

FILE

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

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PUCO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbus Southern Power Company and)
Ohio Power Company to Update Each) Case No. 10-477-EL-RDR
Company's Transmission Cost Recovery)
Rider.)

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

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") moves to intervene in this case where the Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company ("AEP Ohio" or "Companies") seek approval to update each company's transmission cost recovery rider ("TCRR") and to collect from customers certain costs identified in the Application ("Application") filed by AEP Ohio on April 14, 2010.¹ OCC is filing on behalf of all the approximately 1.2 million residential utility consumers of AEP Ohio. The reasons the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission" or "PUCO") should grant OCC's Motion are further set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

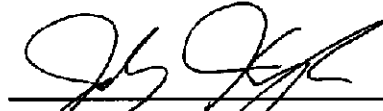
¹ See R.C. Chapter 4911, R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11.

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Respectfully submitted,

JANINE L. MIGDEN-OSTRANDER
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL



Jody M. Kyler, Counsel of Record
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
Telephone: (614) 466-8574
kyler@occ.state.oh.us

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In the Matter of the Application of)	
Columbus Southern Power Company and)	
Ohio Power Company to Update Each)	Case No. 10-477-EL-RDR
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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

This case involves the review of the reasonableness and lawfulness of the request by AEP Ohio to collect from customers through each company's transmission cost recovery rider ("TCRR") the costs of transmission and transmission-related expenses. OCC has authority under law to represent the interests of all the approximately 1.2 million residential utility customers of AEP Ohio, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 4911.

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 this case, especially if the consumers were unrepresented in a proceeding where costs of transmission and transmission-related expenses are included in their rates. Thus, this element of the intervention standard in R.C. 4903.221 is satisfied.

R.C. 4903.221(B) requires the Commission to consider the following criteria in ruling on motions to intervene:

- (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 OCC's interest is representing the residential consumers of AEP Ohio in order to ensure that only charges that are appropriate for payment by consumers are in fact the charges to be paid by consumers.² In this case, the charges are for transmission and transmission-related expenses. 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, OCC's advocacy for consumers will include advancing the position that rates should be no more than what is reasonable and lawful under Ohio law, for service that is adequate under Ohio law.³ OCC's position is therefore directly related to the merits of this case that is pending before the PUCO, the authority with regulatory control of public utilities' rates and service quality in Ohio.

Third, OCC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings. OCC, with its longstanding expertise and experience in PUCO proceedings, will duly allow for the efficient processing of the case with consideration of the public interest.

Fourth, OCC's intervention will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues. OCC will obtain and develop information

² Ohio Admin. Code 4901:1-36-02 authorizes an electric utility to recover, through a reconcilable rider on the electric utility's distribution rates, all transmission and transmission-related costs, including ancillary and congestion costs, imposed on or charged to the utility, net of financial transmission rights and other transmission-related revenues credited to the electric utility, by the federal energy regulatory commission or a regional transmission organization, independent transmission operator, or similar organization approved by the federal energy regulatory commission.

³ See R.C. 4905.22; R.C. 4928.02.

that the PUCO should consider for equitably and lawfully deciding the case in the public interest.

OCC also satisfies the intervention criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (which are subordinate to the criteria that 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, OCC has a very real and substantial interest in these proceedings where the outcome could have an effect on the service and rates paid by residential customers.

In addition, 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 OCC already has addressed and that 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 OCC does not concede the lawfulness of this criterion, 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 confirmed OCC’s right to intervene in PUCO proceedings, in ruling on an appeal in which OCC claimed the PUCO erred by denying its intervention. The Court found that the PUCO abused its discretion in denying OCC’s intervention and that OCC should have been granted intervention.⁴

⁴ See *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 111 Ohio St.3d 384, 2006-Ohio-5853, ¶¶13-20 (2006).

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 residential consumers, the Commission should grant OCC's Motion to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

JANINE L. MIGDEN-OSTRANDER
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

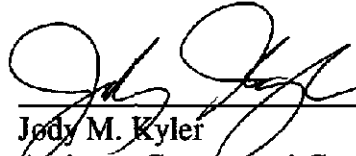


Jody M. Kyler, Counsel of Record
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
Telephone: (614) 466-8574
kyler@occ.state.oh.us

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this *Motion to Intervene* was served on the persons stated below via regular U.S. Mail Service, postage prepaid, this 7th day of May, 2010.



Jody M. Kyler
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

SERVICE LIST

Duane Luckey
Attorney General's Office
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St., 6th Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215

Marvin I. Resnik
Steven T. Nourse
AEP Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215