

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
ENHANCED SERVICE RELIABILITY RIDER
FOR 2017.

CASE NO. 18-1371-EL-RDR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
ENHANCED SERVICE RELIABILITY RIDER
FOR 2018.

CASE NO. 19-1747-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 21, 2020

{¶ 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} AEP Ohio's current ESRR rate was approved by the Commission on December 4, 2019. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 17-1914-EL-RDR, Opinion and Order (Dec. 4, 2019).

2017 ESRR Case

{¶ 5} On August 31, 2018, in Case No. 18-1371-EL-RDR (*2017 ESRR Case*), AEP Ohio filed an application to reconcile its ESRR rate for 2017.

{¶ 6} On October 1, 2018, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 7} On February 27, 2019, as amended on March 29, 2019, Staff filed its review and recommendations in the *2017 ESRR Case*. AEP Ohio filed reply comments on May 10, 2019.

{¶ 8} OCC filed comments on September 13, 2019, to which AEP Ohio filed reply comments on October 2, 2019.

{¶ 9} On December 13, 2019, Staff filed an update to its review and recommendations.

2018 ESRR Case

{¶ 10} On September 5, 2019, in Case No. 19-1747-EL-RDR (*2018 ESRR Case*), AEP Ohio filed an application to reconcile its ESRR rate for 2018.

{¶ 11} Staff filed its review and recommendations on December 31, 2019. AEP Ohio filed reply comments on February 25, 2020.

{¶ 12} On February 27, 2020, OCC filed a motion to intervene. No memoranda contra

were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 13} On April 9, 2020, OCC filed a motion for leave to file comments, along with its comments. In its motion, OCC argues that good cause exists to grant OCC leave to file comments on the Company's application to recover its tree-trimming costs for 2018. OCC asserts that it should be afforded an opportunity to weigh in on this issue of vital importance to AEP Ohio customers. OCC states that its comments will provide the Commission with additional information to consider and will not prejudice any party or cause undue delay.

{¶ 14} The attorney examiner finds OCC's motion for leave to file comments in the *2018 ESRR Case* to be reasonable and the motion should be granted.

{¶ 15} In order to assist the Commission in its review of AEP Ohio's applications in the *2017 ESRR Case* and the *2018 ESRR Case*, the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) May 1, 2020 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene in the above-captioned cases.
- (b) May 15, 2020 – Deadline to file initial comments in the above-captioned cases.
- (c) May 29, 2020 – Deadline for the filing of reply comments in the above-captioned cases.

{¶ 16} It is, therefore,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That OCC's motions to intervene in these proceedings and the motion for leave to file comments in the *2018 ESRR Case* be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 18} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 15 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 19} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons and parties of record in these proceedings.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

GAP/hac

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

4/21/2020 2:29:15 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-1371-EL-RDR, 19-1747-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting OCC's motions to intervene and motion for leave to file comments and setting forth the procedural schedule electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission