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BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of  
Columbus Southern Power Company for  
Approval of Electric Transition Plan and  
Application for Receipt of Transition  
Revenues )

Case No. 99-1729-EL-ETP

In the Matter of the Application of  
Ohio Power Company for Approval of  
Electric Transition Plan and Application  
for Receipt of Transition Revenues )

Case No. 99-1730-EL-ETP

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INITIAL COMMENTS OF COLUMBUS SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY  
AND OHIO POWER COMPANY REGARDING CONSUMER EDUCATION PLANS

By Entry issued April 6, 2000 in the electric transition plan proceeding of Columbus Southern Power Company (CSP) and Ohio Power Company (OPCO) (collectively, the AEP Companies) and in the proceedings of several other electric utilities, the Commission stated its belief that the consumer education aspect of the transition plans may not require a hearing. Accordingly, before determining whether that aspect of the AEP Companies' (and the other electric utilities') plans should be set for hearing, the Commission afforded the parties to those proceedings the opportunity to submit comments regarding whether the consumer education plans comply with Section 4928.42, Revised Code, and are consistent with the rules that the Commission established on the subject in Case No. 99-1141-EL-ORD.

The AEP Companies' initial comments on this matter are brief. As the Commission's April 6 Entry notes, the Staff Report in the AEP Companies' proceeding, at page 20, states that

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their plans are consistent with the Commission's requirements except for the need to include an energy marketer representative in the advisory group. The AEP Companies are committed to satisfying the Staff's recommendation to include a representative of energy marketers in the advisory group. Accordingly, because there are no issues regarding the AEP Companies' consumer education plans, there is no need for a hearing on that aspect of their transition plans.

The AEP Companies recognize that the Commission's April 8 Entry called for initial comments to be filed by April 17. Inadvertent oversight of this one matter while attending to a series of other tasks in the AEP Companies proceeding over the last week has resulted in this filing being made late. The AEP Companies' position that their consumer education plans are consistent with the applicable requirements is not new. The only new point of the comments is to make clear the commitment to satisfy the one recommendation the Staff Report makes concerning their consumer education plans. Because it is in all parties' interests that the AEP Companies make that point clear as early as possible, the AEP Companies believe that the timing of these comments creates no prejudice to any party, and the AEP Companies respectfully request that the Commission except their initial comments as timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,



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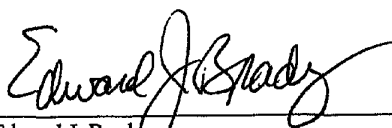
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Company and Ohio Power Company

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Initial Comments of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company Regarding Consumer Education Plans was served by e-mail and First Class U.S. Mail upon counsel for all parties of record in this case, on this 20th day of April, 2000.

  
Edward J. Brady