

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of The Application of Ohio	)	
Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric	)	
Illumination Company, and The Toledo	)	Case No. 19-2080-EL-ATA
Edison Company for Approval of a	)	Case No. 19-2081-EL-AAM
Decoupling Mechanism.	)	

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**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**

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**I.     INTRODUCTION**

The Ohio Hospital Association (“OHA”) submits these Reply Comments in response to initial comments filed in this proceeding by stakeholders on December 17, 2019. The initial comments were filed pursuant to the Attorney Examiner’s December 3, 2019 Entry establishing a comment period for review of the application for approval of a decoupling mechanism filed by Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and The Toledo Edison Company (the “Companies” or “FirstEnergy”).

**II.    REPLY COMMENTS**

OHA agrees with the initial comments of the Ohio Manufactures’ Association Energy Group (“OMAEG”) and the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (“OCC”) that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) must ensure that there is no double recovery of lost distribution revenues through the proposed Conservation Support Rider (“Rider CSR”). R.C. 4928.471(D) states:

If the commission determines that approving a decoupling mechanism will result in a double recovery by the electric distribution utility, the commission shall not approve the application unless the utility cures the double recovery.

This statutory provision demonstrates that the Commission has a statutory obligation to investigate whether the proposed decoupling mechanism will result in double recovery **before** approving the application. OHA requests that the Commission ensure that OHA hospital members served by FirstEnergy are protected from any potential double recovery of lost distribution revenues.

Furthermore, if the Commission ultimately grants FirstEnergy's application, the Commission should adopt OMAEG's and OCC's recommendation regarding: (1) auditing the Rider CSR; and (2) making the Rider CSR subject to refund. Performing a comprehensive audit of the Rider CSR will provide the Commission an opportunity to determine if FirstEnergy is double recovering through the Rider CSR. To the extent an audit determines that there has been double recovery, customers should be entitled to recover the excess charges from FirstEnergy. As such, the Commission should make the Rider CSR is subject to refund to project customers.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

OHA urges the Commission ensure that OHA's hospital members are protected from any potential double recovery from the Rider CSR.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
THE OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Reply Comments was served upon the parties of record listed below this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019 *via* electronic service.



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Summary: Reply Comments submitted by the Ohio Hospital Association electronically filed by Mr. Devin D. Parram on behalf of Ohio Hospital Association