

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR AN
INCREASE IN ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION
RATES.

CASE NO. 20-585-EL-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR TARIFF
APPROVAL.

CASE NO. 20-586-EL-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
TO CHANGE ACCOUNTING METHODS.

CASE NO. 20-587-EL-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 23, 2020

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric light company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} In Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved a stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) filed by AEP Ohio, Staff, and numerous other signatory parties, which authorized the Company to implement an electric security plan (ESP) for the period of June 1, 2018, through May 31, 2024. Among the commitments in the Stipulation, AEP Ohio agreed to file a base distribution rate case by June 1, 2020. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Apr. 25, 2018) at ¶ 45.

{¶ 3} On April 29, 2020, in the above-captioned cases, AEP Ohio filed a pre-filing notice of its intent to file an application for approval of an increase in its electric distribution rates, tariff modifications, and changes in accounting methods.

{¶ 4} On June 8, 2020, AEP Ohio filed its application to increase its rates pursuant to R.C. 4909.18.¹ AEP Ohio filed direct testimony in support of its application on June 15,

¹ Due to the closure of the Commission's offices from June 1, 2020, through June 5, 2020, the application

2020.

{¶ 5} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to the application. On November 18, 2020, Staff filed a written report of its investigation (Staff Report).

{¶ 6} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-28(B), all objections to the Staff Report must be filed within 30 days after the filing of such report. All objections must be specific; any objection that lacks the specificity required to convey what is actually being placed at issue will be stricken pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-28(B).

{¶ 7} Motions to strike objections to the Staff Report should be filed by December 28, 2020. Memoranda contra motions to intervene, as well as memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report, should be filed by January 4, 2021. Unless an objection is struck or withdrawn, each objection must be discussed in the initial post-hearing brief of the objecting party. If an objection is not discussed in the initial brief, the objection will, without further action, be deemed withdrawn.

{¶ 8} Direct expert testimony should be filed in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-29.

{¶ 9} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order

for a rate increase, which was submitted by AEP Ohio on June 1, 2020, was accepted for filing on June 8, 2020, and deemed timely filed in accordance with R.C. 1.14 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-07 and 4901-1-13. *In re the Extension of Filing Dates for Pleadings and Other Papers Due to a Building Emergency*, Case No. 20-1132-AU-UNC, Entry (June 8, 2020).

was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists. The Department of Health is making COVID-19 information, including information on preventative measures, available via the internet at coronavirus.ohio.gov/.

{¶ 10} Due to the continued state of emergency, the local public hearing and the evidentiary hearing in these proceedings will be held using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone and/or live video on the internet.

{¶ 11} The evidentiary hearing will commence on February 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., through Webex. Interested individuals who wish to attend the hearing remotely can do so by accessing the Webex event by internet at <https://bit.ly/20-585-EVH> and entering PUCO as the password or dialing 1-408-418-9388 and entering 179 940 8348 as the access code. Additional information is available by contacting the Commission's Consumer Call Center at 1-800-686-7826.

{¶ 12} Counsel and witnesses who will speak during the hearing should join the Webex event through internet access and must have a computer or smart device with a camera, microphone, and speakers; an electronic mail address; and reliable internet service.

{¶ 13} If access or other issues are experienced during the hearing, individuals should immediately use the chat function within Webex or contact the Commission's legal department at 614-466-6843 for assistance.

{¶ 14} A prehearing conference and technology test session will be held on January 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., through Webex. The purpose of the prehearing conference will be to enable the parties to test the Webex technology that will be utilized during the evidentiary hearing, to discuss procedural aspects of the case, and to provide an opportunity for the parties to conduct settlement discussions. The parties should be prepared to discuss the exchange of exhibits prior to hearing, the scheduling of witnesses, and other logistical issues.

{¶ 15} Instructions for participation in both the prehearing conference and technology test session, as well as the evidentiary hearing, will be sent by electronic mail to counsel for the parties.

{¶ 16} A subsequent entry will address the scheduling of the local public hearing and publication of notice of the hearing.

{¶ 17} Finally, motions to intervene in these proceedings should be filed by December 18, 2020.

{¶ 18} It is, therefore,

{¶ 19} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing be scheduled to commence on February 2, 2021, in accordance with Paragraph 11. It is, further,

{¶ 20} ORDERED, That a prehearing conference be scheduled in accordance with Paragraph 14. It is, further,

{¶ 21} ORDERED, That all interested persons comply with the time frames established in Paragraphs 6, 7, 8, and 17. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Sarah J. Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/kck

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 20-0585-EL-AIR, 20-0586-EL-ATA, 20-0587-EL-AAM

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling a prehearing conference via Webex on 1.11.21 at 10:00 a.m.; scheduling an evidentiary hearing via Webex for 2.2.21 at 10:00 a.m.; and establishing a procedural schedule. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of Sarah J. Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio