

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Review of the )  
Distribution Investment Rider Contained ) Case No. 13-419-EL-RDR  
in the Tariffs of Ohio Power Company. )

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio) is a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (2) On August 8, 2012, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al., which approved, with certain modifications, AEP Ohio's application for a standard service offer in the form of an electric security plan (ESP), in accordance with R.C. 4928.143. *In re Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al. (ESP Case), Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012). Among other provisions of the ESP, the Commission modified and approved AEP Ohio's proposed Distribution Investment Rider (DIR) to allow for the recovery of capital costs for distribution infrastructure investments in order to facilitate improved service reliability. Additionally, the Commission directed AEP Ohio to work with Staff to develop a DIR plan to emphasize proactive distribution maintenance that focuses spending on where it will have the greatest impact on maintaining and improving reliability for customers. Finally, the Commission required that the DIR be reviewed annually for accounting accuracy, prudence, and compliance with the DIR plan developed by Staff and AEP Ohio. *ESP Case* at 46-47.
- (3) By Entry issued on March 20, 2013, the Commission selected Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge) to perform the annual audit of AEP Ohio's DIR for 2012. The Commission directed Blue Ridge to submit a draft audit report to Staff by June 10, 2013, and to file its final audit report by June 20, 2013.
- (4) On March 27, 2013, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in this proceeding. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

- (5) On June 20, 2013, Blue Ridge filed its compliance audit report. On that same date, Staff filed two sets of comments, one addressing the audit report filed by Blue Ridge and the other reviewing AEP Ohio's progress in implementing its DIR programs in 2012 as measured by distribution capital expenditures to be recovered through the DIR.
- (6) By Entry issued on June 26, 2013, a procedural schedule was established in order to assist the Commission in its annual review of AEP Ohio's DIR. In accordance with the procedural schedule, comments were filed by AEP Ohio and OCC on August 2, 2013. Reply comments were filed by AEP Ohio and Staff on August 16, 2013.
- (7) On January 17, 2014, an amended stipulation and recommendation was filed by AEP Ohio and Staff, which would resolve all of the issues raised in this proceeding.
- (8) Accordingly, the attorney examiner finds that a hearing shall commence on February 27, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene in this proceeding be granted. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a hearing commence on February 27, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Sarah Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot  
Attorney Examiner

SEF/sc

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**in**

**Case No(s). 13-0419-EL-RDR**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry grants OCC's motion to intervene and orders a hearing to commence on 02/27/2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Commission, 11th Flr., Rm. 11-C, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Sarah Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio