FILE

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Its Electric Security Plan.)	Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO	PUCO
In the Matter of the Application of the Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Revised Tariffs.)	Case No. 08-1095-EL-ATA	
In the Matter of the Application of the Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4905.13.)))	Case No. 08-1096-EL-AAM	
In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Its Amended Corporate Separation Plan.)	Case No. 08-1097-EL-UNC	

REPLY TO DP&L'S MEMORANDUM IN RESPONSE MOTION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC"), on behalf of the approximately 460,000 residential utility consumers of Dayton Power & Light Company ("DP&L"), replies to DP&L's Memorandum in Response OCC's Motion for Local Public Hearings pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4909-1-12.

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 10, 2008, Dayton Power & Light ("DP&L") filed an Application in the above-identified cases. In the above-captioned Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO, DP&L seeks approval of its proposed Electric Security Plan. The other cases involve requests to

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amend DP&L's corporate separation plan, and a request for accounting authority and approval of tariffs (all cases collectively, "ESP Case"). If granted by the PUCO, these Applications will result in an increase in the rates paid by all of DP&L's residential customers. OCC requests that the Commission schedule public hearings on the matters in the ESP Case, consistent with OCC's previously-filed Motion for Local Public Hearings ("Motion"). The Commission should provide at least 30 days notice to the public of the hearings.

II. THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE GIVEN AT LEAST 30 DAYS NOTICE OF THE HEARINGS

DP&L's argument against providing at least 30 days notice of hearings is comprised of only two sentences:

No legal authority exists for the OCC's request that published notice be given "at least 30 days" prior to the local hearing. Motion, p. 6. This arbitrary and unnecessarily long lead time is not required by statute or Commission rule. Ohio Rev. Code § 4928.141(B); Ohio Admin. Code § 4901:1-35-06(A).

The authorities cited by DP&L do not prohibit providing at least 30 days notice for public hearings. The Commission should adopt OCC's proposed notice because it is founded on a reasonable basis and will serve to appropriately inform customers of the hearings.

OCC was informed that various public interest groups were interested in these cases. However, those groups are unable to coordinate representation at the hearings on less than 30 days notice. Members of community organizations must be contacted about attending the public hearings. Oftentimes the boards of

¹ Memorandum in Response (sic) at 2 (January 28, 2009).

trustees of such community organizations participate in assisting members of the public to gain access to public hearings. If formally acted upon by such boards, they do so no more that once a month (many meet less frequently).

DP&L's Application may significantly impact customer rates, and DP&L's customers are entitled to have an opportunity to participate in this regulatory process on issues that include (without limitation) establishing electric rates, deploying renewable energy, and ensuring service quality. The additional notice period will assist the public in understanding what they would pay for and what they would receive in return.

R.C. 4903.13 states the imperative that "[a]ll hearings shall be open to the public." In order to truly be open to the public, the PUCO should include local public hearings as part of the evidentiary record, thereby providing residential consumers who might be unable to reasonably attend hearings an opportunity to participate in the hearing process. Having adequate notice of the Public Hearing will assist the Public's participation.

In order to provide sufficient notice to the public, the PUCO should provide the public with at least 30 days notice in newspapers of general circulation prior to the public hearings at the locations selected. Such notice would allow DP&L's customers to adapt their schedules, meet with the members of their community organizations, and plan their travel to and presentations at the hearings. Without such sufficient notice, the effectiveness of the public hearings will be diminished.

III. CONCLUSION

The Commission should hold local public hearings regarding the applications in the ESP Case. The OCC's Motion proposed four separate hearings based upon the location of population centers and the geographic extent of the area served by DP&L. The local public hearings will provide DP&L's customers an opportunity to participate in these cases that may significantly affect their rates and service. DP&L's objections to OCC's Motion should be rejected.

OCC's Motion for Local Public Hearings should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Reply to DP&L's Memorandum in Response to Motion for Local Public Hearings was served via electronic transmission to the persons listed below, on this 2nd day of February, 2009.

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