

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbus Southern Power Company to)
Establish New Experimental Rate)
Schedule Classifications for Residential) Case No. 10-424-EL-ATA
and Small General Service Time of Day)
Rates and Residential Experimental)
Direct Load Control Rider.)

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) On March 18, 2009, the Commission issued its opinion and order in Columbus Southern Power Company's (CSP or the company) and Ohio Power Company's (jointly, AEP-Ohio) electric security plan (ESP) cases (ESP Order).¹ By entries on rehearing issued July 23, 2009, and November 4, 2009, the Commission affirmed and clarified certain issues raised in AEP-Ohio's ESP Order. In the ESP Order, the Commission directed CSP to pursue funding for its gridSMART project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and encouraged CSP's expedient implementation of a pilot program, Phase 1 gridSMART, with three primary components: advanced meter infrastructure (AMI), Distribution Automation (DA) and Home Area Network technologies. The Commission reasoned that properly designed AMI and DA would serve as the foundation for CSP providing its customers with the ability to better manage their energy consumption and reduce their energy costs as well as decrease the scope and duration of electric outages.
- (2) On April 1, 2010, CSP filed an application for authority to offer small commercial and residential customers within its Phase 1 gridSMART territory time-of-day (TOD) service and to offer residential customers within the Phase 1 gridSMART area direct load control (DLC) service. On August 18, 2010, at the Commission's request, CSP presented its comprehensive gridSMART plan for engaging consumers, testing consumer

¹ *In re AEP-Ohio ESP cases*, Case Nos. 08-917-EL-SSO and 08-918-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (March 18, 2009).

pricing and technology options and evaluating consumer responses.

- (3) After considering comments filed by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) and a recommendation from Staff, the Commission approved, with certain modifications, CSP's request to offer TOD and DLC services on December 1, 2010 (Order). Pursuant to the Order, a minimum one-year stay provision was implemented for TOD service and customer enrollment permitted from September 1 to March 1 only. The Commission also implemented a TOD customer account review, to be conducted after the end of the minimum stay, to hold the customer harmless and encourage customer participation in the TOD service. The TOD tariffs were effective January 14, 2011.
- (4) On January 3, 2011, OCC filed an application for rehearing which the Commission denied by entry on rehearing issued January 27, 2011.
- (5) On February 16, 2011, CSP filed a request for a waiver of the enrollment period this year. CSP states that, to date, there have been more than 400 inquiries for information regarding TOD service. The company claims that additional time is needed to facilitate the enrollment process for customers who inquire about TOD service by March 1, 2011. As part of CSP's enrollment process the company reviews each inquiring customer's account usage history and a customer service representative contacts the customer to explain TOD service. CSP offers that these time consuming steps are taken to assure that the service is right for the customer before enrollment. CSP requests that the Commission waive the customer enrollment period this year for those customers who inquire about the service by March 1, 2011 to allow CSP to enroll the customer by March 31, 2011 and program the customer's meter to participate by April 15, 2011. CSP states that under the proposed time line the customer will experience at least one bill at the lower off-peak rates and it will allow the company to comply with the one-year account review, to hold the customer harmless, and facilitate the termination of participation before higher on-peak rates go into effect beginning June 1, 2012.

- (6) The Commission finds CSP's request for a waiver to extend the enrollment period to March 31, 2011, for customers who inquire about TOD service by March 1, 2011, to be reasonable. The waiver of the enrollment period will permit more customers to participate in the TOD experimental service offering, facilitating a better survey of customer feedback regarding the service offering, pricing, and technology, as well as facilitate CSP's compliance with the one-year account review to hold TOD customers harmless. CSP's request for a waiver should be granted.


It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That CSP's request for a 30 day waiver of the enrollment period, until March 31, 2011, is granted. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served all persons of record in this case.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Steven D. Lesser, Chairman


Paul A. Centolella


Valerie A. Lemmie


Cheryl L. Roberto

GNS/vrm

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Renee J. Jenkins
Secretary