THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Ohio Power Company for Approval to Amend Its Supplier Tariffs.

CASE NO. 18-1629-EL-ATA

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on January 3, 2019

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEPOhio to amend its supplier tariffs.

II. DISCUSSION

 $\{\P 2\}$ Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the 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.

{¶ 3} 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.

{¶ 4} R.C. 4909.18 provides, in part, that a public utility may file an application to establish any rate, charge, regulation, or practice. If the Commission determines that the application is not for an increase in any rate and does not appear to be unjust or unreasonable, the Commission may approve the application without the need for a hearing.

{¶ 5} In Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved, pursuant to a stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) filed by AEP Ohio and numerous other parties, an ESP for the Company for the period of June 1, 2018, through May 31, 2024. Among other provisions, the Stipulation provides that the terms and conditions of AEP

Ohio's supplier consolidated billing pilot will remain effective with certain modifications set forth in the Stipulation. *In re Ohio Power Co.,* Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al. (*ESP Case*), Opinion and Order (Apr. 25, 2018) at ¶ 119.

 $\{\P 6\}$ On October 30, 2018, in the above-captioned case, AEP Ohio filed, pursuant to R.C. 4909.18, an application to modify its supplier tariffs as necessary to implement the supplier consolidated billing pilot program, consistent with the Stipulation approved by the Commission in the *ESP Case*. In addition, AEP Ohio notes that its working group, which includes Staff, agrees that it is also necessary, where the Company acts as the billing agent for a competitive retail electric service (CRES) provider, to reduce the continuation of the Company's billings on behalf of the CRES provider, from two billing periods to one billing period, in situations where a customer has terminated its relationship with the CRES provider. Finally, AEP Ohio proposes to update cross-references and eliminate redundant language in the supplier tariffs.

{¶ 7} No comments or objections to AEP Ohio's application to amend its supplier tariffs were filed.

 $\{\P 8\}$ The Commission finds that AEP Ohio's proposed supplier tariffs, as filed on October 30, 2018, do not appear to be unjust or unreasonable, and are consistent with the Stipulation approved in the *ESP Case*. Accordingly, AEP Ohio's supplier tariffs should be approved. We further find that no hearing is necessary in this proceeding.

III. ORDER

[9] It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That AEP Ohio's supplier tariffs, as filed on October 30, 2018, be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That AEP Ohio be authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. AEP Ohio shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

{**¶ 12**} ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than the date upon which the final tariff pages are filed with the Commission. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon the Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

M. Beth Trombold

Thomas W. Johnson

Daniel R. Conway

Lawrence K. Friedeman

SJP/sc

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Tanowa M. Troupe Secretary