

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
FOR BASELINE REDUCTIONS TO EXCLUDE  
MERCANTILE CUSTOMERS.

CASE NO. 19-2031-EL-UNC

## FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on November 21, 2019

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} In this Finding and Order, the Commission establishes January 1, 2020 as the effective date for baseline reductions to exclude the load and usage of mercantile customers, as required by Amended Substitute House Bill No. 6 of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly.

### II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} The 133rd Ohio General Assembly adopted Amended Substitute House Bill No. 6, effective October 22, 2019 (HB6). Among other things, HB6 directs the Commission to reduce the baselines for electric distribution utilities (EDUs) and electric service companies (ESCs) by excluding the load and usage of mercantile customers to facilitate competitiveness of those customers. R.C. 4928.644(B); R.C. 4928.643.

{¶ 3} The Commission finds it necessary to open the above-captioned proceeding in order to establish January 1, 2020 as the effective date for the reduction of the baselines. We note EDUs and ESCs, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05, are required to file their annual renewable energy portfolio status reports with the Commission for each calendar year on April 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year. As such, setting January 1, 2020 as the effective date for baseline reduction provides ample time for EDUs and ESCs to calculate their new baselines for 2020 while providing expedited relief to customers from charges necessary for compliance with statutory requirements, as explained further below.

{¶ 4} Pursuant to R.C. 4928.644, beginning January 1, 2020, the baselines for EDUs and ESCs will be reduced by the exclusion of mercantile customers that are registered as self-assessing purchasers such under R.C. 5727.81(C). Upon the reduction, EDUs and ESCs will be relieved from the amount of compliance with renewable energy requirements under

R.C. 4928.64 that would be required but for the reduction. Further, such self-assessing mercantile customers will also be exempt from any bypassable charge imposed for compliance with renewable energy requirements under R.C. 4928.64. R.C. 4928.644. Accordingly, the Commission directs the EDUs to file proposed revised alternative energy rider tariff language, consistent with this Entry, by December 5, 2019.

### III. ORDER

{¶ 5} It is, therefore,

{¶ 6} ORDERED, That baselines for EDUs and ESCs be reduced on January 1, 2020, as further described in paragraph 4. It is, further,

{¶ 7} ORDERED, That on January 1, 2020, EDUs and ESCs be relieved from compliance with renewable energy requirements and mercantile customers be exempt from bypassable charges, as further described in paragraph 4. It is, further,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, that EDUs file revised alternative energy rider tariff language by December 5, 2019. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That this Entry be served upon Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Dayton Power and Light Company, Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio, Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company, and all ESCs.

COMMISSIONERS:

*Approving:*

Sam Randazzo, Chairman  
M. Beth Trombold  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters

AS/mef

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Summary: Finding & Order Finding and Order that the Commission establishes January 1, 2020 as the effective date for baseline reductions to exclude the load and usage of mercantile customers, as required by Amended Substitute House Bill No. 6 of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly. electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing