

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of the :
 Application of Ohio Power :
 Company for Authority to :
 Establish a Standard :
 Service Offer Pursuant to : Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO
 Section 4928.143, Revised :
 Code, in the Form of an :
 Electric Security Plan. :

In the Matter of the :
 Application of Ohio Power :
 Company for Approval of : Case No. 16-1853-EL-AAM
 Certain Accounting :
 Authority. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Greta See and Ms. Sarah Parrot, Attorney
 Examiners, at the Ohio History Connection, 800 East
 17th Avenue, Cardinal Room, Columbus, Ohio, called at
 6:02 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2018.

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PUBLIC HEARING - COLUMBUS, OHIO

- - -

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APPEARANCES:

American Electric Power Service Corporation
By Mr. Steven T. Nourse
and Ms. Christen M. Blend
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of Ohio Power Company.

Bruce E. Weston, Ohio Consumers' Counsel
By Mr. William Michael,
Assistant Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

On behalf of the Residential Consumers of
Ohio Power Company.

Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General
By Mr. William L. Wright,
Section Chief
Mr. Werner L. Margard, III,
Assistant Attorney General
Public Utilities Section
30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Staff of the PUCO.
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1 Monday Evening Session,

2 February 12, 2018.

3 - - -

4 EXAMINER SEE: Let's go on the record.

5 The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
6 has scheduled for this time and place Case No.
7 16-1852-EL-SSO which is entitled in the Matter of the
8 Application of the Ohio Power Company for Authority
9 to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to
10 Revised Code Section 4928.143 in the Form of an
11 Electric Security Plan and Case No. 16-1853-EL-AAM,
12 in the Matter of the Application of the Ohio Power
13 Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority.

14 My name is Greta See and seated to my
15 right is Sarah Parrot. We are the Attorney Examiners
16 with the Commission in the Legal Department that have
17 been assigned to this case.

18 In addition, there are several other
19 Commission staff members joining us this evening
20 including Anna Sanyal, Matt Schilling, Kimberly
21 Norris, and seated at the table is Tara Jones. If
22 you have some questions concerning how the Commission
23 processes electric security plan cases or the
24 joint -- in this case the application as amended by
25 the joint stipulation, the staff can answer some of

1 those questions for you. If you need information on
2 how to access the application or the stipulation, you
3 can access our website. And if you need any
4 assistance on how to do any of that, you can approach
5 any member of staff, and they will be willing to help
6 you with that.

7 As we move on tonight, I am aware that
8 there are some members with consumer services of Ohio
9 Power Company and just a little later Mr. Nourse will
10 introduce those individuals to you and they will
11 be -- they can address any questions you have for the
12 company about service or other concerns.

13 At this time I would like to take
14 appearances on behalf of the parties that have
15 counsel present. Let's start with Ohio Power
16 Company.

17 MR. NOURSE: Thank you, your Honor. On
18 behalf of Ohio Power Company, I'm Steven T. Nourse
19 and this is Christen M. Blend, counsel. And today we
20 have -- tonight we have Marc Reitter from AEP Ohio
21 Regulatory and Finances at AEP Ohio and Katie Graham
22 with the Customer Organization AEP Ohio.

23 There are other people, I am not going to
24 introduce all the AEP people, but I did want to point
25 out that we have folks out in the hall, that we have

1 some customer service reps that would like to answer
2 questions you have about billing. We have energy
3 efficiency experts there if you have questions about
4 saving energy and our programs there and that's
5 Maxine Joseph, Chris Day, Kelly Buzzard, Dave
6 Dabatta, and Mike La Scala. Excuse me. So we're
7 here to either -- somebody that just came to have a
8 question about their bill, the folks will be out
9 there the whole time, and we will be here after, so
10 either way. Thank you.

11 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you, Mr. Nourse.

12 On behalf of Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

13 MR. MICHAEL: I'm Bill Michael on behalf
14 of AEP's residential utility consumers with the
15 Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

16 EXAMINER SEE: And on behalf of the staff
17 of the Public Utilities Commission.

18 MR. MARGARD: Thank you, your Honor.
19 Werner Margard, Assistant Attorney General on behalf
20 of the staff of the Public Utilities Commission.

21 EXAMINER SEE: Okay. I note that there
22 are many parties that have intervened in this
23 proceeding to represent the interest of residential
24 customers including low income residential customers,
25 commercial customers, industrial customers,

1 competitive retail energy -- electric service
2 providers, environmental advocates, and other
3 consumer advocates. Each of these parties represents
4 its various constituents in this case before the
5 Commission. The staff of the Commission is also a
6 party in this matter.

7 Ohio Power Company's current electric
8 security plan is effective through May 31, 2018. On
9 November 23, 2016, the Ohio Power Company filed an
10 application with the Commission to modify and extend
11 its electric security plan, or you may hear us refer
12 to it as an ESP, to be effective from June 1, 2018,
13 through May 31, 2024.

14 As part of the Commission's consideration
15 of Ohio Power's application, the Commission scheduled
16 and conducted four local public hearings in April
17 2017; and on August 25, 2017, as previously noted, a
18 joint stipulation and recommendation was filed by
19 numerous parties to the case. A hearing on the
20 stipulation commenced on November 1, 2017, and
21 continued through November 6, 2017.

22 This evening we will receive additional
23 testimony from the public regarding AEP Ohio's
24 application and the stipulation. It's not a question
25 and answer session, but it's your opportunity to let

1 the Commission know what you think about the
2 company's application and the settlement agreement.

3 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
4 a court reporter. If you plan to testify, please
5 speak clearly so that the court reporter can
6 accurately reflect your comments on the record. Also
7 if you have a prepared written statement, it would be
8 helpful if you provided it to the court reporter once
9 you're finished.

10 When you are -- when you arrived this
11 evening, you were offered the opportunity to sign in
12 to testify. After I finish the introduction, I will
13 begin calling the witnesses forward in the order
14 listed on the sign-in sheet. When your name is
15 called, if you decide that you no longer want to
16 testify, you can pass, and we'll move to the next
17 witness. I will ask each witness to come up to the
18 table -- to the table and face the court reporter
19 before you present your testimony. I will ask you to
20 take an oath or affirmation that the testimony you
21 are about to give is the truth and then ask that you
22 state and spell your name and provide your address
23 for the record.

24 Your testimony will be considered part of
25 the official record from this case, and it will be

1 reviewed by the Commission before a final decision is
 2 made on the application and stipulation.

3 Additionally, counsel for the parties to
 4 the case who are present, myself, and Ms. Parrot, may
 5 ask you questions about your testimony. Also once
 6 you finish testifying or if you are just here to
 7 observe, you are not required to stay the entire
 8 time, and you may leave at any time.

9 Are there any questions about tonight's
 10 process?

11 Okay. With that we'll go to the first
 12 witness. And I apologize now if I mess up your name.
 13 First witness is Matthew Roberts. Mr. Roberts, if
 14 you would raise your right hand.

15 - - -

16 MATHEW ROBERTS

17 presented himself as a public witness, and being
 18 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 EXAMINER SEE: State and spell your name
 21 for the record.

22 THE WITNESS: It's Matthew Roberts,
 23 M-A-T-H-E-W, Roberts, R-O-B-E-R-T-S.

24 EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your
 25 testimony.

1 THE WITNESS: All right. Well, thank you
2 for hosting this public hearing for us tonight. My
3 name is Mathew Roberts. I'm representing an
4 organization called Upgrade Ohio. We are a nonprofit
5 based in Athens County. We also work closely with
6 the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council. Here
7 tonight to offer my support for this rate case
8 largely for its solar and grid modernization efforts
9 as part of the entire electric security plan.

10 For our organization it's really
11 important that this is moving forward because it
12 helps continue the narrative that there's new energy
13 jobs that are available in a coal-impacted region and
14 area that AEP Ohio serves in that the components of
15 the plan are moving forward in a way that helps
16 support our organization and the efforts that we've
17 already done.

18 Our story really starts with a loan
19 program where we helped provide information and zero
20 percent loans for our community to move forward on
21 electric vehicles in a community that AEP Ohio
22 serves, and it's great to see that this case moves
23 forward on progress that we've made, and it would
24 be -- we would encourage the Utilities Commission to
25 ensure that the proposal really stretches throughout

1 the entire service territory of AEP Ohio and not just
2 its center based in Columbus.

3 Another interesting thing that we've done
4 that touches to some of the components of this plan
5 is we've been working on our own community solar
6 initiatives, and we're getting ready to propose to
7 the city of Athens an opt-out solar program that
8 would allow them to choose to pay extra money to
9 build solar on buildings in their community. And so
10 we support the solar component of this plan because
11 it helps our case in adding to distributed energy
12 resources of the entire service territory while AEP
13 Ohio gets to focus on adding more solar as a baseload
14 resource continuing on the effort that they've
15 announced as an entire company to reduce their
16 emissions by a 2050 date.

17 So we certainly support those efforts.
18 And last time I came to present our testimony about
19 this case in particular, we encouraged the Public
20 Utilities Commission of Ohio to really see this as an
21 opportunity from a utility perspective too, that a
22 utility bringing this forward, that it creates a fair
23 and open access to the electrical grid, that it makes
24 way for a consumer energy highway essentially giving
25 consumers the power to make the grid more resilient

1 and timely provide some service to the utility making
2 it a collaborative effort.

3 And a lot of the components of this new
4 plan, distributed energy resources with solar and
5 electric vehicles, microgrids and other grid
6 modernization efforts really talks to the Public
7 Utilities Commission's PowerForward initiative. So
8 this plan really creates another opportunity for --
9 for learning and allowing a pathway to be created for
10 other utilities in the state to file their own
11 electric security plans with the same type of
12 components.

13 So, yeah, that's essentially the end and
14 I want to thank the Public Utilities Commission --
15 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for hosting this
16 hearing and for giving us an opportunity to speak
17 about the positive benefits of this plan. Thank you.

18 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

19 Hold on just a second. Any questions for
20 this witness? Mr. Michael?

21 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

22 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

23 MR. MARGARD: No, your Honor.

24 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

25 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

1 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you very much.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thanks.

3 EXAMINER SEE: Next witness is Melissa
4 English. Ms. English, if you would raise your right
5 hand.

6 - - -

7 MELISSA ENGLISH

8 presented herself as a public witness, and being
9 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
12 your name -- state and spell your name for the record
13 and give us your address.

14 THE WITNESS: Melissa, M-E-L-I-S-S-A,
15 English, E-N-G-L-I-S-H. It's 2330 Victory Parkway,
16 Cincinnati, Ohio, Suite 1 -- 401, excuse me.

17 EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your
18 testimony.

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Melissa English,
20 and I'm the Deputy Director of the Ohio Citizen
21 Action, the premier grassroots organizing team,
22 excuse me, in the midwest. Since 2016 our organizers
23 have been raising awareness among AEP customers about
24 the utility's proposal to increase the fixed rate
25 customer charge by 119 percent.

1 We've laid out our opposition to this
2 increase based on the fact it penalizes homeowners
3 who have efficiency and renewable upgrades,
4 disincentivizes investments in renewables and
5 efficiency. This disproportionately harms low income
6 and senior households and generally subsidizes AEP's
7 least competitive coal plants.

8 The feedback that we've received from our
9 field and phone contacts indicates thousands of AEP
10 customers agree. That is why we appear today
11 offering gratitude and congratulations for the
12 parties responsible for withdrawing the fixed rate
13 increase from AEP's electric security plan.

14 Furthermore, we are encouraged by other
15 pro clean energy initiatives thoroughly outlined by
16 the previous speaker. But I know I speak on behalf
17 of our 32,000 Ohio members when I say we hope these
18 initiatives take a pro consumer approach because
19 Ohioans have long paid with both their health and
20 their treasure for reliance on coal for electricity,
21 and the economic burden of transitioning to renewable
22 energy must not be disproportionately shouldered by
23 those same people.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
25 this evening.

1 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
2 Questions for this witness? Mr. Michael?
3 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.
4 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?
5 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you.
6 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?
7 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.
8 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
9 Alistair Bradley. Mr. Bradley, if you

10 would please raise your right hand.

11 - - -

12 ALISTAIR BRADLEY

13 presented himself as a public witness, and being
14 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
17 your name for the record and provide us your address.

18 THE WITNESS: Alistair Bradley,
19 A-L-I-S-T-A-I-R, Bradley, B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, 3243 Prairie
20 Gardens Drive, Hilliard.

21 EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your
22 testimony.

23 THE WITNESS: I'm speaking as an AEP
24 customer and homeowner with a net metering contract
25 for the grid-tied solar panels on our roof which

1 we've had for the last six years.

2 Firstly, I wanted to thank AEP for
3 listening at the last public hearings and rethinking
4 their misguided increase in the fixed customer charge
5 which would have unfairly led to low consumption
6 customers effectively paying for a decrease in the
7 bills with higher consumption customers.

8 I believe that we must act more urgently
9 on a transition to renewable energy sources. I
10 really wanted to commend AEP on their 2018 strategic
11 vision for a clean energy future. I hope that the
12 PUCO are now able to quickly approve their plans for
13 the 400 megawatts of large scale solar and the
14 500 megawatts of wind power generation.

15 However, I did also want to ask that as
16 AEP and PUCO continue to work on diversity of supply,
17 that you find ways to switch to encouraging rooftop
18 solar as a great option for customers who want to
19 take personal responsibility for reducing Ohio's
20 carbon footprint as soon as possible. Rooftop solar
21 uses land which is already taken and reduces
22 transmission costs by connecting power to the grid in
23 our communities exactly where the power is being
24 used.

25 Our residential sources of power can also

1 be just as predictable as the large scale power
2 plants, solar power plants, and being distributed
3 sources that are more resilient to local -- local
4 grid issues or weather issues. So I believe that if
5 you keep working with your customers to encourage
6 energy efficiency and also rooftop -- rooftop solar,
7 you will have a boundless supply of support for your
8 vision of a clean energy future.

9 I finally wanted to quote an inspiration
10 of a small company. They are in -- they are called
11 Appalachian Renewable Power. They are based in
12 Stewart, Ohio, Athens, in Athens County. They
13 installed the rooftop solar on -- at our house, and
14 their quote is "Power to the people one rooftop at a
15 time." So please encourage these local jobs too.

16 Thank you.

17 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

18 Any cross-examination for this witness?

19 Mr. Michael?

20 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

21 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

22 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

23 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

24 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

25 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you, sir.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 EXAMINER SEE: Robin Craft. Ms. Craft,
3 if you would please raise your right hand.

4 - - -

5 ROBIN CRAFT

6 presented herself as a public witness, and being
7 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 EXAMINER SEE: State and spell your name
10 for the record and provide us your address.

11 THE WITNESS: Robin, R-O-B-I-N, Craft,
12 C-R-A-F-T. And my address is 8678 U.S. Highway 42
13 North, Plain City, Ohio, ZIP Code 43064.

14 I am just here tonight as an AEP
15 customer. I had come to the last hearing and spoke
16 as well. And I'm glad to see that things went in a
17 good direction with what AEP had decided to do.

18 I'm really here tonight because I wanted
19 to support clean energy and the provisions of AEP's
20 case and upcoming Appalachian solar proposal. I
21 really think that right now it's very critical that
22 we see Ohio and major utilities like AEP moving
23 forward on clean energy issues, and we need to see
24 cities like Columbus committing to 100 percent clean
25 energy, and the time to move forward on that is now.

1 I truly believe that climate change is
2 the greatest challenge that is facing us at this
3 time, and we have to all work together to address
4 these issues. Moving to 100 percent clean energy is
5 something we must do, and we are running out of time
6 to move forward on that if we are going to keep
7 temperatures below limits that will cause irreparable
8 and irreversible damage to our world and our earth.

9 And that's really all I had to say. I
10 just want to thank them again for moving forward on
11 clean energy and doing the right thing with that.

12 EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Just a moment.
13 Just a moment.

14 Any cross-examination? Mr. Michael?

15 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

16 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

17 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

18 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

19 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

20 EXAMINER SEE: Thanks. Thank you,
21 Ms. Craft.

22 Cathy Cowan Becker. Ms. Becker, if you
23 would raise your right hand.

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CATHY COWAN BECKER

presented herself as a public witness, and being
first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
your name for the record and give us your address.

THE WITNESS: Cathy, C-A-T-H-Y, Cowan,
C-O-W-A-N, Becker, B-E-C-K-E-R.

EXAMINER SEE: Your address, please?

THE WITNESS: 4275 White Spruce Lane,
Grove City, Ohio 43123.

EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your
testimony.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you for
allowing us to testify about this today. My name is
Cathy Cowan Becker. I'm Chair of the Sierra Club's
Ready for 100 Campaign in Columbus. We are asking
the city of Columbus to commit to 100 percent
renewable energy by 2050 or before across this --
across the country, 53 cities, 6 counties, and 1
state have already committed to getting 100 percent
of their energy from renewables by 2050 or before. 5
cities are already there and mayors in almost 200
more cities including Cincinnati have pledged support
for a community-wide transition to 100 percent

1 renewable energy.

2 I am here to strongly support AEP's
3 proposal to build a 400 megawatt -- 400 megawatts of
4 solar energy production in Appalachian, Ohio, with a
5 solar panel manufacturing facility that will create
6 hundreds of long-term, good paying, clean energy
7 jobs. Provisions within this current case that this
8 hearing is about tonight will help move the solar
9 projects forward.

10 Such a facility would bring jobs to an
11 area of the state that sorely needs them with a
12 preference for hiring military veterans. A
13 400-megawatt facility would be the largest solar
14 facility east of the Mississippi making Ohio the
15 largest solar state in the midwest.

16 According to the Bureau of Labor
17 Statistics, the fastest growing jobs in the country
18 are wind turbine service technician and solar panel
19 installer. So why would we not want these jobs to
20 come to Ohio? If AEP can make good on its plan to
21 build facilities to produce 400 megawatts of solar
22 energy and 500 megawatts of wind energy in Ohio, our
23 Ready for 100 Campaign will have a much easier time
24 persuading the city of Columbus and other cities in
25 Ohio to commit to transitioning to 100 percent

1 renewable energy. It is crucial that cities across
2 the country make this commitment.

3 Currently we have no federal leadership
4 on climate change. But even if we did, cities still
5 have to do their part because 75 percent of carbon
6 emissions from energy use come from urban areas.
7 Science tells us that we are running out of time to
8 take the action necessary to deal with climate
9 change. Already carbon emissions have raised global
10 temperatures about 1.25 degrees Celsius, and in order
11 to hold temperatures to an increase of no more than 2
12 degrees Celsius and as long as possible to 1.5 which
13 is what is called for by the Paris Agreement, we need
14 to get to zero emissions by 2050 or before.

15 It will take all people and all tactics
16 and all areas of the world to deal with climate
17 change. But we in Ohio must do our part. Our
18 industrial state has lagged in addressing carbon and
19 state legislature has tried to gut what legal we have
20 done.

21 The Appalachian solar facility proposed
22 by AEP would turn Ohio from a lagger to a leader on
23 climate while creating jobs and strengthening our
24 economy. There is no downside. Let's allow AEP, a
25 forward-looking utility, to help lead Ohio into the

1 21st Century.

2 That's all I have. I do have a copy.

3 EXAMINER SEE: If you have an extra copy.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

6 Any questions for this witness?

7 Mr. Michael?

8 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

9 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

10 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you.

11 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

12 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

13 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

14 Next witness is Monica Dorman Tuttle.

15 Ms. Tuttle, if you would raise your right hand.

16 - - -

17 MONICA DORMAN TUTTLE

18 presented herself as a public witness, and being

19 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Please state
22 and spell your name for the record and give us your
23 address.

24 THE WITNESS: Monica, M-O-N-I-C-A, Dorman
25 D-O-R-M-A-N, Tuttle, T-U-T-T-L-E. And I reside at

1 780 Stinson Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

2 And I want to keep this brief, but I
 3 wanted to start out by thanking you for this
 4 opportunity to be heard. And importantly I want to
 5 commend PUCO's support for renewable energy sources.
 6 And I think that it is important for PUCO to continue
 7 to incentivize energy conservation and rooftop solar.

8 I think that the Appalachian solar
 9 project is an important step towards moving towards
 10 clean energy, and I think that that is something that
 11 will set Ohio apart and lead us into the next -- into
 12 the future. Thank you.

13 EXAMINER SEE: Any questions for
 14 Ms. Tuttle? Mr. Michael?

15 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

16 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

17 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

18 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

19 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

20 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you very much.

21 David Roseman. Mr. Roseman, if you would
 22 raise your right hand.

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DAVID ROSEMAN

presented himself as a public witness, and being
first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
your name for the record and give us your address.

THE WITNESS: Good evening. My name is
David Roseman, R-O-S-E-M-A-N, D-A-V-I-D, 2843 Blendon
Woods Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43231.

EXAMINER SEE: Okay.

THE WITNESS: Good evening, PUCO,
Commissioners, and staff. Thank you for your time.
My name is David Roseman. I have been an owner of my
house for about 30 years that is 100 percent electric
power supplied in Columbus thanks to AEP Ohio.

I would like to express my support and
encourage AEP to utilize more renewable, sustainable,
clean energy via wind and solar power in lieu of
coal, gas, nuclear. I'm for the AEP solar wind farms
which would support the manufacturing proposed for
southeast Ohio, and we would like to make sure those
get implemented as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Any questions?
Mr. Michael?

1 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

2 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

3 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

4 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

5 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

6 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you, sir.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 EXAMINER SEE: Kenneth Myers. Mr. Myers,
9 would you please raise your right hand.

10 - - -

11 KENNETH MYERS

12 presented himself as a public witness, and being
13 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
16 your name for the record and give us your address.

17 THE WITNESS: Kenneth Myers,
18 K-E-N-N-E-T-H M-Y-E-R-S. I live 43 East Kelso Road,
19 and 43202 is the ZIP Code. So I wanted to share some
20 brief words as a young person and as a millennial
21 when considering both this project and the greater
22 context of pushing back and fighting against the
23 climate crisis.

24 You know, only two hours ago, I received
25 a push notification from CNN that scientists have

1 reassessed some of the risks associated with the
2 climate crisis and now believe that an additional
3 2 feet of sea level rise could occur by the end of
4 this century if this progress is not addressed. That
5 would be devastating to communities that live across
6 the coasts of this world, not only here in the United
7 States, and will add to many of the other
8 catastrophic effects that we already expect to occur
9 in the coming decades.

10 The climate crisis is often too big of a
11 problem, and it's too complex to comprehend for many
12 people. Its implications and the consequences that
13 will come up often make people just want to ignore it
14 and not think about it and to just continue the
15 course as is. However, for my generation and the
16 generations that will continue on, we cannot ignore
17 this threat.

18 When I think about the crisis, it causes
19 me to consider questions like whether or not my
20 partner and I want to have children, whether or not
21 my friends and family who live in vulnerable areas
22 will be safe, whether or not it's worth it for me to
23 put money away into my Roth IRA considering whether
24 or not I will even be able to retire. These are the
25 types of questions that my generation continue to ask

1 ourselves as we see the world many times refuse to
2 address this problem on the levels that it needs to
3 be addressed.

4 To be frank the future looks bleak for
5 many young people with the federal government that is
6 insane and our state legislature that makes every
7 effort to make it more difficult for projects like
8 this to actually occur in Ohio. It can be really
9 difficult sometimes to think about the crisis.

10 That's why it gives me so much hope when
11 I hear about companies like AEP making the choice to
12 invest in such a large project as a southeastern
13 solar -- solar energy program. It's exactly the type
14 of leadership that we need in the vacuum that we have
15 right now. If our political leaders continue to not
16 act, then our energy companies and companies that
17 produce solar and renewable energy need to have the
18 opportunities to step in.

19 So I'm really excited about AEP taking
20 this opportunity and moving forward, and I hope that
21 it continues on as quickly as possible. So thank
22 you.

23 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

24 Mr. Michael, any questions for this
25 witness?

1 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.
2 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?
3 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.
4 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?
5 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.
6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
7 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.
8 Next witness is Catherine
9 Hope-Cunningham. Ms. Hope-Cunningham, could you
10 raise your right hand.

11 - - -

12 CATHERINE HOPE-CUNNINGHAM
13 presented herself as a public witness, and being
14 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 EXAMINER SEE: I need you to state and
17 spell your name for the record and give us your
18 address.

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Catherine
20 Hope-Cunningham, C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E, last name H-O-P-E
21 hyphen C-U-N-N-I-G-H-A-M. I live 667 Ridenour Road
22 in Columbus.

23 EXAMINER SEE: Go ahead with your
24 testimony.

25 THE WITNESS: First of all, thank you for

1 the opportunity to be heard today. I don't have any
2 prepared notes but -- and I plan to be brief, but I
3 want to start, first of all, by affirming the
4 testimonies of Matthew and Cathy, Matthew Roberts and
5 Cathy. I have never met them before, but both of
6 them testified that there are jobs for people who are
7 in -- currently in coal. There are jobs in the clean
8 energy sector and I can affirm that because I am a
9 solar energy consultant. Took the class two years
10 ago. There were 12 people in my class and 2 of them
11 were from the Athens area. They had lost their jobs
12 in coal, and they were pursuing new opportunities in
13 the area of clean energy. So thank you for bringing
14 that up. Those opportunities are really helping
15 people in the Athens area as well as myself.

16 I want to take an opportunity to throw my
17 support, add my voice to the support of clean energy
18 initiatives for three reasons. No. 1, solar is
19 cheaper for the consumer. I am a solar consumer. It
20 will save me enough money over time to send my kid to
21 his first year of college, and so I -- I want to
22 bring that up and make sure that it is supported.

23 And the second reason is because it is
24 environmentally responsible. I think several people
25 have brought that up already but if there is one

1 reason we really need to move forward with clean
2 energy, I think that is the No. 1 most important
3 reason.

4 As well as I also want to bring up
5 something that so far hasn't been brought up tonight
6 and that is the clean energy policy is something that
7 large companies like eBay and Amazon are looking for
8 when they are putting out their bids to expand. I
9 know that we are currently looking at bringing
10 companies like Amazon to Columbus. My husband is a
11 civil engineer. He works with developers, and I can
12 tell you that, you know, sometimes bids are won and
13 lost by clean energy policy.

14 So if we want to bring those people and
15 those companies to Columbus, I think we need to model
16 it and I want to thank AEP for their efforts in clean
17 energy so far and I just want to add my voice of
18 support in encouraging AEP and PUCO to pursue clean
19 energy initiatives in the future.

20 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you.

21 Any questions -- any cross-examination
22 for this witness? Mr. Michael?

23 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

24 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

25 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

1 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

2 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

3 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you very much.

4 That -- there were no more witnesses that
5 signed up on the sign-in sheet to offer testimony
6 tonight. Is there someone else present that would
7 like to offer testimony that did not -- did not sign
8 in?

9 Come forward. Ma'am, could you raise
10 your right hand, please.

11 - - -

12 LAURINE CROWTHER

13 presented herself as a public witness, and being
14 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 EXAMINER SEE: Please state and spell
17 your name for the record.

18 THE WITNESS: Laurine, L-A-U-R-I-N-E,
19 Crowther, C-R-O-W-T-H-E-R.

20 EXAMINER SEE: Okay. And your address,
21 ma'am?

22 THE WITNESS: 353 East Clearview Avenue,
23 and that's Worthington, Ohio.

24 EXAMINER SEE: Okay.

25 THE WITNESS: Do you need the ZIP on that

1 too? 43085.

2 EXAMINER SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your
3 testimony.

4 THE WITNESS: Okay. I had come today
5 mainly to listen, but I just feel compelled to speak
6 to support what so many others have said. I'm
7 retired. I was delighted a couple of years ago when
8 I went to negotiate my electric plan and found out
9 that for pennies more I could get an alternative
10 energy, 100 percent alternative clean energy plan, in
11 my case wind. And, again, it was going to cost me
12 very little extra.

13 I'm on a fixed income, so I have to be
14 careful what I spend, but this delighted me. I am an
15 AEP customer. And as I look forward to the plan that
16 I'm hearing more and more about, I just want to lend
17 my support. I think that at this time facing the
18 climate change, problems is one of the most important
19 things we can do, and I'm hoping that -- I want to
20 compliment AEP and PUCO for pushing in that
21 direction.

22 I thought it was important that somebody
23 retired stand up and speak with so many young people
24 we have here today and those of middle age. But,
25 again, you know, kudos to AEP and PUCO for looking

1 ahead and trying to confront this climate change in
2 this positive way. The Appalachian solar project is
3 just what we need in Ohio and across the country.

4 So thank you for the opportunity to
5 speak.

6 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. Any
7 cross-examination for this witness? Mr. Michael?

8 MR. MICHAEL: No, your Honor.

9 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Margard?

10 MR. MARGARD: No, thank you, your Honor.

11 EXAMINER SEE: Mr. Nourse?

12 MR. NOURSE: No, thank you, your Honor.

13 EXAMINER SEE: Thank you. That was again
14 the last witness. Anyone else want to offer
15 testimony tonight?

16 Is there anything from the parties? If
17 there's nothing from counsel for the parties, I would
18 like to thank you all for taking your time this
19 evening and coming out to offer testimony. I remind
20 you that AEP has individuals present if you have
21 questions about your bill, and if you have questions
22 about other utility services, there are Commission
23 personnel in the back of the room. We'll be here for
24 a few minutes to take your questions. Thank you all.

25 (Thereupon, at 6:41 p.m., the hearing was

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adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
taken by me in this matter on Monday, February 12,
2018, and carefully compared with my original
stenographic notes.

Karen Sue Gibson

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-6493)

- - -



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Case No(s). 16-1852-EL-SSO, 16-1853-EL-AAM

Summary: Transcript In the matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan and In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority, hearing held on February 12, 2018. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.