

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 REVIEW OF
THE DELIVERY CAPITAL RECOVERY
RIDER OF OHIO EDISON COMPANY, THE
CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING
COMPANY, AND THE TOLEDO EDISON
COMPANY.

CASE NO. 20-1629-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 3, 2021

{¶ 1} Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company (collectively, FirstEnergy or Companies) 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 (SSO) 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 R.C. 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 4, 2020, 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 2, 2020.

{¶ 5} By Entry issued December 16, 2020, 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, 2021, and file a final audit report with the Commission by May 17, 2021.

{¶ 7} By Entry issued March 10, 2021, the Commission granted a request from Staff and directed Blue Ridge to expand the scope of the audit to include payments made to a number of vendors disclosed by FirstEnergy Corp. in its annual 10-K filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

{¶ 8} On April 30, 2021, Staff filed a motion for extension, requesting that the deadlines for submitting the required reports be extended to June 21, 2021, and July 6, 2021, respectively. In support of its request, Staff notes that, due to the expansion of the audit, Blue Ridge advised Staff that it needs additional time to complete its review. Additionally, given the current deadline for Blue Ridge to present Staff a draft audit report is May 5, 2021,

Staff requests expedited treatment of its motion, consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C).

{¶ 9} Upon review, the attorney examiner finds the motion for an extension is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, Blue Ridge is directed to submit a draft audit report to Staff by June 21, 2021, and to file a final audit report with the Commission by July 6, 2021, unless otherwise directed.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

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

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Blue Ridge abide by the directives set forth in Paragraph 9. It is, further,

{¶ 13} 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

JRJ/kck

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/3/2021 1:16:02 PM

in

Case No(s). 20-1629-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting Staff's motion for an extension and ordering that Blue Ridge abide by the directives set forth in Paragraph 9.
electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of Megan J. Addison, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio