

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the :  
Application of Duke Energy:  
Ohio, Inc., for Authority :  
to Establish a Standard :  
Service Offer Pursuant to :  
Section 4928.143, Revised : Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO  
Code, in the Form of an :  
Electric Security Plan, :  
Accounting Modifications, :  
and Tariffs for Generation:  
Services. :

In the Matter of the :  
Application of Duke Energy:  
Ohio, Inc., for Authority :  
to Amend its Certified : Case No. 17-1264-EL-ATA  
Supplier Tariff, P.U.C.O. :  
No. 20. :

In the Matter of the :  
Application of Duke Energy:  
Ohio, Inc., for Authority : Case No. 17-1265-EL-AAM  
to Defer Vegetation :  
Management Costs. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Stacie Cathcart and Mr. Nicholas Walstra,  
Attorney Examiners, at the MidPointe Library, 125  
South Broad Street, Middletown, Ohio, called at 6:03  
p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2017.

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PUBLIC HEARING - MIDDLETOWN

- - -

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.  
222 East Town Street, Second Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201  
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

APPEARANCES:

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
By Ms. Elizabeth Watts  
139 East Fourth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

On behalf of the Applicant.

Bruce E. Weston, Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
By Mr. Kevin Moore,  
Assistant Consumers' Counsel  
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

On behalf of the Residential Consumers of  
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.

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Monday Evening Session,

October 23, 2017.

- - -

EXAMINER WALSTRA: We will go ahead and get started here and go on the record.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for public hearing at this time and place Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO being in the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Revised Code 4928.143 in the Form of an Electric Security Plan.

My name is Nick Walstra. With me is Stacie Cathcart. We are the Attorney Examiners assigned by the Commission to hear these cases.

Additionally, there is staff members from the PUCO here today that you may have met coming in here. Jill Kocher is in the back here, and Lee Gary was out front. If you have questions about other utility matters, they are available for questions.

We'll start by taking appearances on behalf of the parties. On behalf of the company.

MS. WATTS: Thank you, your Honor. Good evening. On behalf of Duke Energy, Elizabeth Watts, 139 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

1 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you. A number  
2 of parties have filed for intervention. Are any of  
3 them present today?

4 MR. MOORE: Yes, thank you, your Honors.  
5 On behalf of the residential energy consumers of Duke  
6 Energy Ohio, Bruce J. Weston, the Office of the Ohio  
7 Consumers Counsel, I am Kevin Moore.

8 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you.  
9 Anyone else?

10 Okay. Duke Energy filed this application  
11 on June 1, 2017, requesting authority to establish a  
12 standard service offer in the form of an electric  
13 security plan June 1, 2018.

14 The local public hearings scheduled in  
15 this case are only one aspect of the process. An  
16 additional public hearing is scheduled for this  
17 Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at Cincinnati City Hall. An  
18 evidentiary hearing is also scheduled to commence on  
19 November 13, 2017, at the Commission offices in  
20 Columbus.

21 In Duke's application the company is  
22 proposing an electric security plan that among other  
23 things would provide a supply of generation service.  
24 We would note that Duke also has a pending case  
25 before the Commission regarding its distribution

1 rates. There are public hearings scheduled next week  
2 regarding that matter which is a separate proceeding.

3 The purpose of this evening's public  
4 hearing is to receive comments from the public  
5 regarding Duke's application for an electric security  
6 plan. It is not a question and answer session but  
7 your opportunity to let the Commission know what you  
8 think about Duke's application.

9 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by  
10 a court reporter. If you plan to testify, please  
11 speak clearly so that the court reporter can  
12 accurately reflect your comments for the record. If  
13 you have a prepared written statement, it would be  
14 helpful to provide a copy to the court reporter. If  
15 you do not wish to testify at this time, written  
16 comments may be submitted on the PUCO website or by  
17 mail under this case number which is 17-1263.

18 When you got here, hopefully you had a  
19 chance to sign in to testify. I have a list so far  
20 of two people who wish to testify. I will call the  
21 witnesses in the order that they signed up. Before  
22 you give your comments, I will ask you to state your  
23 name and address, and I'll swear you in. Your  
24 testimony will be considered part of the official  
25 record in this case, and it will be reviewed by

1 the -- by the Commission before they make their final  
2 decision on the application.

3 We do appreciate your participation in  
4 tonight's hearing. We want everyone who wishes to  
5 make a public statement to have the opportunity to do  
6 so.

7 So other than that we'll get started. We  
8 have a podium up here. I will say the name, go to  
9 the podium. Charles Wiedenmann.

10 MR. WIEDENMANN: Do you care if I move  
11 this over about a foot? Nothing personal but I can't  
12 be around people because I have no immune system.

13 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Not at all.

14 MR. WIEDENMANN: I want to take the mask  
15 off so you can hear me.

16 EXAMINER WALSTRA: State your name and  
17 address for the record.

18 MR. WIEDENMANN: Good evening. I'm  
19 Charles Wiedenmann, Dr. Charles Wiedenmann. I reside  
20 at 4171 Weathered Oaks Lane, Fairfield Township,  
21 Ohio.

22 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you. Please  
23 raise your right hand.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

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CHARLES WIEDENMANN

presented himself as a public witness, and being  
first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: I want to thank you for the  
opportunity to speak on behalf of my utility company  
Duke Energy. I am here to briefly talk about my  
opinion on Ohio Consumer Choice, community  
aggregation, Duke Energy's investment into the grid,  
as well as economic development, and to let you know  
that I do support their energy security plan.

I, like most customers, am sick and tired  
of solicitation calls, mail brochures, and knocks on  
my door from suppliers trying to sell or lie to me  
about where I buy my power. You know the game.  
They're knocking on the door, telling you they are  
there on behalf of Duke Energy, and you have to drill  
them to find out whether they really work for Duke  
which they do not.

The problem these buyers and brokers have  
created is that people are so confused they don't  
even understand what they are buying or why. People  
end up losing money because they don't understand  
their contract.

Why do we need a contract? The PUCO and



1 legislators should reregulate because that is what  
2 the PUCO professionals and staff are experienced and  
3 good at. I guess I'm old and talking about the good  
4 old days.

5 Also with community aggregation, which  
6 many of us call community aggravation, the elected  
7 officials and their hired administrators don't even  
8 understand it. Don't -- in my township they don't  
9 even begin to understand it. These officials rely on  
10 out-of-state marketers and brokers to structure deals  
11 that are using hidden tax dollars to pad their  
12 wallets and profits. The poor residents are slammed  
13 into buying -- a buying pool based on mostly  
14 nonfactual information and overinflated savings data.

15 When our township did that within the  
16 last year or so, I called and was told by the  
17 township administrator that I was only the second  
18 person that called with a question. And she's a  
19 very, very nice lady. However, she was unable to  
20 answer any of my questions. When I asked her what is  
21 this costing, it costs absolutely nothing. I said  
22 nothing? I said no. She said we're not paying  
23 anything for this. We're all paying for this  
24 somehow, either in the rate or some other way.

25 The solution for them was to have the

1 broker call me, and when I kept continuing to ask him  
2 questions, I was kept being told, well, we won't know  
3 what the costs are, but look at the savings we got at  
4 West Chester Township who was an early entrant into  
5 this aggregation game. And they are also five times  
6 our size. They ought to look at what their rate is  
7 versus our rate and the true savings that we really  
8 didn't get.

9 Most people would be -- I again restate  
10 they would be better off if the PUCO would reregulate  
11 the electricity so most people have an opportunity to  
12 really know what they are paying for and purchasing.  
13 PUCO would provide excellent oversight in a regulated  
14 market as you previously did. As you know, this is  
15 why you exist. It is your mission and your job to  
16 understand utilities, and you have an excellent staff  
17 who do just that.

18 As a 30-year educator and administrator,  
19 22 years as a school superintendent and 12 years'  
20 experience with an Ohio-based company who was one of  
21 the largest public infrastructure companies in the  
22 state, I understand the need to invest into the  
23 electric grid for reliable and affordable power.  
24 Aging infrastructure has to be updated just like our  
25 roads, bridges, water, sewer, and schools.

1           Speaking of schools, the safety of our  
2 children is paramount and a key ingredient to have  
3 for the need for power and light. It's needed for  
4 food preparation, heat, air, computers. No power no  
5 school. In my school where I was superintendent, if  
6 we called off school because of power loss, it was  
7 about a \$250,000 payroll that had to be paid to the  
8 employees by state law. And it was also a day lost  
9 in education. When so many things are based on high  
10 stakes testing, we can't have our kids out of school.

11           Duke Energy was always there when I  
12 needed them in a crisis situation. As a matter of  
13 fact, they should be commended for being visionary  
14 and a leader in bringing the SmartGrid to their  
15 customers. This will promote energy efficiency,  
16 technology, and may even possibly lower our bills.  
17 Who doesn't want that?

18           Lastly, economic development and  
19 revitalization is something that must continue. I  
20 recently read an article in the Middletown Journal  
21 about a grant for urban revitalization that Duke  
22 provided for Middletown's downtown efforts.  
23 Middletown is seeing good results in bringing life  
24 back to this depressed area. Duke is not only  
25 helping Middletown but has given at least 10 other

1 grants in the Cincinnati region for revitalization  
2 projects. And most of all these revitalization  
3 projects bring back jobs, create jobs.

4 Having served on over 100 boards,  
5 commissions, committees, and over 30 years' public  
6 service, I know that typically these meetings are  
7 attended mostly by naysayers, I am glad there's only  
8 two people here tonight, naysayers and negative  
9 people. They show up many times to these types of  
10 meetings, and I'm glad you have your staff here to  
11 deal with such issues as tree trimming and herbicides  
12 and all those questions that they are upset about.

13 My health, I have blood cancer, daily  
14 chemo, and no immune system, so I can no longer serve  
15 on all the boards and commissions and things that I  
16 always did in our communities because I don't have  
17 the time. I am making this a priority to get out and  
18 support causes that make our communities and lives  
19 better, that's going to positively affect my 6  
20 children, my 10 grandchildren, and the members of the  
21 community that I've lived in for over 25 years. Duke  
22 Energy should be commended for being a leader and a  
23 great corporate citizen. Unfortunately they  
24 typically do not get credit for all the good they do  
25 in our community.

1 I support Duke Energy Ohio's electric  
2 security plan. It's what we need. Thank you.

3 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 Jacqueline Carr.

5 MR. WIEDENMANN: I can leave, can't I?

6 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Absolutely.

7 Please state your name and address.

8 MS. CARR: My name is Jacqueline Carr. I  
9 am here representing People Working Cooperatively at  
10 4612 Paddock Road in Cincinnati, Ohio.

11 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

14 - - -

15 JACQUELINE CARR

16 presented herself as a public witness, and being  
17 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 THE WITNESS: All right. I am here to  
20 represent People Working Cooperatively. We are a  
21 nonprofit social service agency that was founded back  
22 in 1975 with the original intent of helping people to  
23 live safely and stay safely in their homes because as  
24 people grow older, you have home repair issues,  
25 things that make the home unsafe, and it's our -- but

1 everyone wants to stay in their home, if possible, so  
2 that's what we strive to do.

3 As we've grown throughout the years in  
4 the community, we've extended our services trying to  
5 assist both owners and renters to help with  
6 weatherization needs for the home, electric --  
7 electrical issues and such, and we've been able to  
8 work with Duke Energy as far as our weatherization  
9 programs which has been a huge benefit to clients  
10 because as people stay in their homes longer are  
11 unable to make the updates and fixes that we need.

12 It has been wonderful to be able to work  
13 with Duke Corporation to be able to help clients in  
14 ways such as making sure their homes are safe as far  
15 as checking furnaces, anything with the gas,  
16 electricity, and to provide weatherstripping,  
17 insulation in the homes, things like that because  
18 everyone speaks of services that the public needs,  
19 but unfortunately a lot of people are either  
20 unwilling or unable to contribute and help.

21 So it has been wonderful to be able to  
22 work with Duke and provide some of these services to  
23 clients. The amount of stories that I've heard from  
24 clients in the amount of time I have been there so  
25 far are just never ending in a good way. Just, you

1 know, the little simple fixes might seem easy to us  
 2 such as replacing lightbulbs, putting  
 3 weatherstripping around windows, caulking,  
 4 insulation. For a lot of people these simple things  
 5 you run to Home Depot and do it yourself. A lot of  
 6 our clients, they are not able to complete these  
 7 fixes on their homes which, in turn, would make them  
 8 unliveable and safe for the clients and not being  
 9 able to stay in their homes, especially if you have  
 10 children in your home, can be such a life-changing  
 11 event for the worse unfortunately.

12 So by being able to work with Duke to  
 13 provide some of these services for clients, we're  
 14 really able to help strengthen the community, keeping  
 15 people in their homes, keeping homes looking nice,  
 16 safe, liveable always helps a community in how it  
 17 looks, keeps people happier, keeps them more  
 18 motivated to get out and help the community the best  
 19 they can because even if you don't have a lot, you  
 20 getting that one help from an individual or a company  
 21 or a social service agency motivates you to help  
 22 others in any way that they can. Be grateful for  
 23 what you have and go out and help others. So we are  
 24 very grateful for that.

25 We continue every day to reach out and

1 assist the community, are thankful to Duke for their  
2 assistance in that, and yes.

3 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 MS. CARR: That's all.

5 EXAMINER WALSTRA: Thank you. Appreciate  
6 it.

7 That's all I have on the list. Anyone  
8 else who wishes to testify?

9 All right. Anyone wishing to send in  
10 comments later you can go to the website or mail in  
11 the letter. Other than that we are adjourned.

12 (Thereupon, at 6:19 p.m., the hearing was  
13 concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
a true and correct transcript of the proceedings  
taken by me in this matter on Monday, October 23,  
2017, and carefully compared with my original  
stenographic notes.

*Karen Sue Gibson*

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered  
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-6440)

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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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**Case No(s). 17-1263-EL-SSO, 17-1264-EL-ATA, 17-1265-EL-AAM**

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., 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 Services; In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Amend its Certified Supplier Tariff, P.U.C.O. No. 20 and In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Defer Vegetation Management Costs, hearing held on October 23, 2017/ electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.