earlier statement on that same page: "the Commission agrees with OCC, IEU, and other intervenors that the evidence of record reflects that the rider may result in a net cost to customers, with little offsetting benefit from the riders intended purpose as a hedge against market volatility."

credit levels. The options described by OEG are as follows:⁴

Option 1

ESP Year	Calculation	Resulting Rider LFA Credit
1	33% of \$8.00/kVa = \$2.64	\$5.36/kVa
2	33% of \$8.00/kVa = \$2.64	\$2.72/kVa
3	34% of \$8.00/kVa = \$2.72	\$0/kVa

Option 2

ESP Year	Calculation	Resulting Rider LFA Credit
1	33% of \$8.00/kVa = \$2.64	\$5.36/kVa
2	33% of \$5.36/kVa = \$1.77	\$3.59/kVa
3	34% of \$3.59/kVa = \$1.22	\$2.37/kVa

OEG also pointed out that either manner of calculation will be revenue-neutral to Duke.⁵ The Universities agree that there are two ways to interpret the ruling and find OEG's use of the kVa cost as representative of the amount of money available for load factor credits is fair. The Commission should clarify now the proper calculation for Rider LFA. The Universities agree with the OEG that the second methodology will avoid rate shock to high-load factor customers, and yet will also accomplish a phase-out throughout the entire ESP III term as the Commission stated. For these reasons, the Universities support OEG's request that the Commission grant the OEG request and clarify that the phase-out of Rider LFA will take place over all three years of the ESP III and, using the second calculation option set forth above, there will be rider credit amounts during all three years of the plan's term.

⁴ OEG Application for Rehearing at 3.

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IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should reject Duke's first two assignments of error, which relate to Riders PSR. Those assignments of error have no merit and should be denied. Additionally, the Commission should grant OEG's application for rehearing and clarify the phase-out for Rider LFA, such that it will take place over all three years of the ESP III and, using the second calculation option set forth above, there will be rider credit amounts during all three years of the ESP III term.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced on the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to the case. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a courtesy copy of the foregoing document is also being served (via electronic mail) on 14th day of May 2015 upon all persons/entities listed below.

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