

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 REVIEW OF
THE DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT RIDER
CONTAINED IN THE TARIFF OF OHIO
POWER COMPANY.

CASE NO. 17-38-EL-RDR

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2017 REVIEW OF
THE DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENT RIDER
CONTAINED IN THE TARIFF OF OHIO
POWER COMPANY.

CASE NO. 18-230-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 18, 2019

{¶ 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., Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012). Among other provisions of the ESP, the Commission modified and approved AEP Ohio's proposed distribution investment rider (DIR) to allow for the recovery of capital costs for distribution infrastructure investments in order to facilitate improved service reliability. The Commission also required that the DIR be reviewed annually for accounting accuracy and prudence.

{¶ 4} In Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved an ESP for AEP Ohio, including modification and approval of continuation of the DIR, for the period 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) at 45-47, Second Entry on Rehearing (May 28, 2015) at 23-25, Fourth Entry on Rehearing (Nov. 3, 2016) at 50-51, Seventh Entry on Rehearing (Apr. 5, 2017) at 14.

{¶ 5} On March 22, 2017, in Case No. 17-38-EL-RDR, the Commission selected Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge) to perform the annual audit of AEP Ohio's DIR for 2016. Blue Ridge filed its compliance audit report for 2016 on August 10, 2017.

{¶ 6} On March 28, 2018, in Case No. 18-230-EL-RDR, the Commission selected Blue Ridge to perform the annual audit of AEP Ohio's DIR for 2017. Blue Ridge filed its compliance audit report for 2017 on August 23, 2018.

{¶ 7} The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in Case No. 17-38-EL-RDR on November 27, 2017, and a motion to intervene in Case No. 18-230-EL-RDR on March 23, 2018. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motions are reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 8} By Entry dated August 30, 2018, the attorney examiner established a procedural schedule, in order to assist the Commission in its review of AEP Ohio's DIR for 2016 and 2017.

{¶ 9} Consistent with the established procedural schedule, AEP Ohio, Staff, and OCC filed initial and reply comments on October 26, 2018, and November 16, 2018, respectively.

{¶ 10} Upon review of the parties' initial and reply comments in these matters, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) Testimony on behalf of AEP Ohio should be filed by May 17, 2019.
- (b) Testimony on behalf of Staff and OCC should be filed by May 31, 2019.
- (c) An evidentiary hearing shall commence on June 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That OCC's motions to intervene in these proceedings be granted.

It is, further,

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

{¶ 14} 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). 17-0038-EL-RDR, 18-0230-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting motion to intervene and setting the procedural schedule electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Sarah J. Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio