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BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO APR 29 AM 10: 59

In the Matter 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)))))	PUC Case No. 11-351-EL-AIR Case No. 11-352-EL-AIR
In the Matter 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-ATA Case No. 11-354-EL-ATA
In the Matter 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

COLUMBUS SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY'S AND OHIO POWER COMPANY'S MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE OF ORMET PRIMARY ALUMINUM CORPORATION

Ormet Primary Aluminum Corporation ("Ormet") seeks to consolidate the six

above-captioned cases into one proceeding, for the sole articulated purpose of avoiding

the Supreme Court of Ohio's limitation on pro hac vice admission.¹

Columbus Southern Power Company (CSP) and Ohio Power Company (OPCo)

(collectively, "the Companies" or "AEP Ohio") oppose Ormet's request. Consolidation

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¹ Effective January 1, 2011, Gov.Bar R. XII Section 2(A)(5) limits *pro hac vice* admission to three proceedings per calendar year.

is only warranted where: (i) there is a substantial commonality of question of law and fact among all of the involved cases, (ii) the parties are substantially the same in all of the involved cases, (iii) whether consolidation is an efficient use of resources, and (iv) consolidation should not unduly delay or otherwise prejudice the interests raised in the separate cases. *See* Civ.R. 42(A); *Waterman v. Kitrick* (1990), 60 Ohio App.3d 7. Ormet's Motion to Consolidate does not even attempt to establish that consolidation is appropriate under these factors; rather, it seeks to misuse the Commission's docketing rules and procedures solely to allow its out-of-state attorney to participate in all six proceedings in contravention of the Ohio Supreme Court's *pro hac vice* rule.

The six pending cases consist of three individual applications, properly filed by two different legal entities, which do not share common questions of fact or law. The Companies followed the Commission's well-established docketing procedures and case purpose codes to identify and file separate applications seeking approval of changes to distribution rates, tariffs, and accounting methods.

Ormet does not assert any legal grounds for consolidation, and should not be permitted to circumvent the Ohio Supreme Court's rules and disrupt the Commission's case management procedures solely for its own convenience.²

For these reasons, Ormet's Motion to Consolidate is not supported and should be denied.

² As a practical matter, *pro hac vice* admission in one – or three – of the above-captioned cases will result in Ormet's counsel being served with documents filed in all six cases, and Ormet's participation will not be substantively impaired by the three-proceeding limit.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the Columbus Southern Power Company's and Ohio Power

Company's Memorandum in Opposition was served on the persons stated below by U.S.

First Class Mail, this 29th day of April, 2011.

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