

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE
ITS GRIDSMART PHASE 2 RIDER.

CASE NO. 17-1156-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on August 28, 2018

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio) 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. *In re Columbus Southern Power Co. and Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al. (*ESP 2 Case*), Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012). Among other provisions of the ESP, the Commission approved AEP Ohio's request to initiate Phase 2 of its gridSMART project. The Commission directed AEP Ohio to file its proposed expansion of the gridSMART project as part of a new gridSMART application and to include sufficient detail on the proposed equipment and technology for the Commission to evaluate the demonstrated success, cost-effectiveness, customer acceptance, and feasibility of the proposed technology. *ESP 2 Case* at 62-63.

{¶ 4} In Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved an ESP for AEP Ohio for the period of June 1, 2015, through May 31, 2018. *In re Ohio*

Power Co., Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al. (*ESP 3 Case*), Opinion and Order (Feb. 25, 2015). The Commission approved AEP Ohio's request to transfer the remaining gridSMART Phase 1 costs to the Distribution Investment Rider and use the gridSMART Rider to track gridSMART Phase 2 costs. The Commission also noted that AEP Ohio's gridSMART Phase 2 program would be reviewed on an annual basis, including consideration of the prudence of expenditures and the reconciliation of investments placed in service with revenues collected. *ESP 3 Case* at 51-52.

{¶ 5} In Case No. 13-1939-EL-RDR, the Commission modified and approved a joint stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) regarding AEP Ohio's application to implement Phase 2 of its gridSMART project. The Stipulation provides that costs incurred for the gridSMART Phase 2 project will be recovered through a gridSMART Phase 2 Rider to be adjusted on a quarterly basis and subject to an annual audit for prudence. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 13-1939-EL-RDR, Opinion and Order (Feb. 1, 2017) at ¶ 33.

{¶ 6} On April 28, 2017, in the above-captioned proceeding, AEP Ohio filed an application to update its gridSMART Rider for Phase 2 costs. Subsequently, AEP Ohio filed applications to adjust its gridSMART Phase 2 Rider on July 28, 2017, October 26, 2017, and January 29, 2018.

{¶ 7} On July 3, 2018, Staff filed its review and recommendations regarding its annual audit of AEP Ohio's gridSMART Phase 2 Rider for 2017. AEP Ohio filed reply comments on July 24, 2018.

{¶ 8} In order to assist the Commission in its review of AEP Ohio's gridSMART Phase 2 Rider for 2017, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) October 5, 2018 - Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
- (b) October 12, 2018 - Deadline for the filing of initial comments.
- (c) November 2, 2018 - Deadline for the filing of reply comments.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 8 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record in this case and all parties of record in Case No. 13-1939-EL-RDR.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Sarah Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

8/28/2018 11:09:15 AM

in

Case No(s). 17-1156-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting forth the procedural schedule indicated in Paragraph 8 - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Sarah Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio