

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
ENHANCED SERVICE RELIABILITY RIDER
FOR 2016.**

CASE NO. 17-1914-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 15, 2019

{¶ 1} 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.

{¶ 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. 08-917-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved AEP Ohio's application for an ESP, which included approval of the enhanced service reliability rider (ESRR) through which the Company recovers costs associated with its enhanced vegetation management program. The ESRR is subject to Commission review and reconciliation on an annual basis. *In re Columbus Southern Power Co. and Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Mar. 18, 2009), Entry on Rehearing (July 23, 2009). In approving subsequent ESPs for AEP Ohio, the Commission has approved the continuation of the ESRR. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012); *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Feb. 25, 2015); *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Apr. 25, 2018).

{¶ 4} On September 5, 2017, in the above-captioned case, AEP Ohio filed an application to reconcile its ESRR rate for 2016.

{¶ 5} Staff filed its review and recommendations on May 29, 2018. AEP Ohio filed reply comments on June 25, 2018.

{¶ 6} By Entry dated December 5, 2018, the attorney examiner established a procedural schedule, in order to assist the Commission in its review of AEP Ohio's ESRR for 2016.

{¶ 7} Consistent with the established procedural schedule, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in this proceeding on December 21, 2018. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 8} On January 4, 2019, OCC filed comments, and AEP Ohio filed reply comments on January 18, 2019. Also on January 18, 2019, Staff filed a response to AEP Ohio's June 25, 2018 reply comments.

{¶ 9} Upon review of the parties' comments and reply comments in this matter, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) Testimony on behalf of AEP Ohio should be filed by April 19, 2019.
- (b) Testimony on behalf of Staff and OCC should be filed by May 3, 2019.
- (c) An evidentiary hearing shall commence on May 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene in this proceeding be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 9 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Sarah J. Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/hac

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Case No(s). 17-1914-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting motion to intervene and setting procedural schedule electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Sarah J. Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio