

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Mater of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company (collectively, AEP Ohio) for an Increase in Electric Distribution Rates.	Case No. 11-351-EL-AIR Case No. 11-352-EL-AIR Case No. 11-352-EL-AIR
In the Mater of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company (collectively, AEP Ohio) for Tariff Approval.) Case No. 11-353-EL-AIR) Case No. 11-354-EL-AIR)
In the Mater of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company (collectively, AEP Ohio) for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.) Case No. 11-356-EL-AAM Case No. 11-358-EL-AAM)

MOTION TO INTERVENE OF THE OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

On January 27, 2011 Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company (collectively "AEP Ohio") individually and if their proposed merger is approved, as a single merged company, filed a Notice of Intent to file for an increase in its electric distribution rates, along with tariff changes. AEP Ohio also requested authority to change its accounting methods.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section ("R.C.") 4903.221, Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC") Rule 4901-1-11, the Ohio Hospital Association ("OHA") moves for leave to intervene in these proceedings. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") should grant OHA leave to intervene because OHA has a real and substantial interest in these proceedings, and the Commission's disposition of these proceedings may impair or impede OHA's ability to protect that interest.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The members of OHA will be affected by the Commission's determination in these matters, and should be permitted to intervene in the above-captioned proceedings because it has real and substantial interests.

OHA is a private nonprofit trade association established in 1915 as the first state-level hospital association in the United States and is the only Ohio trade association representing hospitals with 168 private, state and federal government hospitals and more than 18 health systems. OHA's mission is to be a membership-driven organization that provides proactive leadership to create an environment in which Ohio hospitals are successful in serving their communities. The approximately 50 hospitals receiving electricity from AEP Ohio are OHA members and consume significant amounts of electrical energy, relying on their host electric distribution utilities of the AEP Companies to deliver the electric power necessary to provide patient care. Every hospital, or virtually every hospital, in AEP Ohio's service area is a member of OHA and all OHA member hospitals are posted at http://www.ohanet.org/Members.

OHA is concerned that the ultimate resolution of the matters to be addressed in the above-captioned proceedings could have a substantial effect on the electricity costs of OHA members, including the hospitals in the service area of the AEP Ohio, as well as hospital interests in power reliability, adequacy, and demand management. A significant component of hospital costs is electric, estimated at about \$4500 per staffed bed per annum, and such costs are necessarily passed on to patients, their families, businesses and taxpayers. Additionally, hospitals have somewhat unique electricity load patterns and require reliable electric service on a 24-hour basis very day of the year in order to provide medical care. Pertinent to these proceedings is the additional fact that all hospitals are required by federal regulators and accrediting organization to maintain emergency

generators in the event of interrupted utility power, and larger hospitals in particular utilize sophisticated energy management systems and related energy efficiency technology. In sum, communities and individuals depend upon hospitals, and hospitals in turn depend upon electric companies to provide reliable service at an affordable rate. The outcome of this case will significantly impact the reasonableness of AEP Ohio's rates charged to hospitals for the foreseeable future.

As a result of the above concerns and hospital characteristics, OHA has a substantial interest in these proceedings that is not adequately addressed by any other party. OHA's participation will enhance the effectiveness of the above proceedings, will not unnecessarily cause delay, and will help ensure that the proceedings in these matters are fair to its membership.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully requests the Commission to determine that OHA has a real and substantial interest in these proceedings and should grant its Motion to Intervene pursuant to R.C. 4903.221 and OAC Rule 4901-1-11.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene was served upon the parties of record listed below this 3rd day of February 2011 via first class mail.

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