**BEFORE**

**THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

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| In the Matter of the Application of **NTE OHIO, LLC** for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility andPublic Need for an Electric Generating Facility in Middletown, Ohio, Butler County. | :::: | Case No. 14-534-EL-BGN |

**PREFILED TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**Grant T. Zeto**

**Facilities Siting and environmental Analysis Division**

**Department of Energy and Environment**

**Ohio Power Siting Board Staff**

**STAFF EXHIBIT \_\_\_\_\_**

**November 4, 2014**

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

 A. My name is Grant T. Zeto, and my business address is 180 East Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215.

2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a Utility Specialist 1 in the Facilities Siting and Environmental Analysis Division of the PUCO’s Department of Energy and Environment.

3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environment and Natural Resources from The Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio.

 I have been employed by the PUCO since August, 2011. My responsibili­ties during this time have primarily involved review of Power Siting cases.

4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board?

 A. Yes, I testified to sponsor the Staff Report of Investigation in case 13-0990-EL-BGN.

5. Q. What kind of a case is this?

 A. NTE OHIO, LLC proposes to construct and operate an electric generating facility with a total generating capacity of up to 525 megawatts (MW) in Middletown, Butler County, Ohio.

6. Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to make to the Staff Report of Investigation?

 A. No.

7. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

 A. With my testimony, I am sponsoring the Staff Report of Investigation issued in Case No. 14-0534-EL-BGN discussing the Stipulation and Rec­ommendation (Stipulation) that was submitted, and demonstrating why the Stipulation represents the best resolution of the issues raised in this pro­ceeding.

8. Q. Please identify the signatory parties to the Stipulation.

 A. No parties intervened in this proceeding. Therefore, the Commission Staff and the Company, NTE Energy, are the only signatory parties to the Stipu­lation.

9. Q. Please identify the criteria used by the Commission in reviewing a stip­ulation.

 A. The Commission will approve a stipulation when it (1) is the product of serious bargaining among capable, knowledgeable parties; (2) does not vio­late any important regulatory principle or practice, and (3) as a package benefits ratepayers and the public interest.

10. Q. Does the Stipulation represent the product of serious bargaining among capable, knowledgeable parties?

 A. Yes. The capability and knowledge of the parties and their counsel is apparent. I personally participated in the process that resulted in the Stipu­lation. I can therefore confirm that the issues raised were thoroughly reviewed and addressed during negotiations. The parties are very knowl­edgeable in regulatory matters, and were represented by experienced com­petent counsel.

11. Q. Does the Stipulation violate any important regulatory principle or practice?

 A. No. I believe that it complies with all relevant and important principles and practices. The Stipulation furthers important regulatory principles and prac­tices through responsible planning for utility infrastructure in a way that is consistent with Ohio policy.

12. Q. Does the Stipulation benefit consumers and the public interest?

 A. Yes. The Stipulation provides benefits for all customer groups and interest­ed stakeholders, while advancing and remaining consistent with state policy.

13. Q. Doe this conclude your testimony?

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

# PROOF OF SERVICE

 I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Grant T. Zeto, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board,was served by regu­lar U.S. mail, postage prepaid, hand-delivered, and/or delivered via elec­tronic mail, upon the follow­ing par­ties of record, this 4th day of November, 2014.

/s/ Katie L. Johnson

**Katie L. Johnson**

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