

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio)
Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric)
Illuminating Company, and The Toledo)
Edison Company For Approval of Their) Case No. 16-0743-EL-POR
Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand)
Reduction Program Portfolio Plans for 2017)
through 2019)
)

**JOINT MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 4903.22.1 and Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-11, the Environmental Defense Fund (“EDF”) and the Ohio Environmental Council (“OEC”), move for leave to intervene in the above captioned case, in which the Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and the Toledo Edison Company (“the Companies”) submit for approval of their Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Program Portfolio Plans for 2017 through 2019 (“Portfolio”). As more fully discussed in the accompanying memorandum, EDF and OEC have a real and substantial interest in this proceeding to ensure that energy efficiency resources are deployed and peak demand reductions are achieved to their highest and most cost-effective potential. The interests of EDF and OEC are not represented by any existing party; participation in this proceeding will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved without unduly delaying the proceeding or unjustly prejudicing any existing party; and thereby move to intervene in this proceeding pursuant to R.C. 4903.221 and O.A.C. 4901-1-11.

WHEREFORE, EDF and OEC respectfully request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio grant EDF and OEC’s motion to intervene for these reasons and those set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____/s/Trent Dougherty

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and Environmental Defense Fund**

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Ohio R.C. Section 4903.221 provides that any “person who may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding may intervene in such proceeding.”

EDF is a national non-profit membership organization engaged in linking science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society’s most urgent environmental problems. EDF has over 300,000 members nationwide and has 9,590 members in Ohio. EDF has been active in Ohio working on environmental policies including smart power, climate change, natural gas fracking and sustainable agriculture. EDF also supports state energy policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The OEC is a non-profit, non-partisan charitable organization comprised of a network of over 100 affiliated member groups and thousands of individual members, with the mission to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. Throughout its 46-year history, OEC has been a leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable energy use in Ohio. OEC was an active participant in the effort that led to the passage of S.B. 221, and has intervened in scores of cases before this Commission to secure proper implementation of Ohio’s clean energy laws. OEC’s Clean Energy Program works to secure the strongest state carbon-reduction strategies in the Midwest, and accelerate Ohio’s

transition away from fossil fuels through deployment of, and increased innovation in, clean, efficient, and competitive energy choices.

OEC has been an active participant in each of the Companies' previous EE/PDR portfolio cases and member of the Companies' EE Collaborative. Furthermore, both OEC and EDF were active parties in the Companies' fourth Electric Security Plan Case (14-1297-EL-SSO) before the Commission - a case where many of the Companies' new energy efficiency programs and initiatives in this current proceeding were originally proposed. Moreover, and as discussed below, EDF and OEC have an interest in and may be adversely affected by the disposition of this case.

R.C. §4903.221(B) outlines four factors that the Commission shall consider when ruling on a motion to intervene in a proceeding. First, pursuant to R.C. 4903.221(B)(1), the Commission shall consider "the nature and extent of the prospective intervenor's interest." EDF and OEC have a real and substantial interest in harnessing the stability of retail electricity service and competitive energy markets, and the positive effect both have on the further deployment of cost-effective, clean, and efficient energy in Ohio. As environmental advocacy organizations, EDF and OEC have a special interest in the outcome of this case because of the direct impact that the decision on the Portfolio will have on the modernization of Ohio's grid and the potentially massive amounts of electricity savings and greenhouse gas reductions that could result from a properly designed energy efficiency programs. Accordingly, EDF and OEC's interest in this proceeding arise from the direct and indirect impacts that the issues presented will have on the environment of the state of Ohio and the region, and the resulting electricity cost savings of their members in the Companies' service territory.

Second, pursuant to R.C. 4903.221(B)(2), the Commission shall consider "The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case." Although EDF and OEC do not outline detailed legal arguments in this section, we maintain that the Companies' Portfolio should be properly scrutinized by interested parties to ensure that it complies with the letter and intent of the state's energy law and stated state energy policies.

Third, pursuant to R.C. 4903.221(B)(3), the Commission shall consider “Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings.” EDF and OEC have significant experience addressing the environmental implications of the electric utility questions before the Commission, and do not seek to delay the proceeding. OEC has been consistently involved in the development and enactment of S.B. 221 and the associated rules, including as a party in numerous cases before the Commission, and EDF has litigated such cases in Ohio as well as in other Public Utility Commissions around the United States. Thus, intervention will not unduly prolong or delay these proceedings, but will add value to the development of this case.

Fourth, pursuant to R.C. 4903.221(B)(4), the Commission shall consider “Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.” EDF and OEC have developed expertise that will contribute to the full development of the legal questions involved in this proceeding. Further, as two of Ohio’s leading environmental advocate organizations with years of experience before the Commission, EDF and OEC will be able to assure that the environmental impacts of the Company’s proposals are fully developed.

EDF and OEC also satisfy the intervention requirements outlined in the Commission’s rules. The criteria for intervention established by O.A.C. §4901-1-11(A) are identical to those provided by R.C. 4903.221, with the exception that the rules add a fifth factor that the Commission shall consider when ruling on a motion to intervene. Pursuant to O.A.C. §4901-1-11(A)(5), the Commission shall consider “The extent to which the [intervenor’s] interest is represented by existing parties.” No existing party fully represents EDF and OEC’s interest in this proceeding.

Finally, we point out that it is the Commission’s stated policy “to encourage the broadest possible participation in its proceedings.”¹ The Commission should not apply its intervention criteria in a manner that would favor one environmental or consumer advocate to the exclusion of others.

¹ *Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co.*, Case No. 85-675-EL-AIR, Entry dated January 14, 1986, at 2.

OEC meets all the criteria established by R.C. 4903.221 and O.A.C. 4901-1-11(A)(5) and therefore should be granted intervenor status in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, OEC respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion to intervene in the above captioned matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Trent Dougherty

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following parties by electronic mail this 19th day of April, 2016.

_____/s/Trent Dougherty
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Summary: Motion Joint Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support of the Ohio Environmental Council and Environmental Defense Fund electronically filed by Mr. Trent A Dougherty on behalf of Ohio Environmental Council and Environmental Defense Fund