## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of

Case No. 16-0395-EL-SSO

The Dayton Power and Light Company for

Approval of Its Electric Security Plan

In the Matter of the Application of

The Dayton Power and Light Company for

Approval of Revised Tariffs

Case No. 16-0396-EL-ATA

In the Matter of the Application of

The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4905.13

Case No. 16-0397-EL-AAM

## THE DAYTON POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4903.10 and Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-35, The Dayton Power and Light Company ("DP&L") seeks rehearing of the Commission's October 20, 2017 Opinion and Order ("Order") on the following grounds:

- 1. The Order is unreasonable and unlawful to the extent that it modified the March 14, 2017 Amended Stipulation and Recommendation ("Amended Stipulation") by finding that AES Corporation, through DP&L and DPL Inc., committed to use the proceeds from the sale of <u>any</u> generation assets to pay down debt.
- 2. The Order is unreasonable and unlawful to the extent that it modified the Amended Stipulation by finding that DP&L committed to pursue closure of any coal-fired generation stations.

Pursuant to Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-35(A), a memorandum in support setting

forth an explanation of the basis for each ground for rehearing is attached.

## Respectfully submitted,

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# MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THE DAYTON POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

### I. <u>INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY</u>

In this narrow application for rehearing, The Dayton Power and Light Company ("DP&L") seeks to correct two statements in the October 20, 2017 Opinion and Order ("Order") that, as written, misstate commitments made by DP&L in this proceeding. The statements lack record support and are, therefore, unreasonable and unlawful. Ohio Rev. Code § 4903.10; Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-35. DP&L believes that the Commission did not intend to modify the Amended Stipulation in the two statements, but instead, inadvertently misstated DP&L's commitments in the Amended Stipulation.

First, the Order states, "AES Corporation, through DP&L and DPL Inc., has committed to use the proceeds from the sale of <u>any</u> generation assets to pay down debt (Co. Ex. 3 at 19; Jt. Ex. 1 at 4)." Order, ¶ 77 (emphasis added). Although AES Corporation agreed to use the proceeds from the sale of generation assets to make discretionary debt repayments at DP&L and DPL Inc., that commitment was limited to proceeds from the sale of Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer stations. Amend. Stip., p. 4; Schroder Test., p. 19; Transcript of Proceedings, Vol. II, p. 306.

Second, the Order states, "as part of the Amended Stipulation, DP&L committed to transfer all of its generation assets to an affiliate and to pursue either a sale or closure of its coal-fired generation plants." Order, ¶ 104 (emphasis added). In the Amended Stipulation, DP&L committed to transfer its generation assets to AES Ohio Generation, LLC and to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jt. Ex. 1 is the March 14, 2017 Amended Stipulation and Recommendation ("Amended Stipulation" or "Amend. Stip."); Co. Ex. 3 is the March 22, 2017 Testimony of Sharon R. Schroder in Support of the Amended Stipulation and Recommendation ("Schroder Test.").

commence a sale process for Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer; however, it did not commit to close any generation stations.

The Commission should grant rehearing to correct those statements and ensure that the significant commitments made by DP&L in reaching the Amended Stipulation, which was signed by a diverse group of capable and knowledgeable parties after serious negotiation,<sup>2</sup> are accurately reflected in the Commission's Order.

# II. THE COMMISSION SHOULD GRANT REHEARING TO CORRECT TWO STATEMENTS IN ITS ORDER THAT MISSTATE DP&L COMMITMENTS AND, THUS, LACK RECORD SUPPORT

It is well settled that the Commission's decisions must have "record support," and that a Commission order is unlawful if "no evidence supports" the decision. In re Application of Columbus S. Power Co., 128 Ohio St.3d 512, 2011-Ohio-1788, 947 N.E.2d 655, ¶ 29. Accord:

Elyria Foundry Co. v. Pub. Util. Comm., 114 Ohio St.3d 305, 2007-Ohio-4164, 871 N.E.2d 1176, ¶ 29 (a Commission order is unlawful if there was no "factual basis supporting the commission's finding"); Indus. Energy Users-Ohio v. Pub. Util. Comm., 117 Ohio St.3d 486, 2008-Ohio-990, 885 N.E.2d 195, ¶ 30 ("[I]n order to meet the requirements of R.C. 4903.09, the PUCO's order must show, in sufficient detail, the facts in the record upon which the order is based . . . . ") (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

Here, to the extent the Commission's Order misstates commitments made by DP&L in this proceeding, it lacks record support and should be corrected on rehearing. Ohio Rev. Code § 4903.10; Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Mar. 22, 2017 Testimony of Patrick Donlon ("Donlon Test.") (Staff Ex. 2), pp. 3-4; Schroder Test., pp. 4-8.

## A. There is No Record Support to Find that DP&L Committed to Apply the Proceeds of the Sale of "Any" Generation Asset to Pay Down Debt

In reaching the Amended Stipulation, DP&L made several commitments on behalf of itself and DPL Inc. to allow DP&L to provide stable and certain distribution service and to modernize its distribution grid. Amend. Stip., pp. 3-8. Among those commitments, DP&L agreed to the following:

- "c. Assuming FERC approval, DP&L agrees to transfer its generation assets and non-debt liabilities to AES Ohio Generation, LLC, an affiliated subsidiary of DPL Inc., within 180 days following final Commission approval of this Stipulation, provided that the Commission approves this Stipulation without material modifications.
- d. DP&L (or the affiliate to whom the generation assets are transferred) will commit to commence a sale process to sell to a third party its ownership in Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer Stations.
- e. AES Corporation will use all proceeds from any sale of the coal generation assets to make discretionary debt repayments at DP&L and DPL Inc."

<u>Id</u>. at 4. Thus, DP&L committed to (1) transfer its generation assets to an affiliate, (2) commence a sale process to sell three coal-fired plants (<u>i.e.</u>, Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer), and (3) use the "proceeds from any sale of the coal generation assets," (again, Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer) to pay down debt at DP&L and DPL Inc. DP&L did not commit to use proceeds from the sale of any other generation asset for any particular purpose.

Company witness Sharon Schroder confirmed the limited scope of DP&L's commitment. In her pre-filed testimony, she explained, "DP&L (or the affiliate to whom the generation assets are transferred) has committed to commence a sale process to sell to a third party its ownership interests in three of its coal-fired generation assets, and to use the proceeds to

further pay off debt at DPL Inc. and DP&L," citing "Amended Stipulation, ¶ II.1. d. & e." Schroder Test., p. 19 (emphasis added). Thus, the proceeds to be used to pay down debt are the proceeds from any sale of Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer. <u>Id</u>.

On cross-examination, Ms. Schroder was asked about the scope of DP&L's commitment by an attorney for The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

- "Q. The quote-unquote coal generation assets referenced in [subsection] e, Ms. Schroder, is that referring only to Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer?
- A. Can you repeat that question, please?
- Q. Certainly. You will see in e it talks about 'coal generation assets'?
- A. Yes, I see that.
- Q. Okay. And by 'coal generation assets,' is that limited to Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer?
- A. I don't know, but <u>I think it's a reasonable interpretation</u> that it's in the same section that's referring to the section subsection just prior to when it says the coal generation assets that are referenced in the prior one.
- Q. Okay. So you say that's a reasonable interpretation. <u>Is that how you would expect the Commission to interpret it?</u>

A. Yes."

Transcript of Proceedings, Vol. II, pp. 305-06 (emphasis added).

Elsewhere, the Order acknowledges the scope of DP&L's commitment and the link between proceeds from the sale of Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer to debt repayments. Order, ¶ 27 (stating that "with the sale of <u>certain</u> coal-fired generation assets, DP&L states it will use <u>the proceeds</u> to pay down debt at DP&L and DPL Inc. and thus improve its financial well-being and allow the Company to better serve customers") (emphasis added); <u>id</u>. at ¶ 71 ("As part

of the Amended Stipulation, <u>DP&L committed</u> to transfer its generating assets to an affiliate of DPL Inc., as well as <u>to commence a sale process to sell</u> its ownership in its <u>Conesville, Miami</u>

<u>Fort, and Zimmer generation stations</u>. Further, AES agreed <u>to use the proceeds from any sale</u> to make discretionary debt repayments at DP&L and DPL Inc.") (emphasis added).

The Order, nevertheless, also states, "AES Corporation, through DP&L and DPL Inc. has committed to use the proceeds from the sale of <u>any</u> generation assets to pay down debt ...." Order, ¶ 77 (emphasis added). To the extent the Commission found that DP&L committed to use the proceeds from the sale of generation assets other than Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer in any particular way, the finding lacks record support and should be corrected on rehearing. <u>In re Application of Columbus S. Power Co.</u>, 128 Ohio St.3d 512, 2011-Ohio-1788, 947 N.E.2d 655, ¶ 29.

## B. There is No Record Support to Find that DP&L Committed to the Closure of Any Generation Asset

The Order further states, "as part of the Amended Stipulation, DP&L committed to transfer all of its generation assets to an affiliate and to pursue either a sale or <u>closure of its</u> coal-fired generation plants." Order, ¶ 104 (emphasis added). As part of the Amended Stipulation, DP&L committed to transfer its generation assets to AES Ohio Generation, LLC and to commence a sale process to sell Conesville, Miami Fort, and Zimmer stations. Amend. Stip., p. 4.

However, DP&L did not commit to close any generation facilities. <u>Id</u>. Ms. Schroder further testified that she "certainly [had not] talked about anything about the closure [in her testimony] because <u>it's not part of the stipulation</u>." Transcript of Proceedings, Vol. II, p. 410 (emphasis added). To the extent the Commission found that DP&L committed to any closure as

part of this proceeding, that finding lacks support in the record. Moreover, the Commission cites no evidence as to whether the closure of any generation assets would benefit ratepayers or be in the public interest. Office of Consumers' Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm., 64 Ohio St.3d 123, 126, 592 N.E.2d 1370 (1992). Given the lack of record support, this finding also should be corrected on rehearing. In re Application of Columbus S. Power Co., 128 Ohio St.3d 512, 2011-Ohio-1788, 947 N.E.2d 655, ¶ 29.

### III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the foregoing reasons and to ensure that the commitments made by DP&L in this proceeding are accurately reflected in the Commission's Order, this narrow Application for Rehearing should be granted

Respectfully submitted,

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing The Dayton Power and Light Company's

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