

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF THE
DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT RIDER
CONTAINED IN THE TARIFF OF OHIO
POWER COMPANY.**

CASE NO. 14-255-EL-RDR

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2014 REVIEW OF
THE DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT RIDER
CONTAINED IN THE TARIFF OF OHIO
POWER COMPANY.**

CASE NO. 15-66-EL-RDR

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF THE
DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT RIDER
CONTAINED IN THE TARIFF OF OHIO
POWER COMPANY.**

CASE NO. 16-21-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on October 26, 2017

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or 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 modified and approved, pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, AEP Ohio's application for an ESP, to be effective with the first billing cycle of September 2012 through May 31, 2015. 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. 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. *In re Columbus Southern Power Co. and Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012) at 42-43, 47, Entry on Rehearing (Jan. 30, 2013).

{¶ 4} In Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved an ESP for AEP Ohio, including modification and approval of the Company's request to continue the DIR, for the period of June 1, 2015, through May 31, 2018. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Feb. 25, 2015) at 45-47, Second Entry on Rehearing (May 28, 2015) at 23-25, Fourth Entry on Rehearing (Nov. 3, 2016) at 50-51, Seventh Entry on Rehearing (Apr. 5, 2017) at 14.

{¶ 5} On various dates, audit reports were filed in the above-noted cases regarding the annual audit of AEP Ohio's DIR for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

{¶ 6} Pursuant to Entry issued on June 29, 2017, the attorney examiner determined, upon review of the audit reports and the comments and reply comments filed by the parties, that an evidentiary hearing should be held. To facilitate the Commission's efficient review of the issues raised by the parties and in the audit reports, the cases were consolidated and the procedural schedule established such that AEP Ohio's testimony is due November 1, 2017, intervenor testimony is due November 9, 2017, Staff testimony is due November 15, 2017, and the hearing is scheduled to commence on November 20, 2017.

{¶ 7} On October 25, 2017, AEP Ohio filed a motion for an extension of the procedural schedule such that AEP Ohio's testimony would be due November 8, 2017, intervenor testimony would be due November 16, 2017, Staff testimony would be due November 21, 2017, and the hearing continued to commence on November 28, 2017. AEP Ohio states that the parties have engaged in settlement negotiations which may result in one or all of the disputed issues being resolved between some or all of the parties. Further, AEP Ohio requests that if a partial or complete stipulation and recommendation

is filed before November 8, 2017, at such time, the attorney examiner further modify the proposed procedural schedule to allow the parties additional time to prepare testimony and to prepare for the hearing on the stipulation. AEP Ohio states that all parties have been contacted and no party opposes AEP Ohio's request for an expedited ruling nor opposes the motion for an extension and continuance of the procedural schedule.

{¶ 8} The attorney examiner finds that AEP Ohio's motion for an extension of the procedural schedule and continuance of the hearing is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the procedural schedule should be revised as follows:

- (a) All testimony to be offered by AEP Ohio shall be filed by November 8, 2017.
- (b) All testimony to be offered by intervenors shall be filed by November 16, 2017.
- (c) All testimony to be offered by Staff shall be filed by November 21, 2017.
- (d) The evidentiary hearing shall commence on November 28, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio.

{¶ 9} In the event that a stipulation is filed, the attorney examiner will consider any party's request to revise the procedural schedule at that time.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That AEP Ohio's motion for an extension of the procedural schedule and continuance of the hearing until November 28, 2017, be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the parties comply with the revised procedural schedule as set forth in Paragraph 8. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties and other interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

GAP/dah

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Case No(s). 14-0255-EL-RDR, 15-0066-EL-RDR, 16-0021-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry that orders AEP Ohio's motion for an extension of the procedural schedule and continuance of the hearing until November 28, 2017, be granted. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.