

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO INITIATE  
PHASE 2 OF ITS GRIDSMART PROJECT  
AND TO ESTABLISH THE GRIDSMART  
PHASE 2 RIDER.

CASE No. 13-1939-EL-RDR

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 14, 2016

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric distribution utility as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(6) and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4928.141 provides that an electric distribution utility shall provide consumers within its certified territory a standard service offer (SSO) of all competitive retail electric services necessary to maintain essential electric services to customers, including a firm supply of electric generation services. The SSO may be either a market rate offer in accordance with R.C. 4928.142 or an electric security plan (ESP) in accordance with R.C. 4928.143.

{¶ 3} In Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission approved, with certain modifications, AEP Ohio's application for an ESP, effective with the first billing cycle of September 2012 through May 31, 2015. *In re Columbus Southern Power Co. and Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al. (*ESP 2 Case*), Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012). Among other provisions of the ESP, the Commission approved AEP Ohio's request to initiate Phase 2 of its gridSMART project. The Commission directed AEP Ohio to file its proposed expansion of the gridSMART project as part of a new gridSMART application to include sufficient detail on the proposed equipment and technology for the Commission to evaluate the demonstrated success, cost-effectiveness, customer acceptance, and feasibility of the proposed technology. The Commission further directed that any gridSMART investment beyond Phase 1 that is not subject to recovery through AEP Ohio's distribution investment

rider should be recovered through a mechanism other than the current gridSMART rider, such as through a gridSMART Phase 2 rider. *ESP 2 Case* at 62-63.

{¶ 4} On September 13, 2013, in the above-captioned proceeding, AEP Ohio filed an application to establish a gridSMART Phase 2 rider as the mechanism to recover any gridSMART project investment beyond Phase 1. The application provides AEP Ohio's proposed expansion of the gridSMART project, which would include Advanced Metering Infrastructure for approximately 894,000 customers, Distribution Automation Circuit Reconfiguration for approximately 250 priority circuits, and Volt/VAR Optimization for approximately 80 circuits. AEP Ohio proposes that the gridSMART Phase 2 rider operate similarly to the Company's gridSMART rider for Phase 1, with an annual true-up and reconciliation.

{¶ 5} By Entry dated October 2, 2013, the attorney examiner directed that motions to intervene in this proceeding should be filed by October 25, 2013, and that initial and reply comments should be filed by November 1, 2013, and November 18, 2013, respectively.

{¶ 6} In accordance with the established procedural schedule, motions to intervene were filed by Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (IEU-Ohio); Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC); Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE); Environmental Defense Fund (EDF); Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. (IGS); Ohio Environmental Council (OEC); Ohio Hospital Association (OHA); Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA); Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC); Direct Energy Business, LLC and Direct Energy Services, LLC (jointly, Direct Energy); and FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. (FES). No memoranda contra were filed.

{¶ 7} On December 18, 2015, IEU-Ohio filed a motion to withdraw its motion to intervene.

{¶ 8} The attorney examiner finds that the motions to intervene filed by OCC, OPAE, EDF, IGS, OEC, OHA, RESA, ELPC, Direct Energy, and FES satisfy the intervention criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, are reasonable, and should be

granted. Additionally, the attorney examiner finds that IEU-Ohio's motion to withdraw its motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 9} On April 7, 2016, AEP Ohio filed a joint stipulation and recommendation (stipulation) for the Commission's consideration.

{¶ 10} In order to assist the Commission in its review of the stipulation, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) Testimony in support of the stipulation should be filed by June 21, 2016.
- (b) Discovery requests, except for notices of deposition, should be served by June 28, 2016.
- (c) Testimony in opposition to the stipulation should be filed by July 11, 2016.
- (d) An evidentiary hearing shall commence on July 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

{¶ 11} Further, the attorney examiner finds that, for all discovery requests served after the issuance of this Entry, responses should be provided as soon as possible, but no later than seven days after service of the requests. Discovery requests and replies shall be served by hand delivery, e-mail, or facsimile (unless otherwise agreed by the parties). An attorney serving a discovery request shall attempt to contact the attorney upon whom the discovery request will be served in advance to advise him/her that a request will be forthcoming (unless otherwise agreed by the parties). To the extent that a party has difficulty responding to a particular discovery request, counsel for the parties should discuss the problem and work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That an evidentiary hearing be held on July 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, in Hearing Room 11-D. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 10 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That the motions to intervene filed by OCC, OPAE, EDF, IGS, OEC, OHA, RESA, ELPC, Direct Energy, and FES be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That IEU-Ohio's motion to withdraw its motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Richard M. Bulgrin

By: Richard M. Bulgrin  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/dah

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**Case No(s). 13-1939-EL-RDR**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering an evidentiary hearing be held on July 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, in Hearing Room 11-D; that the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 10 be adopted; that the motions to intervene filed by OCC, OPAE, EDF, IGS, OEC, OHA, RESA, ELPC, Direct Energy, and FES be granted; and that IEU-Ohio's motion to withdraw its motion to intervene be granted - electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Richard M. Bulgrin, Attorney Examiner.