

FILE

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BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO 2009 JAN 12 AM 10:47

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio )  
Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric )  
Illuminating Company and The Toledo )  
Edison Company for Approval of Rider )  
FUEL and Related Accounting Authority )

Case No. 09-21-EL-ATA  
Case No. 09-22-EL-AEM  
Case No. 09-23-EL-AAM

PUCO

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MOTION TO INTERVENE  
BY  
THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

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The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC"), on behalf of residential utility customers, moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO" or "Commission") to grant the OCC's intervention in these proceedings where an application by Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and the Toledo Edison Company for the approval of their proposed Rider FUEL would result in rate increases for their customers.<sup>1</sup> The OCC's Motion should be granted because OCC meets the legal standards for intervention, as explained in detail in the attached Memorandum in Support.

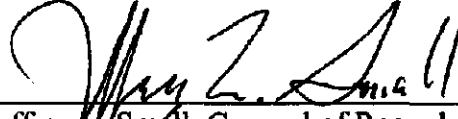
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<sup>1</sup> See R.C. Chapter 4911, R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11.

Respectfully submitted,

JANINE L. MIGDEN-OSTRANDER  
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Small", is written over a horizontal line.

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

On August 9, 2009, Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company (collectively, “FirstEnergy” or “Companies”) filed their application (“Application”) for the approval of their proposed Rider FUEL. The approval of the Application would permit the Companies to increase rates paid by the Companies’ approximately 1.9 million residential customers. The OCC is the state agency that represents Ohio’s residential utility consumers. The Commission should grant the OCC’s Motion to Intervene in these proceedings so that it can fully participate in the proceedings and protect the interests of the Companies’ residential customers.

**II. INTERVENTION**

Pursuant to R.C. Chapter 4911, the OCC moves to intervene under its legislative authority to represent Ohio residential utility customers. The OCC meets the standards for intervention found in Ohio’s statutes and the PUCO’s rules.

The interests of residential electric customers in areas served by the Companies are “adversely affected” by these cases, pursuant to the intervention standard in R.C.

4903.221. R.C. 4903.221 provides, in part, that any person “who may be adversely affected” by a PUCO proceeding is entitled to seek intervention in that proceeding. The interests of Ohio’s residential consumers may be “adversely affected” by these proceedings, especially if the customers are unrepresented in proceedings where the Companies seek to increase rates paid by residential customers. Thus, the OCC satisfies the intervention standard in R.C. 4903.221.

The OCC also meets the criteria for intervention in R.C. 4903.221(B), which requires the PUCO, in ruling on motions to intervene, to consider the following:

- (1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervenor’s interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceeding; and
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

First, the nature and extent of the OCC’s interest is to represent the residential customers of the Companies regarding rates paid by residential customers and the terms for obtaining that service. Increased rates are the purpose of the Application. This interest is different than that of any other party, and especially different than that of the utility whose advocacy includes the financial interest of stockholders.

Second, the OCC’s legal positions include without limitation that the rates paid by residential customers, and the service provided for those rates, should be reasonable and lawful. The Application seeks rate increases outside the statutory process for establishing

standard service offers, as provided for by R.C. 4928.141 et seq. This legal position directly relates to the merits of the cases.

Third, the OCC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings, but should provide insights that will expedite the PUCO's effective treatment of the Application. The OCC, with its longstanding expertise and experience in PUCO proceedings, will duly allow for the efficient processing of the proceedings with consideration of the public interest.

Fourth, the OCC's intervention will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues. These cases significantly relate to the recent enactment of Sub. S.B. 221, about which OCC has extensive knowledge. More particularly, these cases appear to stem from developments in Case Nos. 08-935-EL-SSO and 08-936-EL-SSO that dealt with the establishment of standard service offers for customers of the Companies. The OCC was extensively involved in all phases of both these cases. The OCC intends to obtain and develop information that the PUCO should consider for equitably and lawfully deciding the cases in the public interest.

The OCC also satisfies the intervention criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (which are subordinate to the criteria that the OCC satisfies in the Ohio Revised Code). To intervene, a party should have a "real and substantial interest" according to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2). As the residential utility consumer advocate for the State of Ohio, the OCC has a real and substantial interest in this proceeding where the outcome will have an effect on the service rates paid by residential consumers.

In addition, the OCC meets the criteria of Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(1)-(4). These criteria mirror the statutory criteria in R.C. 4903.221(B) that the OCC already has addressed and that the OCC satisfies.

Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5) states that the Commission shall consider the “extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.” While the OCC does not concede the lawfulness of this criterion, the OCC satisfies this criterion in that it uniquely has been designated as the state representative of the interests of Ohio’s residential utility consumers. That interest is different from, and not represented by, any other entity in Ohio.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of Ohio has confirmed the OCC’s right to intervene in PUCO proceedings, in ruling on an appeal in which the OCC claimed the PUCO erred by denying its intervention. The Court found that the PUCO abused its discretion in denying the OCC’s intervention and that OCC should have been granted intervention.<sup>2</sup>

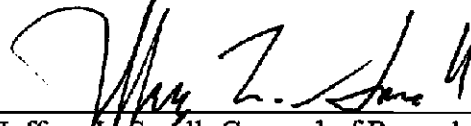
The OCC meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11, and the precedent established by the Supreme Court of Ohio for intervention. On behalf of Ohio’s residential consumers, the Commission should grant the OCC’s Motion to Intervene.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 111 Ohio St.3d 384, 2006-Ohio-5853, ¶13-20 (2006).

Respectfully submitted,

JANINE L. MIGDEN-OSTRANDER  
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

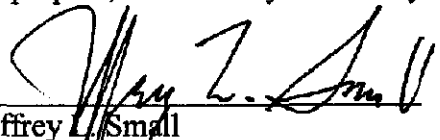
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this *Motion to Intervene* was served on the persons stated below, via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2009.

  
Jeffrey L. Small  
Counsel of Record

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