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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of the : Case No. 11-351-EL-AIR
Application of Columbus : Case No. 11-352-EL-AIR
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. :

- - -

In the Matter of the : Case No. 11-353-EL-ATA
Application of Columbus : Case No. 11-354-EL-ATA
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.:

- - -

In the Matter of the : Case No. 11-356-EL-AAM
Application of Columbus : Case No. 11-358-EL-AAM
Southern Power Company :
and Ohio Power Company, :
Individually and, if :
Their Proposed Merger is :
Approved, as a Merged :
Company (collectively AEP :
Ohio) for Change to :
Accounting Methods. :

- - -

PUBLIC HEARING

called at 6:13 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

- - -

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
222 East Town Street, Second Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

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PUBLIC HEARING

before Ms. Mandy L. Willey, Attorney Examiner, at the
Whetstone Park of Roses Shelter House, 3901 N. High
Street, Columbus, Ohio, called at 6:13 p.m. on
Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

- - -

APPEARANCES:

American Electric Power
By Ms. Erin Miller
Mr. Matthew J. Satterwhite
Ms. Anne Vogel
One Riverside Plaza
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373

On behalf of the Companies.

Bruce J. Weston, Interim
Ohio Consumers' Counsel
By Ms. Kyle L. Kern
Mr. Jeffrey L. Small
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

On behalf of the Residential Consumers
of the Columbus Southern Power
Company and the Ohio Power
Company.

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WITNESS

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1 Wednesday Evening Session,
2 October 26, 2011.

3 - - -

4 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: The Public
5 Utilities Commission of Ohio has called for public
6 hearing at this time and place Case No. 11-351-EL-AIR
7 11-352-EL-AIR, captioned In the Matter of the
8 Application of Columbus Southern Power Company
9 and Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their
10 Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company
11 (collectively AEP Ohio) for an Increase in Electric
12 Distribution Rates.

13 Case Nos. 11-353-EL-ATA and
14 11-354-EL-ATA, captioned In the Matter of the
15 Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and
16 Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their
17 Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company
18 (collectively AEP Ohio) for Tariff Approval.

19 And Case Nos. 11-356-EL-AAM and
20 11-358-EL-AAM, captioned In the Matter of the
21 Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and
22 Ohio Power Company, Individually and, if Their
23 Proposed Merger is Approved, as a Merged Company
24 (collectively AEP Ohio) for Approval to Change
25 Accounting Methods.

1 My name is Mandy Willey. I am an
2 attorney with the Commission's Legal Department, and
3 I will be conducting the hearing this evening.

4 Also with me is Jade Davis of the
5 Commission's Office of Public Affairs, who you just
6 heard speak, as well as Lee Garry, who is the
7 gentleman over there at the table with the sign-in
8 sheet.

9 At this time I would like to take
10 appearances on behalf of the parties. That would
11 include the company as well as any intervenors that
12 are present. Let's start with the company.

13 MS. MILLER: Erin Miller on behalf of
14 Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power
15 Company, and at this time I would like to enter an
16 appearance on behalf of my colleagues, Matt
17 Satterwhite and Anne Vogel.

18 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.
19 Are there any other intervenors present
20 this evening that would like to enter appearances?

21 MS. KERN: Yes, your Honor, thank you.
22 On behalf of the residential customers of the
23 American Electric Company, the Office of the Ohio
24 Consumers' Counsel, Bruce J. Weston, Interim
25 Consumers' Counsel, 10 West Broad Street, Columbus,

1 Ohio 43215. I am Kyle Kern, assistant Consumers'
2 Counsel.

3 Also with me this evening is Anthony
4 Rodriquez from our communications staff at OCC, and
5 we will also be available afterwards if there are any
6 questions.

7 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

8 Any other intervenors present this
9 evening that would like to enter an appearance?

10 Let the record reflect there are no other
11 intervenors present.

12 On February 28, 2011, Columbus Southern
13 Power Company and Ohio Power Company, which are
14 operating companies of American Electric Power Ohio,
15 filed an application with the Commission for an
16 increase in electric distribution rates, for tariff
17 approval, and for approval to change their accounting
18 methods.

19 This local public hearing is only one
20 aspect of the case process. Public hearings also
21 took place in Marietta, Canton, and Lima. An
22 evidentiary hearing is also currently scheduled to
23 begin on November 14, at 10:00 o'clock at the PUCO
24 offices here in Columbus.

25 The purposes of evidentiary hearing is

1 for the companies and for Commission staff, as well
2 as other intervenors to present their expert witness
3 testimony and provide evidence in support of their
4 position in these cases.

5 The purpose of tonight's public hearing,
6 however, is to receive comments from the public. We
7 will not be hearing from the companies tonight as we
8 already have their proposal, but today is about
9 hearing from the public, and it is your opportunity
10 to let the Commission know what you think about the
11 companies' application.

12 When you arrived, you were offered the
13 opportunity to sign in to testify with Mr. Garry. If
14 you missed that opportunity, you may still go ahead
15 and sign up. The Commission staff can assist you
16 with that, and we will take your testimony after
17 those who have already signed the sign-in sheet. I
18 would also ask at the end of the testimony if there
19 is anyone else who would like to offer testimony this
20 evening.

21 I will take witnesses in the order in
22 which they signed the sign-in sheet. I will call you
23 forward and I will ask you to stand here at the front
24 of the aisle and face the court reporter.

25 I will also ask you take an oath on what

1 you are about to say is the truth. Your testimony
2 this evening will be considered part of the official
3 record in this case and will be reviewed by the
4 commissioners before they make a decision in this
5 case on the company's proposal.

6 Attorneys for the company and other
7 intervenors who are present this evening may ask
8 questions about your testimony if they wish. If you
9 do decide you don't wish to testify, when I call your
10 name, you can merely say "pass" and we will move on
11 to the next person signed up to testify.

12 Also, once you are finished giving your
13 testimony or if you are just here to observe, feel
14 free to leave at any time you wish.

15 As you can see, tonight's hearing is
16 being transcribed by a court reporter, so she is
17 writing down everything that is said here tonight in
18 a typewritten fashion, so if you do plan to testify,
19 please speak plainly and clearly so that she can
20 accurately reflect your comments.

21 Also, if you have prepared a written
22 statement for us tonight, it would be helpful if you
23 provide that to the court reporter before you leave.

24 The Commission appreciates your
25 participation this evening and we want to make that

1 everyone who wishes to testify has the opportunity to
2 do so. Since we don't have that many people present,
3 it shouldn't be an issue, but please try to keep your
4 comments to a reasonable amount of time.

5 Are there any questions about the
6 procedure that we will follow tonight before we begin
7 to take testimony?

8 It looks like there are no questions, so
9 at this time I will begin calling witnesses forward.
10 When you are called, please come here to front of the
11 aisle and face the court reporter and give your name
12 and address.

13 Excuse me if I mispronounce your name.

14 Don Chenoweth.

15 Please state and spell your name.

16 MR. CHENOWETH: Don Chenoweth,
17 C-H-E-N-O-W-E-T-H, 6838 Glengarry Court, Columbus,
18 43235.

19 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 DON CHENOWETH,
22 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
23 examined and testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may go ahead.

1 MR. CHENOWETH: I am the executive
2 director of Andrews House, a nonprofit community
3 service center in Delaware. We have nine different
4 social programs and services. We have a free medical
5 clinic, for example, free legal clinic, so on and so
6 forth.

7 And I understand that the Electric Safety
8 Plan that was submitted earlier and this Distribution
9 Charge Plan, I understand they're controversial, but
10 in my opinion there's no controversy about AEP's
11 quality corporate citizenship and their philanthropic
12 largesse, and I'd like to tell you some stories.

13 One of the things we do is we feed
14 children, low-income school children, lunch during
15 the summer. We provided 6,000 lunches to Delaware
16 kids this summer, and there's cost recovery through
17 the State, but it doesn't nearly cover our costs.

18 So we were hoping for some funds to come
19 out of the Washington from the Emergency Food and
20 Shelter Board, but in the infinite wisdom, it was
21 decided that Delaware County would not receive the
22 distributions they had received for 20 years, so we
23 were left with a huge hole in our budget.

24 AEP gave us \$10,000 to help cover this
25 shortfall and to cover food for our community meals

1 and other nutrition programs.

2 We have a free legal clinic, and these
3 are for people who can't afford a lawyer, and before
4 the great recession, we were seeing about 10 people
5 per clinic. We are now seeing 25 people per clinic,
6 and we've actually run out of room. I mean, we can't
7 create enough space in our facility to house the
8 attorneys and the clients in a confidential manner.
9 AEP, unsolicited, gave us another \$10,000 to help the
10 clients and to create space in our facility.

11 And AEP has a community affairs manager.
12 He lives in our community. He's fully integrated in
13 the life of our community. He goes out of his way to
14 find out what the nonprofits need. We are not just
15 holding our hands out. AEP is actively looking for
16 ways that they can help the disadvantaged, the
17 disenfranchised, the unlucky, and the forgotten.

18 And if you look at nonprofit income
19 sheets, you'll see AEP giving money everywhere. They
20 have a huge philanthropic input.

21 So, in the end what I want to say, I
22 trust AEP to do a number of things: To deliver
23 service to us reliably and safely, to bill us
24 accurately. And, frankly, I think AEP is in the best
25 position of anybody to know what kind of revenue they

1 need to operate and provide electricity services to
 2 the people of Central Ohio.

3 Thank you.

4 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

5 Next speaker I have signed up is Connie
 6 Boley.

7 Please step forward. Please state and
 8 spell your name.

9 MS. BOLEY: Connie Boley, B-O-L-E-Y.

10 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Could you please
 11 give your address.

12 MS. BOLEY: 490 East Jeffrey Place,
 13 Columbus, Ohio 43214.

14 - - -

15 CONNIE BOLEY,
 16 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
 17 examined and testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 MS. BOLEY: This is, in a way, a kind of
 20 a complaint, very different from this gentleman. Now
 21 he said that AEP is in a position to know what their
 22 bills are. 93 million sounds excessively high, but I
 23 don't know what they have to pay for what they're
 24 doing.

25 And also, when we have storms and they

1 have to fix things, I think they do very well, and,
2 you know, they have to bring people in from other
3 states and all that, so that's costly, and I realize
4 that.

5 But the thing is, what I think we do as a
6 society is just keep raising everything. And I've
7 been retired for a long time because I took care of
8 parents, and I've worked all my life and I can no
9 longer afford things.

10 In July my electric bill was \$189 because
11 this year I had to use the air conditioning, which I
12 generally don't, and I was getting sick because I
13 didn't have it on.

14 Okay. I called AEP and asked them -- one
15 lady said -- and I think she gave me
16 misinformation -- she said that it was high now but
17 the PUCO was going to do something and then it would
18 be lower the rest of year. It would go down in
19 October.

20 So in October I called and I said, "When
21 will it go down? Because I wanted to use my oven."
22 It's electric.

23 And she said, "Yours is not going to go
24 down because the other part of the year you don't use
25 800 kilowatts. It's just if you are over

1 800 kilowatts after --" I don't know what the cutoff
2 was. But, anyway, mine was not going to go down as
3 the first lady said.

4 Okay. I'm just saying that it looks
5 like -- and I don't know a lot of what you're doing
6 here, and I respectfully say that, and so my point is
7 is this a place to say, you know, I can't afford any
8 more? We need to have lower rates instead of higher
9 rates.

10 I sit in the dark a lot of times, so I
11 don't have lights on. I don't have my outside lights
12 on at all anymore, and I think that's a safety issue
13 and I can't afford that.

14 And so all I'm saying is I think that
15 society, especially with the economy the way it is, I
16 think as a society we need to stop having all of our
17 wants met and stick to needs and pare that down.

18 And that's really all I have to say.

19 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

20 The next witness I have signed up is
21 Yvonne Bussard.

22 Could you please state and spell your
23 name.

24 MS. BUSSARD: Y-V-O-N-N-E, B-U-S-S-A-R-D.

25 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please state your

1 address.

2 MS. BUSSARD: 156 East Jeffrey Place,
3 Columbus, Ohio, 43214.

4 - - -

5 YVONNE BUSSARD,
6 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
7 examined and testified as follows:

8 DIRECT TESTIMONY

9 MS. BUSSARD: I'm on a fixed income. The
10 economy is greatly affecting everybody's budgets, and
11 I know there's a lot -- I have more income than a lot
12 of people does for fixed income, and I think we have
13 to try and solve some issues with the costs.

14 That's pretty much all I have to say.

15 THE ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very
16 much.

17 That concludes the witnesses who signed
18 up to testify. Is there anyone in the audience now
19 that would like to testify tonight?

20 All right, hearing no one, I'd like to
21 thank everyone for coming here this evening. This
22 will conclude this evening's public hearing, and it
23 will be submitted on the record for the Commission's
24 consideration.

25 I would encourage the company

1 representatives, and also Consumers' Counsel
2 representatives to stay around for a few minutes and
3 the Commission staff will stay around for a few
4 minutes if you have any questions.

5 Thank you.

6 (The hearing concluded at 6:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Rosemary Foster Anderson,
Professional Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Ohio.

My commission expires April 5, 2014.
(RFA-8702)

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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12/8/2011 3:49:07 PM

in

Case No(s). 11-0351-EL-AIR

Summary: Transcript Public Hearing from 10/26/11 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Anderson, Rosemary Foster Mrs.