**BEFORE**

**THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In the Matter of the Application of OhioPower Company for Approval of in BillFormat. | ))) | Case No. 23-925-EL-UNC |

**MOTION TO SUSPEND AUTOMATIC APPROVAL**

**AND**

**REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

**BY**

**OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS’ COUNSEL**

The Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (“OCC”) moves to suspend the automatic approval process where AEP[[1]](#footnote-2) proposes a redesign of the bill format for all customers that are shopping with a competitive retail electric service provider.[[2]](#footnote-3) If not acted upon, the application will be automatically approved on July 16th.[[3]](#footnote-4) OCC is filing comments along with this motion for the PUCO’s consideration. The PUCO will need time to consider the OCC’s comments and any potential replies from AEP. Accordingly, there is good cause for OCC’s motion.

In light of the approaching automatic approval, OCC also requests that the PUCO issue an expedited ruling on this motion under O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C). OCC cannot certify that no party objects to this motion or to an expedited ruling.

OCC is filing on behalf of the 1.5 million residential utility customers of AEP. The reasons the PUCO should grant OCC’s motion and request for expedited treatment are further set forth in the attached memorandum in support.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen R. Willis (0020847)

Ohio Consumers’ Counsel

*/s/ Robert Eubanks*

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## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

AEP is proposing changes to the format of the bills of its customers who choose their own electricity supplier (“shopping customers”) to comply with a recent amendment to the PUCO’s consolidated billing rule, O.A.C. 4901:1-10-33. These changes address situations where an energy marketer bills a consumer for non-jurisdictional charges. The goal is “to minimize confusion for [consumers]” who receive electricity generation from a marketer.[[4]](#footnote-5)

The Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) is submitting its comments contemporaneously with this motion. OCC’s comments aim to further reduce consumer confusion and are for the PUCO’s consideration, prior to ruling on AEP’s application.

To thoroughly evaluate the OCC’s comments, the PUCO should suspend the automatic approval process for AEP’s application. AEP filed its application on May 30, 2024. According to rule, “If an application for a consolidated bill format is not acted upon by the commission within forty-five calendar days after it is filed, the consolidated bill format shall be deemed approved on the forty-sixth day after filing.”[[5]](#footnote-6) This means the application will be automatically approved on July 16th if not acted upon by July 15th. However, additional time is needed for the PUCO to consider the OCC’s comments and any potential replies from AEP. Therefore, OCC requests the PUCO to suspend the automatic approval process.

In light of the approaching automatic approval, OCC also requests that the PUCO issue an expedited ruling on this motion pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C). OCC cannot certify that no party objects to this motion or to an expedited ruling.

There is good cause for the PUCO to suspend the automatic 45-day approval process for this application and grant expedited treatment for this motion. By granting both, the PUCO can ensure a thorough review that protects the interests of Ohio residential customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen R. Willis (0020847)

Ohio Consumers’ Counsel

*/s/ Robert Eubanks*

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

 I hereby certify that a copy of this Motion to Suspend Automatic Approval and Request for Expedited Treatment was served on the persons stated below via electronic transmission, this 2nd day of July 2024.

 */s/ Robert Eubanks*

 Robert Eubanks

 Assistant Consumers’ Counsel

The PUCO’s e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the following parties:

**SERVICE LIST**

|  |  |
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|  |  |

1. Ohio Power Company (“AEP”). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. AEP’s proposal is in response to change to the PUCO consolidated billing rule, O.A.C. 4901:1-10-33. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. O.A.C. 4901:1-10-33(F). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. App. at ¶ 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. O.A.C. 4901:1-10-33(F) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)