

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
AGENCY FOR AN ORDER APPROVING
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE UNIVERSAL
SERVICE FUND RIDER OF
JURISDICTIONAL OHIO ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES.

CASE NO. 17-1377-EL-USF

ENTRY ON REHEARING

Entered in the Journal on December 6, 2017

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission grants the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy's application for rehearing of the October 11, 2017 Opinion and Order for the purpose of further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} The Universal Service Fund (USF) was established, under the provisions of R.C. 4928.51 through 4928.58, for the purposes of providing funding for the low-income customer assistance programs, including the consumer education programs authorized by R.C. 4928.56, and for the administrative costs of those programs. The USF is administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), in accordance with R.C. 4928.51. The USF is funded primarily by the establishment of a universal service rider on the retail electric distribution service rates of jurisdictional electric utilities in Ohio, namely The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), Dayton Power & Light Company (DP&L), Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), Ohio Edison Company (OE), Ohio Power Company (OP), and The Toledo Edison Company (TE) (individually or collectively, electric utilities).

{¶ 3} Each of the electric utilities, CEI, DP&L, Duke, OE, OP and TE, is an electric distribution utility, as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(6), and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 4} R.C. 4928.52(B) provides that, if ODSA, after consultation with the Public Benefits Advisory Board, determines that revenues in the USF and revenues from federal or other sources of funding for the USF programs will be insufficient to cover the administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs and the consumer education programs and to provide adequate funding for those programs, ODSA shall file a petition with the Commission for an increase in the USF rider rates. R.C. 4928.52(B) also provides that the Commission, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing, may adjust the USF riders by the minimum amount required to provide the necessary additional revenues.

{¶ 5} On June 1, 2017, ODSA filed its notice of intent (NOI) to file an application to adjust the USF riders of all Ohio jurisdictional electric utilities, CEI, DP&L, Duke, OE, OP, and TE, in accordance with R.C. 4928.52 and the stipulation filed in the adjustment phase of the 2016 USF proceeding. *In re ODSA*, Case No. 16-1223-EL-USF, Opinion and Order (Dec. 21, 2016) at 14.

{¶ 6} On October 11, 2017, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order, approving ODSA's application to establish the methodology to determine the USF revenue requirement and rider rate design for the 2018 collection period. *In re ODSA*, Case No. 17-1377-EL-USF, Opinion and Order (Oct. 11, 2017).

{¶ 7} R.C. 4903.10 states that any party who has entered an appearance in a Commission proceeding may apply for rehearing with respect to any matters determined in that proceeding, by filing an application within 30 days after the entry of the order upon the journal of the Commission.

{¶ 8} On November 9, 2017, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) filed an application for rehearing of the October 11, 2017 Opinion and Order. Memoranda contra the application for rehearing were filed by ODSA, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, and jointly by the EDUs on November 20, 2017.

{¶ 9} The Commission believes that sufficient reason has been set forth by OP&E to warrant further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing. Accordingly, the application for rehearing filed by OP&E should be granted.

III. ORDER

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

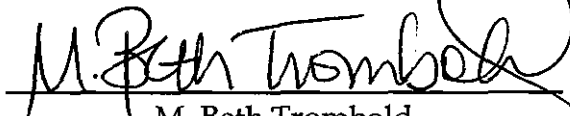
{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the application for rehearing filed by OP&E be granted for further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry on Rehearing be served upon all parties of record.

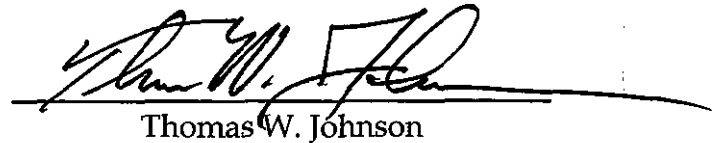
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



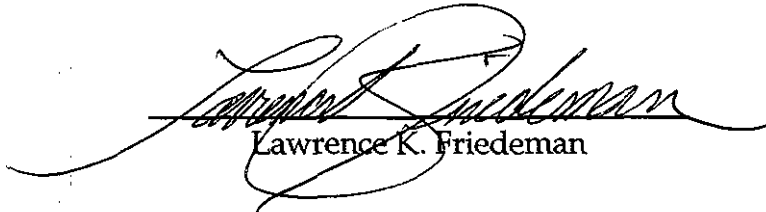
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



Lawrence K. Friedeman



Daniel R. Conway

GNS/vrm

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Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary