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BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)
Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to) Case No. 17-872-EL-RDR
Modify Rider PSR.)

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)
Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to) Case No. 17-873-EL-ATA
Amend Rider PSR.)

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)
Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to) Case No. 17-874-EL-AAM
Change Accounting Methods.)

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DUKE ENERGY OHIO'S MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

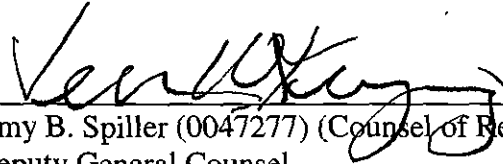
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., (Duke Energy Ohio or Company) hereby moves this honorable Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) for a protective order, pursuant to O.A.C. Rule 4901-1-24(D), covering certain confidential information that is included as a part of its Application in the above-captioned proceedings. Specifically, the proprietary, trade secret, competitive business information that Duke Energy Ohio seeks to have protected is contained in the Direct Testimony of Duke Energy Ohio witness Judah L. Rose.

Duke Energy Ohio sets forth, in the attached Memorandum in Support, its reasons why confidential treatment of this information is necessary. In compliance with the governing rule, Duke Energy Ohio is filing, under seal, three unredacted copies of the confidential information.

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Respectfully submitted,

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Duke Energy Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Motion for a Protective Order. Duke Energy Ohio is an Ohio corporation with its principal office in Cincinnati, Ohio. Duke Energy Ohio is engaged in the business of supplying electric power to the public in the state of Ohio. Accordingly, Duke Energy Ohio is a public utility within the meaning of R. C. 4905.02 and R.C. 4905.03. As such, Duke Energy Ohio is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission in the manner and to the extent provided by the laws of the state of Ohio.

Duke Energy Ohio is filing, simultaneously with this motion, its Application for, *inter alia*, authority to establish initial tariff amounts applicable to the Company's existing Price Stabilization Rider (Rider PSR) and deferral authority (Application). The testimony of Duke Energy Ohio witness Rose contains information that is or may be deemed to be confidential, proprietary, trade secret, and/or competitive business information of Duke Energy Ohio and its witnesses and contractual counterparties. More specifically, the information for which protection is sought covers projections and competitively sensitive information and databases underlying same.

O.A.C. 4901-1-24(D) provides that the Commission or its attorney examiner may issue a protective order to assure the confidentiality of information contained in filed documents to the extent that state or federal law prohibits the release of the information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purpose of Title 49 of the Revised Code.

The Commission, therefore, generally refers to the requirements of R.C. 1333.61 for a determination of whether specific information should be released or treated confidentially. Subsection (D) of that section defines "trade secret" as follows:

“Trade secret” means information, included the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any business information or plans, financial information, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.¹

Thus, business information or plans and financial information are trade secrets if they derive independent economic value from not being generally known to or ascertainable by others who can obtain their own value from use of the information and they are the subject of reasonable efforts to maintain their secrecy.

The Direct Testimony of Company witness Rose contains proprietary, confidential, and competitively sensitive information. Such information includes data derived from proprietary modeling tools, such as forecasts of energy and capacity prices and natural gas, coal, and CO₂ prices. Additionally, the information for which confidential protection is necessary includes forecasts related to power plants that participate in the competitive wholesale market. These forecasts and the associated, underlying assumptions and data, must remain confidential so that Company witness Rose’s role, and that of his company, as a power consultant, is not compromised or disadvantaged and the generators and related counterparties discussed in his testimony are not harmed vis-à-vis their competitors. The information is treated as confidential, and protected, by Company witness Rose, his company, and Duke Energy Ohio. Indeed, the Company takes steps to ensure that this information is not disclosed to anyone within or

¹ R.C. 1336.61(emphasis added).

affiliated with its organization who does not have a business need to know the material and it does not externally disclose such confidential information absent the existence of appropriate protective devices. Further, forecasts of competitive markets as well as projected operating and maintenance costs of competitive generating stations have consistently been afforded confidential treatment by the Commission.²

O.A.C. 4901-1-24(D) allows Duke Energy Ohio to seek leave of the Commission to file information Duke Energy Ohio considers to be proprietary, trade secret, or otherwise confidential information in a non-redacted form, under seal.³ Duke Energy Ohio is filing the testimony and related attachments in unredacted form, under seal, together with this Motion.

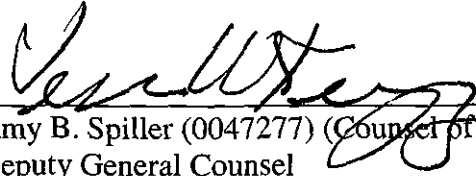
WHEREFORE, Duke Energy Ohio respectfully requests that the Commission, pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-24(D), grant its Motion for Protective Order by making a determination that the redacted information is confidential, proprietary, and trade secret under R. C. 4901-16 and 1333.61.

² See, e.g., *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan, Accounting Modifications and Tariffs for Generation Service*, Case No. 11-3549-EL-SSO, *et al.*, Opinion and Order at pgs. 5-6 (November 22, 2011); *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan, Accounting Modifications and Tariffs for Generation Service*, Case No. 14-841-EL-SSO, *et al.*, Entry at pgs. 10-11 (April 2, 2015); and *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland 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, Entry at pg. 10 (December 1, 2014).

³ O.A.C. 4901-1-24.

Respectfully submitted,

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.

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