# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of The	)	
Dayton Power and Light Company d/b/a	)	Case No. 21-560-EL-RDR
AES Ohio to Update its Energy Efficiency	)	
Rider.	)	

## MOTION TO INTERVENE BY OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") moves to intervene where AES Ohio<sup>1</sup> is seeking approval for its final reconciliation of its energy efficiency and "shared savings" (profit to AES Ohio) charge to consumers. On November 18, 2020, the PUCO directed all electric utilities to set their energy efficiency charges to zero and file an application for a final reconciliation of these charges once full information is available.

OCC is filing on behalf of the 465,000 residential utility customers of AES Ohio.

The reasons the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") should grant OCC's motion are further set forth in the attached memorandum in support.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Dayton Power and Light Company dba AES Ohio ("Utility" or "AES Ohio").

# Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973) Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ Ambrosia E. Wilson
Ambrosia E. Wilson (0096598)
Counsel of Record
Amy Botschner O'Brien (0074423)
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

### Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

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#### MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

AES Ohio has submitted its final reconciliation of energy efficiency program costs and "shared savings"—or Utility profit—charges to consumers in this case. "Shared savings" or utility profit refers to the additional money AES Ohio charges consumers based on money saved from energy efficiency programs. OCC has authority under law to represent the interests of all 465,000 residential utility customers of DP&L under R.C. Chapter 4911.

R.C. 4903.221 provides, in part, that any person "who may be adversely affected" by a PUCO proceeding is entitled to seek intervention in that proceeding. The interests of Ohio's residential customers may be "adversely affected" by this case, especially if the customers were unrepresented in a proceeding where they will pay AES Ohio profit (so-called "shared savings") for energy efficiency programs. Thus, this element of the intervention standard in R.C. 4903.221 is satisfied.

R.C. 4903.221(B) requires the PUCO to consider the following criteria in ruling on motions to intervene:

- (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.

First, the nature and extent of OCC's interest is representing the residential customers of AES Ohio in this case involving charges to consumers for energy efficiency and program profits. This interest is different than that of any other party and especially different than that of the utility whose advocacy includes the financial interest of stockholders.

Second, OCC's advocacy for residential customers will include, among other things, advancing the position that customers' rates must be just and reasonable. OCC's position is therefore directly related to the merits of this case, which is pending before the PUCO, the authority with regulatory control of public utilities' rates and service quality in Ohio.

Third, OCC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings.

OCC, with its longstanding expertise and experience in PUCO proceedings, will duly allow for the efficient processing of the case with consideration of the public interest.

Fourth, OCC's intervention will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues. OCC will obtain and develop information that the PUCO should consider for equitably and lawfully deciding the case in the public interest.

OCC also satisfies the intervention criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (which are subordinate to the criteria that OCC satisfies in the Ohio Revised Code). To intervene, a party should have a "real and substantial interest" according to Ohio Adm.

Code 4901-1-11(A)(2). As the advocate for residential utility customers, OCC has a very real and substantial interest in this case where the residential customers it represents could be required to pay too much for AES Ohio's energy efficiency profits.

In addition, OCC meets the criteria of Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(1)-(4). These criteria mirror the statutory criteria in R.C. 4903.221(B), which OCC already has addressed, and which OCC satisfies.

Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5) states that the PUCO shall consider "The extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties." While OCC does not concede the lawfulness of this criterion, OCC satisfies this criterion in that it uniquely has been designated as the state representative of the interests of Ohio's residential utility customers. That interest is different from, and not represented by, any other entity in Ohio.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of Ohio ("Court") confirmed OCC's right to intervene in PUCO proceedings, in deciding two appeals in which OCC claimed the PUCO erred by denying its interventions. The Court found that the PUCO abused its discretion in denying OCC's interventions and that OCC should have been granted intervention in both proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

OCC meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11, and the precedent established by the Supreme Court of Ohio for intervention. On behalf of Ohio residential customers, the PUCO should grant OCC's Motion to Intervene.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Ohio Consumers' Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm., 111 Ohio St.3d 384, 2006-Ohio-5853, ¶¶13-20.

# Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973) Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ Ambrosia E. Wilson
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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this *Motion to Intervene* was served on the persons stated below *via* electronic transmission, this 1st day of June 2021.

/s/ Ambrosia E. Wilson
Ambrosia E. Wilson
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

The PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the following parties:

## **SERVICE LIST**

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Summary: Motion Motion to Intervene by Office of The Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed by Mrs. Tracy J Greene on behalf of Wilson, Ambrosia E.