

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Duke)	
Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Increase in)	Case No. 17-0032-EL-AIR
Electric Distribution Rates.)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke)	Case No. 17-0033-EL-ATA
Energy Ohio, Inc. for Tariff Approval.)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke)	
Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Change)	Case No. 17-0034-EL-AAM
Accounting Methods.)	

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

For the reasons set forth in the accompanying Memorandum in Support, the Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for leave to intervene in the above-captioned proceedings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4903.221 and Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11, and to grant to NRDC the full powers and rights specifically authorized by statute or by the provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code. Additionally, the interests of NRDC are not adequately represented by any other party, and its participation in these proceedings will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues and questions presented. Further, NRDC's participation will not unduly delay the proceedings or prejudice any other party.

NRDC respectfully requests that this Commission grant its motion to intervene for these reasons and those set forth in more detail in the attached Memorandum in Support.

[Signature block on the next page.]

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Williams
Staff Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
20 N Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 651.7930
swilliams@nrdc.org

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Increase in Electric Distribution Rates.)	
)	Case No. 17-32-EL-AIR
)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Tariff Approval.)	Case No. 17-33-EL-ATA
)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.)	Case No. 17-34-EL-AAM
)	

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

I. Introduction

Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) § 4903.221 states that “[a]ny other person who may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding may intervene in such proceeding” provided the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) makes certain determinations. The Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") seeks intervention in this proceeding in which Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (“Duke” or “the Company”) on January 31, 2017, filed an application ("Application") to increase its electric distribution rates. NRDC is a national, non-profit environmental organization with nearly 10,000 members in Ohio. Many of those members reside within Duke’s service territory. NRDC's and its members' interests are not adequately represented by any other parties in these proceedings. As such, NRDC is entitled to intervene in the above captioned proceedings.

II. Legal Standard

Ohio law states that a party may intervene in a Commission proceeding if that party “may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding.”¹ In the determination of whether a party may be adversely affected for purposes of intervention, the Commission is required to evaluate:

- (1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervenor’s interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings;
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.²

The Commission’s rules similarly provide that any person may intervene where “[t]he person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding.”³ The PUCO regulations set forth the same four standards that are established in Ohio Revised Code 4903.221(B) for determining whether a party may be “adversely affected,” and also purport to add a fifth factor regarding “the extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.”⁴

As the Ohio Supreme Court recently held, intervention in Commission proceedings “ought to be liberally allowed so that the positions of all persons with a real and substantial interest in the proceedings can be considered by the [Commission].”⁵ The Commission has consistently maintained a policy to “encourage the broadest possible participation” in its

¹ R.C. 4903.221.

² R.C. 4903.221(B).

³ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2).

⁴ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B).

⁵ *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util Comm’n of Ohio* (2006), 111 Ohio St. 3d 384, 388, 2006 Ohio 5853, 856 N.E.2d 940.

proceedings, even under extenuating circumstances.⁶ NRDC satisfies these liberal intervention standards and respectfully requests that its intervention be granted in these cases.

III. NRDC is entitled to intervene under §4903.221 because the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome of these proceedings.

NRDC is entitled to intervene in these proceedings because NRDC satisfies each of the four statutory factors demonstrating that the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome. First, the nature and extent of NRDC’s interests in these proceedings is real and substantial,⁷ as the issues involved herein are directly related to NRDC’s interests in protecting its members’ interests within Duke’s service territory. NRDC regularly participates in proceedings before the Commission with an interest in advancing resource choices that minimize or eliminate pollutant emissions and maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy. Because rate determinations have a direct impact on both utility and consumer behavior and investment, NRDC has a real and substantial interest in these proceedings.

In particular, NRDC is a national, non-profit environmental organization that has worked for its 40 year history to, among other things, promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and to protect air and water quality. NRDC has nearly 10,000 members in Ohio, many of whom reside in Duke’s service territory. Duke’s Application will have an effect on rates, both in design and amount, which could impact the Company’s currently available clean energy options. Furthermore, no other Intervenor can adequately represent and protect the interests of NRDC’s members on these issues within Duke’s service territory except for NRDC.

⁶ See e.g. *In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company*, 2009 WL 322883 at 1, Ohio PUC February 5, 2009 (Commission granted motion to intervene in light of policy to encourage participation, despite party’s failure to file within the deadline).

⁷ R.C. 4903.221(B)(1).

Second⁸, because of the potential impacts on NRDC and its members in Ohio, NRDC wants to ensure that Duke's Application meets the applicable legal requirements, adequately protects the environment, and promotes environmentally sound policies in Ohio. NRDC intends to present testimony relating to Duke's proposal to increase the customer charge and provide evidence of alternative rate design options that encourage and incentivize energy conservation and renewable energy, as well as affordability.

Third, NRDC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings⁹ as this motion is being filed before a deadline has been set for intervention and NRDC is able to comply with all case management deadlines that will be established by the Commission and/or agreed to by the parties.

Fourth, intervention by NRDC will significantly contribute to the full development of the record in these proceedings.¹⁰ NRDC will bring significant expertise to bear in these proceedings. NRDC's staff and consultants have extensive experience in resource planning, analyzing the potential for energy efficiency, and in the laws and regulations related to rate design. Further, NRDC has intervened and/or provided testimony on these issues in similar proceedings in a number of states including Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Oregon, California, and New Jersey, and has been granted intervention in numerous cases before this Commission. NRDC has regularly presented testimony before the U.S. Congress and various state legislatures related to the electric utility industry, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, nuclear energy, and coal generation. As such, NRDC should be permitted to intervene pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §4903.221.

⁸ R.C. 4903.221(B)(3).

⁹ R.C. 4903.221(B)(3).

¹⁰ R.C. 4903.221(B)(4).

IV. NRDC may intervene because NRDC and its members have a “real and substantial interest” in these proceedings as presented in Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11(B).

NRDC may also intervene in these proceedings because it satisfies each of the five factors listed in the PUCO rules demonstrating that it has a “real and substantial interest” in these cases.¹¹ The first four factors are identical to those set forth under §4903.221(B) and, therefore, NRDC should be permitted to intervene for the same reasons as set forth in Section III above.

As for the fifth factor, NRDC’s interests in these proceedings will not be fully represented by other parties.¹² No other parties can adequately represent NRDC’s interests as a national environmental organization, with members in Ohio, that is interested in environmental protection, clean energy, and the promotion of energy efficiency. Because no other party to these proceedings advocates from a national platform at the intersection of these three issues, and no other party represents the interests of NRDC’s nearly 10,000 members in Ohio, no other party can represent NRDC’s interests and the interests of its members.

V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, NRDC respectfully request that its Motion to Intervene be granted, and NRDC be authorized to participate as a full party to these proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Williams
Staff Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
20 N Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 651.7930
swilliams@nrdc.org

¹¹ Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11(B).

¹² Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served via electronic mail upon the following counsel of record, this 28th day of August, 2017:

amy.spiller@duke-energy.com
jeanne.kinger@duke-energy.com
elizabeth.watts@duke-energy.com
rocco.d'ascenzo@duke-energy.com
mkurtz@bkllawfirm.com
jkylercohn@bkllawfirm.com
ajay.kumar@occ.ohio.gov
jodi.bair@occ.ohio.gov
christopher.healey@occ.ohio.gov
fdarr@mwncmh.com
mpritchard@mwncmh.com
cmooney@ohiopartners.org
mfleisher@elpc.org
paul@carpenterlipps.com
mleppla@theoec.org
tdougherty@theoec.org
joliker@igsenergy.com
eakhbari@bricker.com
rick.sites@ohiohospitals.org
dborchers@bricker.com
dparram@bricker.com
mdortch@kravitzllc.com
kboehm@bkllawfirm.com
bojko@carpenterlipps.com
perko@carpenterlipps.com
steven.beeler@ohioattorneygeneral.gov
robert.eubanks@ohioattorneygeneral.gov
nicholas.walstra@puco.ohio.gov
whitt@whitt-sturtevant.com
campbell@whitt-sturtevant.com
glover@whitt-sturtevant.com
daltman@environlaw.com
jnewman@environlaw.com
jweber@environlaw.com

/s/ Samantha Williams
Samantha Williams

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Summary: Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support of the Natural Resources Defense Council electronically filed by Samantha Williams on behalf of Natural Resources Defense Council