## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE SIGNIFICANTLY EXCESSIVE EARNINGS TEST PURSUANT TO R.C. 4928.143(F) AND OHIO ADM. CODE 4901:1-35-10.

**CASE NO. 17-1230-EL-UNC** 

## **ENTRY**

## Entered in the Journal on January 29, 2018

- $\P$  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} On February 25, 2015, the Commission approved, with certain modifications, AEP Ohio's application for a standard service offer in the form of an electric security plan (ESP), in accordance with R.C. 4928.143, with a term 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).
- {¶ 3} Pursuant to the directives set forth in R.C. 4928.143(F), the Commission is required to evaluate the earnings of each electric distribution utility's approved ESP to determine whether the ESP produces significantly excessive earnings for the electric distribution utility.
- {¶ 4} On May 15, 2017, AEP Ohio filed its application for the administration of the significantly excessive earnings test for 2016 earnings, as required by R.C. 4928.143(F) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-35-10. In support of the application, the Company also filed the testimony of Andrea E. Moore, William A. Allen, and Tyler H. Ross.
- {¶ 5} On June 23, 2017, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

17-1230-EL-UNC -2-

{¶ 6} By Entry issued on December 7, 2017, a procedural schedule was established to assist the Commission with its review of AEP Ohio's 2016 earnings. Pursuant to the procedural schedule, motions to intervene were due by December 19, 2017, testimony by Staff and intervenors was due by January 12, 2018, and the evidentiary hearing was scheduled to commence on February 6, 2018.

- {¶ 7} On January 26, 2018, AEP Ohio, Staff, and OCC filed a joint motion to suspend the procedural schedule and a request for an expedited ruling. In the motion, the parties request that the hearing be suspended until further ordered to permit the parties additional time to engage in settlement negotiations to resolve some or all of the issues in dispute. The parties expect to be able to inform the attorney examiner whether a settlement has been reached within the next 15 days. The parties declare that no party objects to the issuance of an immediate ruling or to the requested suspension.
- {¶ 8} The attorney examiner finds that the joint motion for a suspension of the procedural schedule is reasonable and should be granted. However, if the parties have not filed, by February 20, 2018, either a settlement agreement or a notice indicating that their settlement efforts have otherwise concluded, the parties shall contact the attorney examiner with an update on their progress in reaching a settlement agreement.
  - $\{\P 9\}$  It is, therefore,
  - {¶ 10} ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,
- $\P$  11} ORDERED, That the joint motion for a suspension of the procedural schedule be granted as set forth in Paragraph 8. It is, further,

17-1230-EL-UNC -3-

 $\P$  12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Greta See

By: Greta See

**Attorney Examiner** 

JRJ/meh

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1/29/2018 11:47:05 AM

in

Case No(s). 17-1230-EL-UNC

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry Granting Motion to Intervene and Joint Motion for Suspension as outlined in Entry. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio