

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for an Increase in Electric Distribution Rates.)	Case No. 17-32-EL-AIR
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Tariff Approval.)	Case No. 17-33-EL-ATA
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.)	Case No. 17-34-EL-AAM
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Modify Rider PSR.)	Case No. 17-872-EL-RDR
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Amend Rider PSR.)	Case No. 17-873-EL-ATA
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.)	Case No. 17-874-EL-AAM
)	
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 Service.)	Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO
)	
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.)	Case No. 17-1264-EL-ATA
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Defer Vegetation Management Costs.)	Case No. 17-1265-EL-AAM
)	

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)
Energy Ohio, Inc., to Establish) Case No. 16-1602-EL-ESS
Minimum Reliability Performance)
Standards Pursuant to Chapter 4901:1-)
10, Ohio Administrative Code.

PREFILED TESTIMONY IN RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE STAFF
REPORT

OF

JOHN L. BERRINGER
RATES AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH AND POLICY DIVISION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

STAFF EXHIBIT____

July 2, 2018

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is John L. Berringer. My business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist 2 in the Research and Policy Division of the Rates and
8 Analysis Department. My duties include conducting investigations of
9 assigned phases of rate case applications and other financial audits of
10 public utility companies subject to the jurisdiction of the PUCO.
11

12 3. Q. Would you briefly state your educational background?

13 A. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from The Ohio State University in
14 1991. In 2012, I earned a post-baccalaureate Certificate of Accounting
15 Concentration from Columbus State Community College.
16

17 4. Q. Please briefly outline your work experience.

18 A. I have been with the PUCO since July 2003 and in the Rates and Analysis
19 Department since April 2009. Prior to working at the PUCO, I held various
20 positions in the insurance, education and healthcare industries.
21

22 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Commission?

1 A. Yes.

2
3 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

4 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the Cincinnati Clean Energy
5 Foundation (CCEF) Objection 2 pertaining to the removal of customer
6 education funds.

7
8 7. Q. In its objection, CCEF states that it “objects to the removal of customer
9 education funds based on the Staff’s conclusion that the funds were not
10 expended during the test year. In particular, CCEF objects to the extent that
11 this conclusion will result in Duke Energy not expending future funds on
12 needed customer education, especially as it relates to customer education
13 regarding clean energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.”¹ The
14 objection goes on to say “nothing on the face of R.C. 4909.15 precludes the
15 use of an estimate, projection, or forecast in the test period analysis.”² How
16 do you respond?

17 A. It has been a long-standing practice of the Staff of the PUCO (Staff) to
18 assess whether costs are prudent to include in test year expenses by
19 applying two key criteria: 1) whether the cost is known and measurable;

¹ *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Increase in Electric Distribution Rates*, Case No. 17-32-EL-AIR, et al., Objections to the Staff Report by CCEF at 4 (Oct. 26, 2017) (*Duke Rate Case*).

² *Id.*

1 and 2) whether the cost is related to something that is used and useful in
2 providing utility service to customers. The approximately \$2 million in
3 question pertains to a proposed customer education campaign that did not
4 occur during the test year, nor was it planned to occur during the test year.
5 Furthermore, since the campaign was not implemented during the test year,
6 it could not be considered used and useful in the provision of service to
7 customers, thereby making the associated costs for the program
8 inappropriate to include in test year expenses. Therefore, Staff made its
9 recommendation to remove the expense for the proposed customer
10 education campaign.

11
12 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

13 A. Yes it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony
14 as described herein, as new information subsequently becomes available or
15 in response to positions taken by other parties.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the Pre-filed Testimony in Response to Objections to the Staff Report of John L. Berringer has been served upon the below-named counsel via electronic mail, this 2nd day of July, 2018.

/s/ Steven L. Beeler

Steven L. Beeler

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Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony in Response to Objections to the Staff Report of John L. Berringer electronically filed by Ms. Tonneta Scott on behalf of PUC