BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Its Electric Security Plan	:	Case No. 12-426-EL-SSO
In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Revised Tariffs	:	Case No. 12-427-EL-ATA
In the Matter of the Application of	•	Case No. 12-428-EL-AAM
The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority	•	Case No. 12-428-EL-AAM
Approval of Certain Accounting Autionty	•	
In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for	:	Case No. 12-429-EL-WVR
the Waiver of Certain Commission Rules	:	
In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company to Establish Tariff Riders	:	Case No. 12-672-EL-RDR
	:	

MEMORANDUM OF THE DAYTON POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION OF INDUSTRIAL ENERGY USERS-OHIO AND THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL FOR AN ORDER VACATING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SERVICE STABILITY RIDER

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

For the second time, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio

Consumers' Counsel (together, "Joint Movants") ask the Commission to modify its authorization

of the Service Stability Rider ("SSR"), despite a pending appeal from this proceeding: Supreme

Court of Ohio Case No. 2014-1505.¹ The Joint Motion should be denied for two reasons.

¹ June 21, 2016 Motion of Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an Order Vacating the Authorization of the Service Stability Rider ("Joint Motion"); May 17, 2016 Joint Motion of (footnote cont'd...)

<u>First</u>, the Commission lacks jurisdiction to consider the Joint Motion. Although the Supreme Court of Ohio recently announced an opinion reversing the Commission's decision in this proceeding,² the Court has not issued a mandate returning jurisdiction to the Commission. The Supreme Court's Rules of Practice prohibit the issuance of a mandate until ten days after entry of judgment. S.Ct.Prac.R. 18.04(A). The Supreme Court repeatedly has held that "absent specific statutory authority or rule, official boards or administrative agencies have jurisdiction to reconsider decisions <u>only until</u> the actual institution of a court appeal therefrom or until expiration of the time for appeal." <u>State ex rel. Borsuk v. City of Cleveland</u>, 28 Ohio St.2d 224, 227, 277 N.E.2d 419 (1972) (emphasis added; emphasis in original omitted). No statute or rule allows the Commission to modify an order pending before the Supreme Court; therefore, the Commission cannot currently grant the relief requested by Joint Movants.

Second, in executing the Supreme Court's decision, the Commission must determine what an "appropriate order" should be on remand. <u>Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Co. v.</u> <u>Pub. Util. Comm.</u>, 46 Ohio St.2d 105, 116-17, 346 N.E.2d 778 (1976) (the Commission should issue "an appropriate order" that "replaces the reversed order" following a reversal by the Supreme Court and receipt of the Court's mandate). Simply vacating the SSR based on the Court's one-sentence ruling, <u>In re Application of Dayton Power & Light Co.</u>, Case No. 2014-1505, Slip Op. No. 2016-Ohio-3490 (Sup. Ct. Ohio June 20, 2016), without considering what is "appropriate" for DP&L in this case would cede ratemaking authority to the Court. <u>City of</u> Dayton v. Pub. Util. Comm., 174 Ohio St. 160, 162, 187 N.E.2d 150 (1962).

(...cont'd)

Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an Order Requiring that the Service Stability Rider be Collected Subject to Refund.

² In re Application of Dayton Power & Light Co., Case No. 2014-1505, Slip Op. No. 2016-Ohio-3490 (Sup. Ct. Ohio June 20, 2016).

II. THE COMMISSION LACKS JURISDICTION TO MODIFY THE SSR BECAUSE THE SUPREME COURT HAS NOT ISSUED A MANDATE RETURNING JURISDICTION TO THE COMMISSION

The Supreme Court of Ohio repeatedly has held that "absent specific statutory authority or rule, official boards or administrative agencies have jurisdiction to reconsider decisions <u>only until</u> the actual institution of a court appeal therefrom or until expiration of the time for appeal." <u>State ex rel. Borsuk v. City of Cleveland</u>, 28 Ohio St.2d 224, 227, 277 N.E.2d 419 (1972) (emphasis added; emphasis in original omitted). <u>Accord</u>: <u>Hal Artz Lincoln-Mercury</u>, <u>Inc. v. Ford Motor Co., Lincoln-Mercury Div.</u>, 28 Ohio St.3d 20, 502 N.E.2d 590 (1986), paragraph three of the syllabus; <u>State ex rel. Gatlin v. Yellow Freight Sys.</u>, Inc., 18 Ohio St.3d 246, 249, 480 N.E.2d 487 (1985); <u>Todd v. Gen. Motors Corp.</u>, 65 Ohio St.2d 18, 19, 417 N.E.2d 1017 (1981). That holding is consistent with the Ohio rule that "[w]hen a case has been appealed, the trial court retains all jurisdiction not inconsistent with the reviewing court's jurisdiction to reverse, modify, or affirm the judgment." <u>Howard v. Catholic Social Servs.</u>, 70 Ohio St.3d 141, 146, 637 N.E.2d 890 (1994) (per curiam) (emphasis added).

In Title 49, the General Assembly has adopted a comprehensive framework for review of final orders of the Commission, which includes applications for rehearing and direct appeals to the Supreme Court. R.C. 4903.10 through 4903.13. "Unquestionably, it is the prerogative of the General Assembly to establish the bounds and rules of public-utility regulation." In re Application of Columbus S. Power Co., 128 Ohio St.3d 512, 2011-Ohio-1788, 947 N.E.2d 655, ¶ 19. Accord: Penn Cent. Transp. Co. v. Pub. Util. Comm., 35 Ohio St.2d 97, 298 N.E.2d 587 (1973), paragraph one of the syllabus (holding that the Commission "is a creature of the General Assembly and may exercise no jurisdiction beyond that conferred by statute"); Ohio Bus Line, Inc. v. Pub. Util. Comm., 29 Ohio St.2d 222, 226, 280 N.E.2d 907

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(1972) (holding that the Commission "has only such jurisdiction and authority to act as is vested in it by statute"). No statute in that framework allows the Commission to consider its orders while they are pending before the Supreme Court. Indeed, such consideration would be directly inconsistent with the Court's jurisdiction to "reverse[], vacate[], or modif[y]" the Commission's orders. R.C. 4903.13. <u>Accord</u>: Howard at 146. Since the General Assembly has not authorized the Commission to consider its orders while they are pending before the Court, the Commission lacks jurisdiction to modify the SSR. The Joint Motion should be denied for this reason alone.

Joint Movants suggest in a footnote (p. 5 n.2) that "the Commission could alternatively order that the SSR be prospectively collected subject to refund until the Court's mandate is issued." However, as DP&L has demonstrated,³ the Commission not only lacks jurisdiction to modify the SSR, but also cannot order DP&L to collect the charge subject to refund. <u>Keco Industries, Inc. v. Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Tel. Co.</u>, 166 Ohio St. 254, 141 N.E.2d 465 (1957), paragraph two of the syllabus ("Where the charges collected by a public utility are based upon rates which have been established by an order of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the fact that such order is subsequently found to be unreasonable or unlawful on appeal to the Supreme Court of Ohio, in the absence of a statute providing therefor, affords no right of action for restitution of the increase in charges collected during the pendency of the appeal.").

³ May 24, 2016 The Dayton Power and Light Company's Memorandum in Opposition to the Joint Motion of Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an Order Requiring that the Service Stability Rider be Collected Subject to Refund. DP&L incorporates by reference the arguments raised in that Memorandum as if fully restated here.

III.THE COMMISSION SHOULD ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE ORDER ON
REMAND, RATHER THAN SIMPLY VACATING THE SSR

The Supreme Court's opinion states, in its entirety: "The decision of the Public Utilities Commission is reversed on the authority of <u>In re Application of Columbus S. Power</u> <u>Co.</u>, __Ohio St.3d __, 2016-Ohio-1608, __N.E.3d __." <u>In re Application of Dayton Power & Light Co.</u>, Case No. 2014-1505, Slip Op. No. 2016-Ohio-3490 (Sup. Ct. Ohio June 20, 2016), ¶ 1.

When the Supreme Court reverses a Commission decision:

"the statutes [of Title 49] make clear [1] that public utilities are required to charge the rates and fees stated in the schedules filed with the commission pursuant to the commission's orders; [2] that the schedule remains in effect until replaced by a further order of the commission; [3] that <u>this court's reversal and remand of an</u> <u>order of the commission does not change or replace the schedule as</u> <u>a matter of law, but is a mandate to the commission to issue a new</u> <u>order which replaces the reversed order</u>; and [4] that a rate schedule filed with the commission <u>remains in effect until the</u> <u>commission executes this court's mandate by an appropriate order</u>."

<u>Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Co. v. Pub. Util. Comm.</u>, 46 Ohio St.2d 105, 116-17, 346 N.E.2d 778 (1976) (emphasis added). <u>Accord</u>: R.C. 4909.17 ("No rate . . . become[s] effective until the public utilities commission, by order, determines it to be just and reasonable "); R.C. 4909.15(E)(2)(b) (providing that after the commission orders that a new rate be substituted for an existing one, "no change in the rate . . . shall be made . . . by such public utility without the order of the commission, and any other rate . . . is prohibited").

Simply excising the SSR, as Joint Movants demand (pp. 4-5), would relinquish the Commission's ratemaking authority to the Court, which has long eschewed such power. <u>City</u> of Dayton v. Pub. Util. Comm., 174 Ohio St. 160, 162, 187 N.E.2d 150 (1962) (per curiam)

("The members of this court are neither accountants nor engineers, and manifestly it would be unfair to the litigants and to the commission for the court to pretend that it is in a position to better evaluate the evidence and determine the difficult question of the reasonableness of the order than is the commission."). Instead, the Commission must issue "an appropriate order," <u>Cleveland Elec.</u> at 116-17, to the company to implement new rates.

For these reasons, the Joint Motion should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Memorandum of The Dayton Power and Light Company in Opposition to the Motion of Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an Order Vacating the Authorization of the Service Stability Rider has been served via electronic mail upon the following counsel of record, this 28th day of June, 2016:

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Summary: Memorandum Memorandum of The Dayton Power and Light Company in Opposition to the Motion of Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel for an Order Vacating the Authorization of the Service Stability Rider electronically filed by Mr. Charles J. Faruki on behalf of The Dayton Power and Light Company