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BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Vectren Retail, LLC d/b/a ) Case No. 02-1668-GA-CRS  
Vectren Source for Certification )  
as a Retail Natural Gas Supplier. )

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MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

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June 10, 2008

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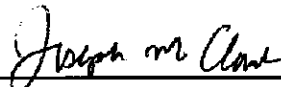
**MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 4901-1-24(D) of the Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C."), Vectren Retail, LLC d/b/a Vectren Source ("Vectren Source") respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") to issue a protective order to protect the confidentiality of and prohibit the disclosure of certain documents filed simultaneously with this motion in the above-captioned docket. The documents in Exhibits C-3 Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-3"), C-4 Financial Arrangements ("Exhibit C-4"), and C-5 Forecasted Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-5"), contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information comprising of trade secrets. These documents have been clearly marked as confidential and are hereby filed under seal, separate from the remainder of the materials that comprise Vectren Source's Renewal Certification Application filed simultaneously with this Motion.

The grounds for the instant Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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Contemporaneously with this Motion for Protective Order and Memorandum in Support, Vectren Source filed its Renewal Certification Application for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers ("CRNGS"). The Application contains all of the required information and materials in accordance with the Commission's Renewal Certification Filing Instructions for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers and Rule 4901-1-24, O.A.C. As part of the Application materials, the Commission requested information regarding Vectren Source's financial statements ("Exhibit C-3"), financial arrangements ("Exhibit C-4"), and forecasted financial statements ("Exhibit C-5"). Vectren Source has submitted the requested information under seal because the documents contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information, which require confidential treatment. Consequently, Vectren Source requests that the Commission maintain the confidential nature of these documents and the information contained therein, and protect the documents from public disclosure.

Specifically, Vectren Source asks the Commission to issue a protective order consistent with the Commission's handling of confidential information submitted with previous Vectren Source certification/recertification applications.<sup>1</sup> The Commission granted Vectren Source protective treatment of Exhibits C-3 and C-5 in their entirety in each of Vectren Source's certification/recertification applications. The Commission has also granted Exhibit C-4 partial protective treatment in both of Vectren Source's previous recertification applications, shielding from disclosure the entity names contained within the Financial Services and Security Agreement as well as the terms of all promissory notes. Additionally, Vectren Source requested and secured extended protective treatment of Exhibits C-3, C-4, and C-5 at the appropriate times. Therefore, Vectren Source respectfully requests the Commission grant protective treatment of (1) Exhibits C-3 and C-5 in their entirety and (2) Exhibit C-4 to the extent it contains the terms of promissory notes as well as entity names in the Financial Services and Security Agreement.

Rule 4901-1-24(D), O.A.C., provides for the issuance of an order that is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed at the Commission to the extent that state and federal law prohibit the release of such information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code ("R.C."). State law recognizes the need to protect information that is confidential in nature, as is the information contained in

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<sup>1</sup> See *In the Matter of the Applications of the Following Entities for a Certificate to Provide Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service in Ohio*, PUCO Case Nos. 02-1654-GA-CRS, et al., Entry at 3 (July 14, 2003); *In the Matter of the Applications of Vectren Retail, LLC, d/b/a as Vectren Source, et al., for Certification as Retail Natural Gas Suppliers in the State of Ohio*, PUCO Case Nos. 02-1668-GA-CRS, et al., Entry at 3 (August 11, 2004); *In the Matter of the Application of Vectren Retail, LLC, d/b/a Vectren Source for Certification as a Retail Natural Gas Supplier*, PUCO Case No. 02-1668-GA-CRS, Entry at 3 (August 11, 2006).

Exhibits C-3, C-4, and C-5. Section 4929.23(A), R.C., specifically permits the Commission to grant confidentiality to competitive information.<sup>2</sup> Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., facilitate the protection of trade secrets in the Commission's possession.<sup>3</sup> Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., reference Section 149.43, R.C., and therefore incorporate the provision that excepts from the public record information and records of which the release is prohibited by law.<sup>4</sup> State law prohibits the release of information meeting the definition of a trade secret. Additionally, non-disclosure of the information will not impair the purposes of Title 49 as the Commission and its Staff will have full access to the requested information in order to complete their review process.

The documents and information contained in Exhibits C-3, C-4, and C-5 are comprised of competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information falling within the statutory characterization of a trade secret as defined by Section 1333.61(D), R.C. The definition of trade secret contained in Section 1333.61(D), R.C., is as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process,

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<sup>2</sup> Section 4929.23(A), R.C., provides: "A retail natural gas supplier or governmental aggregator subject to certification under section 4929.20 of the Revised Code shall provide the public utilities commission with such information, regarding a competitive retail natural gas service for which it is subject to certification, as the commission considers necessary to carry out sections 4929.20 to 4929.24 of the Revised Code. The commission shall take such measures as it considers necessary to protect the confidentiality of any such information."

<sup>3</sup> Section 4901.12, R.C., provides: "Except as otherwise provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all proceedings of the public utilities commission and all documents and records in its possession are public records."

Section 4905.07, R.C., provides: "Except as provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all facts and information in the possession of the public utilities commission shall be public, and all reports, records, files, books, accounts, papers, and memorandums of every nature in its possession shall be open to inspection by interested parties or their attorneys."

<sup>4</sup> Section 149.43(A)(1)(v), R.C., provides in part: "'Public record' does not mean records the release of which is prohibited by state or federal law."

procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any business information or plans, **financial information**, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

Section 1333.61(D), R.C. (emphasis added).

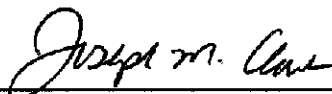
Clearly, financial statements, financial arrangements, and forecasted financial statements contain proprietary data and are confidential. Public disclosure of this information would jeopardize Vectren Source's business position in negotiations with other parties and its ability to compete. Vectren Source asserts that this information is not generally known by the public and is held in confidence in the normal course of business. Therefore, Vectren Source reasonably requests that the identified financial information contained in Exhibits C-3, C-4, and C-5 be deemed to contain trade secrets, and thus, be treated as confidential by this Commission and its Staff.

Finally, as a matter of administrative convenience, Vectren Source requests that the Commission: (1) renew protective treatment for the exhibits that have previously been granted protective treatment in this docket and (2) consolidate the due date for requesting an extension of protective treatment of the confidential exhibits in this docket. Specifically, Vectren Source asks that the due date for the request to continue protective treatment of exhibits previously granted confidential status be consolidated with the due date for renewal of protective treatment for the exhibits in this Application that are granted protective treatment.

The Commission previously granted a Vectren Source Motion making this same request, renewing the protected status of all of the exhibits previously granted protective treatment and also consolidating all renewal due dates.<sup>5</sup> All of the exhibits at issue are either currently being protected from disclosure pursuant to the relevant Attorney Examiner Entries or were submitted with this Application. Granting Vectren Source's Motion will continue to minimize the number of requests that the Commission must review and grant each year as well as streamline Vectren Source's ability to account for the several exhibits whose protective status must be renewed.

WHEREFORE, Vectren Source respectfully requests that this Motion for Protective Order be granted for the reasons set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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<sup>5</sup> *In the Matter of the Application of Vectren Retail, LLC, d/b/a Vectren Source for Certification as a Retail Natural Gas Supplier*, PUCO Case No. 02-1668-GA-CRS, Entry at 4-5 (January 8, 2007).