

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2019 REVIEW OF
THE DELIVERY CAPITAL RECOVERY
RIDER OF OHIO EDISON COMPANY, THE
CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING
COMPANY, AND THE TOLEDO EDISON
COMPANY.

CASE NO. 19-1887-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 1, 2020

{¶ 1} Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company (collectively, FirstEnergy) are electric distribution utilities (EDUs) as defined by R.C. 4928.01(A)(6), and public utilities as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are 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 of all competitive retail electric services necessary to maintain essential electric services to customers, including 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 4928.143.

{¶ 3} On August 25, 2010, the Commission issued an Opinion and Order approving FirstEnergy's second ESP. *In re Ohio Edison Co., The Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co., and the Toledo Edison Co. for Authority to Establish a Std. Serv. Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Elec. Security Plan*, Case No. 10-388-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (Aug. 25, 2010) (*ESP II Case*). In that Order, the Commission approved a joint stipulation, as modified, authorizing FirstEnergy to establish a delivery capital recovery rider (Rider DCR) effective January 1, 2012. Additionally, under the terms of the stipulation, FirstEnergy agreed to submit to an annual audit review process of Rider DCR. Subsequently, on July 18, 2012, in Case No. 12-1230-EL-SSO, the Commission issued an Order approving a joint stipulation extending, with modification, the terms of the joint stipulation approved by the Commission

in the *ESP II Case. In re Ohio Edison Co., The Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co., and the Toledo Edison Co. for Authority to Provide for a Std. Serv. Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Elec. Security Plan*, Case No. 12-1230-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (July 18, 2012) (*ESP III Case*). Thereafter, by Order issued on March 31, 2016, in Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO, the Commission approved an extension, with modification, of FirstEnergy's Rider DCR. *In re Ohio Edison Co., The Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co., and the Toledo Edison Co. for Authority to Provide for a Std. Serv. Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Elec. Security Plan*, Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (Mar. 31, 2016) (*ESP IV Case*).

{¶ 4} On November 6, 2019, the Commission issued an Entry directing Staff to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for the audit services necessary to assist with the compliance audit of the Companies. Prospective bidders were directed by the Commission to submit proposals to Staff by December 4, 2019.

{¶ 5} By Entry issued December 18, 2019, the Commission selected Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge) from the submitted proposals to complete the required audit services.

{¶ 6} According to the timeline ordered by the Commission, Blue Ridge was required to submit a draft audit report to Staff by May 5, 2020, and file a final audit report with the Commission by May 15, 2020.

{¶ 7} On May 1, 2020, Staff filed a motion for extension, requesting that the deadlines for submitting the required reports be extended to May 21, 2020, and June 5, 2020, respectively. In support of its request, Staff emphasizes the large volume of discovery that is required to be reviewed in order to audit the Companies' 2019 Rider DCR costs. Additionally, given the current deadline for Blue Ridge to present Staff a draft audit report is May 5, 2020, Staff requests expedited treatment of its motion, consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C).

{¶ 8} Upon review, the attorney examiner finds the motion for an extension is reasonable and should be granted, especially when considering the current state of emergency and how that declaration may have impacted Staff's ability to meet the prior deadlines established by the Commission. *See In re the Proper Procedures and Process for the Commission's Operations and Proceedings during the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC. Accordingly, Blue Ridge is directed to submit a draft audit report to Staff by May 21, 2020, and to file a final audit report with the Commission by June 5, 2020, unless otherwise directed.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Staff's motion for an extension be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Blue Ridge abide by the directives set forth in Paragraph 8. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Megan J. Addison

By: Megan J. Addison
Attorney Examiner

GAP/hac

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Case No(s). 19-1887-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting Staff's motion for extension and ordering Blue Ridge to abide by directives electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Megan Addison, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission