

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Annual Portfolio                     )  
Status Report Under Rule 4901:1-39-                     )   Case No. 12-1537-EL-EEC  
05(C), Ohio Admin. Code, by Ohio Power                )  
Company.   )

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**MOTION TO INTERVENE  
BY  
THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL**

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The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") moves to intervene in this case where the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission" or "PUCO") will review the Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Portfolio Status Report ("Report") of Ohio Power Company ("Ohio Power" or the "Company").<sup>1</sup> OCC is filing on behalf of the residential utility customers of Ohio Power. The reasons the Commission should grant OCC's Motion are further set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE J. WESTON  
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

/s/ Kyle L. Kern

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<sup>1</sup> See R.C. Chapter 4911, R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11.

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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In this proceeding, the Company submitted its Portfolio Status Report pursuant to Ohio Admin. Code 4901:1-39-05. This Report addresses the Company's compliance with the energy efficiency ("EE") and peak demand reduction ("PDR") benchmarks set forth in R.C. 4928.66, for the period January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. OCC has authority under law to represent the interests of all the residential utility customers of Ohio Power, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 4911.

R.C. 4903.221 provides, in part, that any person "who may be adversely affected" by a PUCO proceeding is entitled to seek intervention in that proceeding. The interests of Ohio's residential customers may be "adversely affected" by this case, especially if the customers were unrepresented in a proceeding where the Company submitted its EE/PDR Portfolio Status Report for the Commission's review. Thus, this element of the intervention standard in R.C. 4903.221 is satisfied.

R.C. 4903.221(B) requires the Commission to consider the following criteria in ruling on motions to intervene:

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

First, the nature and extent of OCC's interest is representing the residential customers of Ohio Power in this case involving the Commission's review of the Company's Report, and the Company's compliance with the EE/PDR benchmarks set forth in R.C. 4928.66. This interest is different than that of any other party and especially different than that of the utility whose advocacy includes the financial interest of stockholders.

Second, OCC's advocacy for residential customers will include advancing the position that the Company's Report should include the most accurate and up to date information as is reasonably possible, and should also establish compliance with the EE/PDR benchmarks set forth in R.C. 4928.66. OCC's position is therefore directly related to the merits of this case that is pending before the PUCO, the authority with regulatory control of public utilities' rates and service quality in Ohio.

Third, OCC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings. OCC, with its longstanding expertise and experience in PUCO proceedings, will duly allow for the efficient processing of the case with consideration of the public interest.

Fourth, OCC's intervention will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues. OCC will obtain and develop information that the PUCO should consider for equitably and lawfully deciding the case in the public interest.

OCC also satisfies the intervention criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (which are subordinate to the criteria that OCC satisfies in the Ohio Revised Code). To intervene, a party should have a “real and substantial interest” according to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2). As the advocate for residential utility customers, OCC has a very real and substantial interest in this case where the PUCO will be reviewing the Company’s Report and compliance with the EE/PDR benchmarks.

In addition, OCC meets the criteria of Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(1)-(4). These criteria mirror the statutory criteria in R.C. 4903.221(B) that OCC already has addressed and that OCC satisfies.

Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5) states that the Commission shall consider the “extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.” While OCC does not concede the lawfulness of this criterion, OCC satisfies this criterion in that it uniquely has been designated as the state representative of the interests of Ohio’s residential utility customers. That interest is different from, and not represented by, any other entity in Ohio.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of Ohio confirmed OCC’s right to intervene in PUCO proceedings, in deciding two appeals in which OCC claimed the PUCO erred by denying its interventions. The Court found that the PUCO abused its discretion in denying OCC’s interventions and that OCC should have been granted intervention in both proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 111 Ohio St.3d 384, 2006-Ohio-5853, ¶¶13-20 (2006).

OCC meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11, and the precedent established by the Supreme Court of Ohio for intervention. On behalf of Ohio residential customers, the Commission should grant OCC's Motion to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE J. WESTON  
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

/s/ Kyle L. Kern

Kyle L. Kern, Counsel of Record

Melissa R. Yost

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this *Motion to Intervene* was served on the persons stated below via electronic transmission, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2012.

/s/ Kyle L. Kern\_\_\_\_\_

Kyle L. Kern

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Summary: Motion Motion to Intervene by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed by Ms. Deb J. Bingham on behalf of Kern, Kyle L.