

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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PUCO

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)
Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Energy)
Efficiency Cost Recovery Mechanism)
and for Approval of Additional)
Programs for Inclusion in its Existing)
Portfolio.)

Case No. 11-4393-EL-RDR

MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY THE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

For the reasons set forth in the accompanying Memorandum in Support, the Natural Resources Defense Council moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for leave to intervene in the above-captioned case pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4903.221 and Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11, and to grant to the Natural Resources Defense Council the full powers and rights specifically authorized by statute or by the provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Allwein, Counsel of Record (0084914)
Williams, Allwein and Moser, LLC
1373 Grandview Ave., Suite 212
Columbus, Ohio 43212
Telephone: (614) 429-3092
Fax: (614) 670-8896
E-mail: callwein@williamsandmoser.com

Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

I. Introduction

The Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") seeks intervention in this proceeding regarding the Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke") proposal to create an Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Rider ("Rider EE/PDR"). NRDC seeks to participate in this proceeding because NRDC and its members may be adversely affected by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO" or "Commission") rulings in these matters. The Application presents important questions regarding Duke's cost recovery of EE/PDR program costs, avoided costs and the consideration of new programs for specific customer classes. These and other issues which are a part of this proceeding may directly impact NRDC's interests in protecting public health and the environment, and the interests of their members who reside in Duke's service territory and/or live near Duke's power generation sources. As such, NRDC is entitled to intervene in this proceeding.

II. Legal Standard

Ohio law states that a party may intervene in a Commission proceeding if that party “may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding.”¹ In the determination of whether a party may be adversely affected for purposes of intervention, the Commission is required to evaluate:

- (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 proceedings;
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.²

The Commission’s rules similarly provide that any person may intervene where “[t]he person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding.”³ The PUCO regulations set forth the same four standards that are established in Ohio Revised Code 4903.221(B) for determining whether a party may be “adversely affected,” and also purport to add a fifth factor regarding “the extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.”⁴

As the Ohio Supreme Court recently held, intervention in Commission proceedings “ought to be liberally allowed so that the positions of all persons with a real and substantial interest in the proceedings can be considered by the [Commission].”⁵ The Commission has consistently maintained a policy to “encourage the broadest possible participation” in its

¹ R.C. 4903.221

² R.C. 4903.221(B)

³ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2)

⁴ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B).

⁵ *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util Comm’n of Ohio* (2006), 111 Ohio St. 3d 384, 388, 2006 Ohio 5853, 856 N.E.2d 940.

proceedings, even under extenuating circumstances.⁶ NRDC satisfies these liberal intervention standards and respectfully requests that its intervention be granted in these cases.

III. NRDC is entitled to intervene under §4903.221 because the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome of this proceeding.

NRDC is entitled to intervene in this proceeding because NRDC satisfies each of the four statutory factors demonstrating that the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome. First, the nature and extent of NRDC’s interests in the proceeding is real and substantial,⁷ as the issues involved herein are directly related to NRDC’s interests in promoting energy efficiency, and will have direct economic, public health, and environmental impacts on NRDC’s members and mission in Ohio.

In particular, NRDC is a nationwide, non-profit environmental organization that has worked for its 40 year history to, among other things, promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and to protect air and water quality. NRDC has more than 11,339 members in Ohio, many of whom reside in Duke’s service area and/or live near Duke’s existing power generating facilities. NRDC has been granted intervention on numerous occasions in proceedings before the Commission, including in Duke’s previous EE/PDR portfolio case (09-1999-EL-POR).⁸ NRDC has been an active member of the Duke Energy Community Partnership, which is the Company’s ongoing energy efficiency collaborative.

These proceedings present numerous issues that are directly relevant to the interests of NRDC and its members. For example, Duke seeks approval of three new programs designed to

⁶ See e.g. *In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company*, 2009 WL 322883 at 1, Ohio PUC February 5, 2009 (Commission granted motion to intervene in light of policy to encourage participation, despite party’s failure to file within the deadline).

⁷ R.C. 4903.221(B)(1)

⁸ *In the matter of the Report of Duke Energy Ohio Inc., Concerning its Energy Efficiency and Peak-Demand Reduction Programs and Portfolio Planning*, PUCO Case No. 09-1999-EL-POR, NRDC Motion to Intervene (December 31, 2009).

promote energy efficiency.⁹ These and other issues raised in these proceedings could play a significant role in determining the extent of the Company's efforts to comply with statutory energy efficiency and peak demand reduction benchmarks which are supported by NRDC. As such, the interests of NRDC in this proceeding stems from the direct and indirect impacts specific issue outcomes will have on the environment of the State of Ohio and surrounding areas, the electric bills of their members in Duke's service area and customer participation in the proposed programs.

Second, the desire of NRDC to promote energy efficiency and peak demand reduction measures in Ohio is directly related to the issues of this case.¹⁰ The EE/PDR programs are meant to encourage customer participation and the rider is designed to recover the cost of these programs from customers. NRDC intends to present evidence and argument in support of policies that would promote aggressive implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency and peak demand reduction programs for the Company's customers. Such arguments are plainly related to the issues of this proceeding.

Third, NRDC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceeding¹¹ as this motion is being filed by the deadline set for intervention¹² and NRDC is able to comply with all case management deadlines established by the Commission and/or agreed to by the parties.

Fourth, intervention by NRDC will significantly contribute to the full development of the record in this proceeding.¹³ NRDC will bring significant expertise to bear in these proceedings. NRDC's staff and consultants have extensive experience in resource planning, analyzing the

⁹ *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Mechanism...*, Case No. 11-4393-EL-RDR, Attorney Examiner Entry at 1 (July 28, 2011).

¹⁰ R.C. 4903.221(B)(2)

¹¹ R.C. 4903.221(B)(3)

¹² Attorney Examiner Entry at 1 (July 28, 2011).

¹³ R.C. 4903.221(B)(4)

potential for cost effective energy efficiency, and in the laws and regulations regulating energy production. Further, NRDC has intervened and/or provided testimony on these issues in similar proceedings in a number of states including Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Oregon, California, New Jersey, and Iowa, and has been granted intervention in numerous cases before the Commission. NRDC has regularly presented testimony before the U.S. Congress and various state legislatures related to the electric utility industry, including: energy efficiency, renewable energy, nuclear energy, and coal generation. As such, NRDC should be permitted to intervene pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §4903.221.

IV. NRDC may intervene because NRDC and its members have a “real and substantial interest” in the proceeding as presented in Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11(B).

NRDC may also intervene in this proceeding because they satisfy each of the five factors listed in the PUCO rules demonstrating that they have a “real and substantial interest” in the proceeding.¹⁴ The first four factors are identical to those set forth under §4903.221(B) and, therefore, NRDC should be permitted to intervene for the same reasons as set forth in Section III above.

As for the fifth factor, NRDC’s interests in this proceeding will not be fully represented by other parties¹⁵ because none of the other parties can adequately represent NRDC’s interests as national environmental organizations that are interested in both environmental protection and promotion of energy efficiency and peak demand reduction as the most reasonable and prudent way for Duke to maintain and diversify essential electric services.¹⁶

¹⁴ Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11(B)

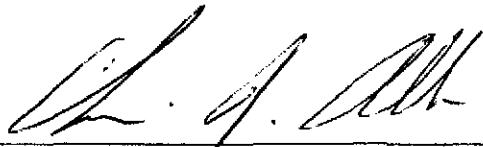
¹⁵ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5)

¹⁶ R.C. 4928.02 states: “It is the policy of this state...to ensure diversity of electricity supplies and suppliers...”

V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Natural Resources Defense Council respectfully request that their Motion to Intervene be granted, and NRDC be authorized to participate as full parties to this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

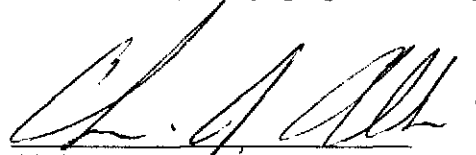
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Allwein', is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Allwein, Counsel of Record (0084914)
Williams, Allwein and Moser, LLC
1373 Grandview Ave., Suite 212
Columbus, Ohio 43212
Telephone: (614) 429-3092
Fax: (614) 670-8896
E-mail: callwein@williamsandmoser.com

Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing *Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support* has been filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and has been served upon the following parties via regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on August 5, 2011.


Christopher J. Allwein

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC

Elizabeth H. Watts (0031092)
Associate General Counsel
Amy B. Spiller (0047277)
Deputy General Counsel
Duke Energy Shared Services, Inc.
155 East Broad Street, 21st Fl.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-222-1330
Fax: 513-419-1846
Elizabeth.Watts@duke-energy.com
Amy.Spiller@duke-energy.com

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

William Wright
Attorney General's Office
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St., 6th Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215
William.wright@puc.state.oh.us

PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY, INC.

Mary Christensen
Christensen & Christensen LLP
8760 Orion Place, Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43240
Mchristensen@columbuslaw.org

JANINE L. MIGDEN-OSTRANDER CONSUMERS' COUNSEL OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMER'S COUNSEL

Jeffrey L. Small
Melissa R. Yost
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
614-466-8574 (Telephone)
small@occ.state.oh.us
yost@occ.state.oh.us

OHIO ENERGY GROUP

David F. Boehm, Esq.
Michael L. Kurtz, Esq.
Jody M. Kyler, Esq.
BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 1510
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Ph: (513)421-2255 Fax: (513)421-2764
dboehm@BKLawfirm.com
mkurtz@BKLawfirm.com
jkyler@BKLawfirm.com

**OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE
ENERGY**

Colleen L. Mooney
231 West Lima Street
Findlay, OH 45839-1793
Telephone: (419) 425-8860
FAX: (419) 425-8862
cmooney2@columbus.rr.com