

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS, LLC AND
DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES, LLC FOR
WAIVERS OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
OHIO ADM.CODE CHAPTERS 4901:1-21
AND 4901:1-29, TO PERMIT THIRD-
PARTY VERIFICATION BY DIGITAL
CONFIRMATION.**

CASE NO. 18-382-GE-WVR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 26, 2019

{¶ 1} Direct Energy Business, LLC and Direct Energy Services, LLC (Direct or the Applicants) are an electric services company and retail natural gas supplier as defined in R.C. 4928.01 and 4929.01, are certified to provide competitive retail electric service (CRES) and competitive retail natural gas service (CRNGS) under R.C. 4928.08 and 4929.20, and are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4928.16 and 4929.24.

{¶ 2} On March 2, 2018, the Applicant submitted an application to the Commission requesting waivers of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-21-06(D)(1)(h) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-29-06(D)(6)(b). Direct seeks waivers of certain rules governing the third-party verification (TPV) process for new customers enrolled through sales channels requiring TPV. Direct contends that the requested waivers will enable Direct to offer customers the ability to complete the verification process through digital confirmation. Digital TPV enables better, faster, more accurate enrollment verification and a greatly enhanced customer experience, without diminishing any consumer protections afforded by the Commission's rules.

{¶ 3} On March 22, 2018, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in these proceedings. OCC argues it has authority under R.C. Chapter 4911 to represent the interests of Ohio's residential utility customers and that the interests of such customers may be adversely affected by these proceedings. OCC further submits that its

participation will not unduly prolong or delay these proceedings and that its advocacy will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the issues.

{¶ 4} On April 25, 2018, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia Gas) filed a motion to intervene in these proceedings. In its memorandum in support, Columbia states it has a real and substantial interest in the issues and matters involved in these proceedings, and is so situated that the disposition of these proceedings without Columbia's participation, may, as a practical matter, impair or impede Columbia's ability to protect that interest. Columbia's participation in these proceedings will not cause undue delay, will not unjustly prejudice any existing party, and will contribute to the just and expeditious resolution of the issues and concerns raised in these proceedings.

{¶ 5} The attorney examiner finds that Columbia Gas and OCC's motions to intervene in these proceedings are reasonable and should be granted. The attorney examiner notes that the Applicant does not oppose Columbia Gas or OCC's intervention. The attorney examiner finds that the motions to intervene filed by Columbia Gas and OCC comply with the requirements set forth in R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and should, therefore, be granted.

{¶ 6} The attorney examiner now finds it appropriate to invite interested stakeholders to file comments. The applicable procedural schedule shall be as follows:

- (a) Motions to intervene shall be filed by August 8, 2019.
- (b) Comments shall be filed by August 8, 2019.
- (c) Reply comments shall be filed by August 22, 2019.

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That OCC and Columbia Gas's motions to intervene be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 5 be adopted. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Stacie Cathcart

By: Stacie E. Cathcart
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/26/2019 2:40:24 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-0382-GE-WVR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting OCC and Columbia Gas's motions to intervene and setting forth a procedural schedule in accordance with Paragraph 5 - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Stacie Cathcart, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio