

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Review of the)	
Distribution Modernization Rider of)	Case No. 17-2474-EL-RDR
Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland)	
Electric Illuminating Company and the)	
Toledo Edison Company.)	

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

For the reasons set forth in the accompanying Memorandum in Support, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (“OPAE”) respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for leave to intervene in the above-captioned cases pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4903.221 and Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11, and to grant to the OPAE the full powers and rights specifically authorized by statute or by the provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Additionally, OPAE’s interests are not adequately represented by any other party to this matter, and its participation in this proceeding will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues and questions. Further, OPAE’s participation will not unduly delay the proceedings or prejudice any other party.

OPAE respectfully requests that this Commission grant its Motion to Intervene for the reasons set forth in more detail in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert Dove
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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION TO INTERVENE
BY OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

I. Introduction

Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) § 4903.221 states that “[a]ny other person who may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding may intervene in such proceeding” provided the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) makes certain determinations. Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (“OPAE”) seeks intervention in this proceeding in which Commission has opened an audit into the Ohio Edison Company’s, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company’s, and the Toledo Edison Company’s (collectively, “FirstEnergy”) distribution modernization rider (“Rider DMR”) for a full review. OPAE is an Ohio non-profit corporation with a stated purpose of advocating for affordable energy policies for low-and moderate-income Ohioans. OPAE includes, as members non-profit organizations located in the service area that will be affect by FirstEnergy’s application. Moreover, many of OPAE’s members are Community Action Agencies. Under the federal legislation authorizing the creation and funding of these agencies, originally known as the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Community Action Agencies are charged with advocating for low-income residents of their communities. OPAE’s interests are not adequately represented by any other parties in this proceeding. As such, OPAE is entitled to intervene in the above captioned proceeding.

II. Legal Standard

Ohio law states that a party may intervene in a Commission proceeding if that party “may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding.”¹ In the determination of whether a party may be adversely affected for purposes of intervention, the Commission is required to evaluate:

- (1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervenor’s interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings;
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.²

The Commission’s rules similarly provide that any person may intervene where “[t]he person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding.”³ The PUCO regulations set forth the same four standards that are established in Ohio Revised Code 4903.221(B) for determining whether a party may be “adversely affected,” and also purport to add a fifth factor regarding “the extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.”⁴

As the Ohio Supreme Court recently held, intervention in Commission proceedings “ought to be liberally allowed so that the positions of all persons with a real and substantial interest in the proceedings can be considered by the [Commission].”⁵ The Commission has consistently maintained a policy to “encourage the broadest possible participation” in its

¹ R.C. 4903.221.

² R.C. 4903.221(B).

³ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2).

⁴ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B).

⁵ *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util Comm’n of Ohio* (2006), 111 Ohio St. 3d 384, 388, 2006 Ohio 5853, 856 N.E.2d 940.

proceedings, even under extenuating circumstances.⁶ OP&AE satisfies these liberal intervention standards and respectfully requests that its intervention be granted in these cases.

III. OP&AE is entitled to intervene under §4903.221 because the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome of this proceeding.

OP&AE is entitled to intervene in this proceeding because OP&AE satisfies each of the four statutory factors demonstrating that the organization and its members “may be adversely affected” by the outcome. First, the nature and extent of OP&AE’s interests in the proceeding is real and substantial,⁷ as the issues involved herein are directly related to OP&AE’s interests in protecting it and its members' interests within FirstEnergy’s service territory. OP&AE seeks to ensure a reliable and efficient supply of energy for low-income Ohioans and OP&AE’s member agencies.

Second⁸, because of the potential impacts on OP&AE and its members in Ohio, OP&AE wants to participate and review FirstEnergy’s use of the funds collected under Rider DMR and the impact of those uses on Ohio’s energy policy and OP&AE’s members. Therefore, OP&AE’s position is directly related to the merits of the case. Additionally, the disposition of this matter may impair or impede the ability of OP&AE to protect its interests. No other party to the matter will adequately represent the interests of OP&AE.

Third, OP&AE’s intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceeding⁹ as this motion is being filed before a deadline for intervention has been established and OP&AE is able to comply with all case management deadlines that will be established by the Commission and/or

⁶ See e.g. *In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company*, 2009 WL 322883 at 1, Ohio PUC February 5, 2009 (Commission granted motion to intervene in light of policy to encourage participation, despite party’s failure to file within the deadline).

⁷ R.C. 4903.221(B)(1).

⁸ R.C. 4903.221(B)(2).

⁹ R.C. 4903.221(B)(3).

agreed to by the parties. OP&A;E recognizes this proceeding was originally closed and is now reopened pursuant to the Commission’s December 30, 2020, Entry. However, upon review, it no intervention was originally set and therefore OP&A;E’s motion is timely within the reopened proceeding.

Fourth, intervention by OP&A;E will significantly contribute to the full development of the record in this proceeding.¹⁰ OP&A;E will bring significant expertise to bear in these proceedings. OP&A;E has been recognized by the Commission in the past as an advocate for consumers, and particularly low-income consumers, all of whom will be affected by the outcome of this case. As such, OP&A;E should be permitted to intervene pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §4903.221.

IV. OP&A;E may intervene because OP&A;E and its members have a “real and substantial interest” in the proceeding as presented in Ohio Administrative Code 4901-1-11(B).

OP&A;E may also intervene in these proceedings because it satisfies each of the five factors listed in the PUCO rules demonstrating that it has a “real and substantial interest” in these cases.¹¹ The first four factors are identical to those set forth under §4903.221(B) and, therefore, OP&A;E should be permitted to intervene for the same reasons as set forth in Section III above.

As for the fifth factor, OP&A;E’s interests in these proceedings will not be fully represented by other parties.¹² No other parties can adequately represent OP&A;E’s interests because OP&A;E is a rare organization that serves as an advocate and service provider for low-income customers as well as being a non-residential customer group. No other party represents this group of interests.

¹⁰ R.C. 4903.221(B)(4).

¹¹ Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11(B).

¹² Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5).

V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, OP&A respectfully request that its Motion to Intervene be granted, and OP&A be authorized to participate as full parties to this proceeding.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served on all parties of record via the DIS system on January 12, 2021.

/s/ Robert Dove
Robert Dove

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Summary: Motion to Intervene electronically filed by Mr. Robert Dove on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy