

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of The     )  
Dayton Power and Light Company for     ) Case No. 16-0395-EL-SSO  
Approval of its Electric Security Plan.     )

In the Matter of the Application of The     )  
Dayton Power and Light Company for     ) Case No. 16-0396-EL-ATA  
Approval of Revised Tariffs.                 )

In the Matter of the Application of The     )  
Dayton Power and Light Company for     ) Case No. 16-0397-EL-AAM  
Approval of Certain Accounting Authority)  
Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code §4905.13.     )

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
CHERISH CRONMILLER  
IN SUPPORT OF THE AMENDED STIPULATION AND RECOMMENDATION  
ON BEHALF OF THE EDMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION  
AND  
OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

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March 22, 2017

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

2 A. My name is Cherish Cronmiller. My business address is 719 S. Main St.,  
3 Dayton, Ohio 45402. I am on the executive team of Community Action  
4 Partnership (CAP), and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Edgemont  
5 Neighborhood Coalition (Coalition) and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
6 (OPAE).

7  
8 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY FILED TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

9 Yes.

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11 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS TESTIMONY?

12 A. The purpose of this testimony is to express support for the amended Stipulation  
13 and Recommendation (Stipulation) filed March 14, 2017.

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15 Q. WHY DO THE COALITION AND OPAE SUPPORT THE AMENDED  
16 STIPULATION?

17 A. The Stipulation provides for annual assistance to support consumers at or below  
18 200% of the federal poverty line or those at risk of losing electric service. The  
19 Stipulation is consistent with Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.02(L) in protecting  
20 at-risk populations. The assistance for low-income consumers and the proposed  
21 term are consistent with policy that benefits the public interest.

22

1        Though the stipulated low-income customer assistance amount is below what I  
2        suggested in my past testimony, there is an increase over the amount of low-  
3        income customer assistance last received in 2014. The increased assistance in  
4        the Stipulation will allow CAP to help more customers in need. The Coalition and  
5        OPAE commend DP&L for its effort and compromise to address this critical  
6        issue.

7        These funds will be used to fill a gap between Summer Crisis and Winter Crisis  
8        dollars through the Home Energy Assistance Program that helps people with a  
9        utility shut-off or people who are attempting to get back onto a payment plan or  
10       assistance program.

11  
12    Q.    IS THIS STIPULATION OF BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

13    A.    Yes. In Montgomery County, nearly one in five people, 19.6 percent, were living  
14       below the poverty line in 2014, according to the data. That's about the same as  
15       the previous year, but a significant increase from 14.6 percent in 2007, the year  
16       the documented recession began. Median household incomes for Montgomery  
17       County have fallen, about \$7,500 since 2007. One cause of the high poverty rate  
18       is that higher-paying, full-time jobs are being replaced with jobs that don't pay a  
19       living wage, or jobs that are part-time or temporary. Utility costs were cited as the  
20       major housing concern for over 46% of our CAP customers, and of those, 53%  
21       cited utility assistance as their greatest overall need. These statistics correlate to  
22       figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics last year: in the \$15,000 to  
23       \$19,999 yearly income range, 11.1% of income is spent on utilities, versus a

1 household income of over \$150,000 which only spends 4.8% of income on  
2 utilities. In most of the counties in the DP&L service territory, more than 30  
3 percent of all households would be eligible for benefits from the fuel fund. The  
4 need for assistance with electric service payments is staggering. In the 2016  
5 Winter Crisis program, in Montgomery County, twice as many funds were  
6 expended for electric service than for natural gas, and in rural counties like Darke  
7 and Preble, eight times as much was paid out in electric assistance over natural  
8 gas (though it should be noted that rural counties rely heavily on propane and  
9 fuel oil).

10  
11 Q. DO YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COMMISSION?

12 A. Yes, the terms of this Stipulation will provide substantial benefits to low-income  
13 customers. I recommend that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approve the  
14 Stipulation.

15  
16 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

17 A. Yes.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the Testimony of Cherish Cronmiller in Support of the Amended Stipulation will be served electronically upon the persons listed below who are electronically subscribed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2017.

/s/Colleen Mooney

Attorney

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

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**Case No(s). 16-0395-EL-SSO, 16-0396-EL-ATA, 16-0397-EL-AAM**

Summary: Testimony of Cherish Cronmiller in Support of the Amended Stipulation and Recommendation electronically filed by Colleen L Mooney on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition