

FILE



**Direct
Energy.**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Division, 13th Floor
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

02-1829-GA-CRS

August 20, 2012

RE: Direct Energy Services, LLC's Registration

Dear Docketing Division:

Enclosed is the original signed copy for the motion for protective order regarding confidential attachments for Direct Energy Services, LLC's Ohio Gas License Renewal Application. Please note that the confidential attachments (C-4 and C-5) have been previously submitted and received on 8/17/2012 and is on file with PUCO. There are three additional copies to replace the non-signed copies for the motion for protective order.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Harwell
Compliance Analyst, Downstream Compliance
(713) 877-5701
Ryan.harwell@directenergy.com

Enclosure

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician > Date Processed **AUG 21 2012**

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PUCO

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Direct Energy Services, LLC for)
Certification as a Retail Natural)
Gas Supplier.)

Case No. 02-024G-GA-CRS

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

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August 9, 2012

{C30880: }

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Direct Energy Services, LLC for)
Certification as a Retail Natural)
Gas Supplier.)

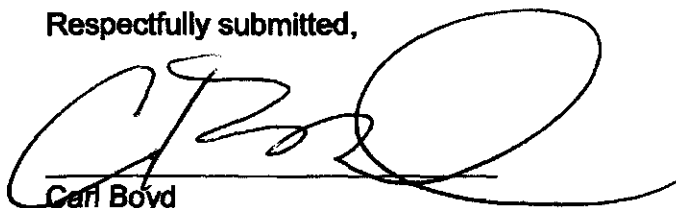
Case No. 02-024G-GA-CRS

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 4901-1-24(D) of the Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C."), Direct Energy Services, LLC ("DES, LLC") respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") to issue a protective order to protect the confidentiality of and prohibit the disclosure of certain documents filed simultaneously with this motion in the above-captioned docket. The documents in Exhibits C-4 Financial Arrangements ("Exhibit C-4") and C-5 Forecasted Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-5"), contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information comprising of trade secrets. These documents have been clearly marked as confidential and are hereby filed under seal, separate from the remainder of the materials that comprise DES, LLC's Renewal Certification Application filed simultaneously with this Motion.

The grounds for the instant Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyd', positioned above a horizontal line.

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**BEFORE
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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Contemporaneously with this Motion for Protective Order and Memorandum in Support, DES, LLC filed its Renewal Certification Application for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers ("CRNGS"). The Application contains all of the required information and materials in accordance with the Commission's Renewal Certification Filing Instructions for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers and Rule 4901-1-24, O.A.C. As part of the Application materials, the Commission requested information regarding DES, LLC's financial arrangements (Exhibit C-4) and forecasted financial statements (Exhibit C-5). Direct Energy Services, LLC has submitted the requested information under seal because the documents contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information, which require confidential treatment. Consequently, DES, LLC requests that the Commission maintain the confidential nature of these documents and the information contained therein, and protects the documents from public disclosure.

Rule 4901-1-24(D), O.A.C., provides for the issuance of an order that is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed at the Commission to the extent that state and federal law prohibit the release of such information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code ("R.C."). State law recognizes the need to protect information that is confidential in nature, as is the information contained in Exhibits C-4, and C-5. Section 4929.23(A), R.C., specifically permits the Commission to grant confidentiality to competitive information.¹ Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., facilitate the protection of trade secrets in the Commission's possession.² Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., reference Section 149.43, R.C., and therefore incorporate the provision that accepts from the public record information and records of which the release is prohibited by law.³ State law prohibits the release of information meeting the definition of a trade secret. Additionally, non-disclosure of the information will not impair the purposes of Title 49 as the Commission and its Staff will have full access to the requested information in order to complete their review process.

² Section 4929.23(A), R.C., provides: "A retail natural gas supplier or governmental aggregator subject to certification under section 4929.20 of the Revised Code shall provide the public utilities commission with such information, regarding a competitive retail natural gas service for which it is subject to certification, as the commission considers necessary to carry out sections 4929.20 to 4929.24 of the Revised Code. The commission shall take such measures as it considers necessary to protect the confidentiality of any such information."

³ Section 4901.12, R.C., provides: "Except as otherwise provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all proceedings of the public utilities commission and all documents and records in its possession are public records."

Section 4905.07, R.C., provides: "Except as provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all facts and information in the possession of the public utilities commission shall be public, and all reports, records, files, books, accounts, papers, and memorandums of every nature in its possession shall be open to inspection by interested parties or their attorneys."

⁴ Section 149.43(A)(1)(v), R.C., provides in part: "'Public record' does not mean records the release of which is prohibited by state or federal law."

The documents and information contained in Exhibits C-4 and C-5 are comprised of competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information falling within the statutory characterization of a trade secret as defined by Section 1333.61(D), R.C. The definition of trade secret contained in Section 1333.61(D), R.C., is as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any business information or plans, **financial information**, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

Section 1333.61(D), R.C. (emphasis added).

Clearly, financial arrangements and forecasted financial statements contain proprietary data and are confidential as trade secrets. Public disclosure of this information would jeopardize DES, LLC's business position in negotiations with other parties and its ability to compete. DES, LLC asserts that this information is not generally known by the public and is held in confidence in the normal course of business. Therefore, DES, LLC reasonably requests that the identified financial information contained in Exhibits C-4 and C-5 in this certificate renewal Application be deemed to contain trade secrets, and thus, be treated as confidential by this Commission and its Staff.

WHEREFORE, DES, LLC respectfully requests that this Motion for Protective Order be granted for the reasons set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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