

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 December 21, 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 was established.

{¶ 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. By Entry issued on October 26, 2017, AEP Ohio's motion was granted.

{¶ 8} On November 2, 2017, AEP Ohio, Staff, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), The Kroger Co. (Kroger), and Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy Group (OMAEG) filed a joint motion for a suspension of the procedural schedule and a request for an expedited ruling. In support of the motion, the parties stated that the requested suspension would enable them to complete settlement negotiations, which were expected to resolve the issues in these cases between some or all of the parties.

{¶ 9} By Entry issued on November 3, 2017, the parties' motion for suspension of the procedural schedule was granted and the parties were directed to keep the attorney examiner apprised of the status of negotiations.

{¶ 10} On December 19, 2017, AEP Ohio, Staff, and OMAEG filed a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation (Stipulation) purportedly resolving all the issues raised in these matters. Kroger also signed the Stipulation as a non-opposing signatory.

{¶ 11} To assist the Commission in its consideration of the Stipulation, the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) All testimony to be offered in support of or in opposition to the Stipulation shall be filed by January 22, 2018.
- (b) The evidentiary hearing shall commence on February 5, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio.

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That the parties comply with the procedural schedule as set forth in Paragraph 11. It is, further,

{¶ 14} 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

/vrm

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting forth the procedural schedule; electronically filed by Vesta R Miller on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio