

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc.)	
d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Ohio for)	Case No. 21-491-GA-RDR
Authority to Adjust its Distribution)	
Replacement Rider Charges.)	

**STATEMENT OF VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF OHIO, INC. D/B/A
CENTERPOINT ENERGY OHIO INFORMING THE COMMISSION
WHETHER THE ISSUES RAISED IN COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED**

In accordance with the Commission’s May 7, 2021 Entry, Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Ohio (CEOH or the Company) hereby files its statement informing the Commission whether the issues raised in the comments have been resolved.

Staff filed Comments on July 1, 2021, in which it recommended approval of CEOH’s Application to adjust its Distribution Replacement Rider (DRR) charges, subject to one adjustment. Staff proposes the disallowance of approximately \$51,000 in audit expenses associated with the review of 2020 DRR investment by the Commission’s outside auditor, Blue Ridge Consulting Services, Inc. (Blue Ridge). (Staff Cmts. at 5-6.)

In its direct testimony in support of its Application, CEOH explained why the Company deems its payments to the Commission’s outside auditor, which Staff reviews and approves, to be incremental, recoverable expenses associated with the review of 2020 DRR investment. (CEOH Ex. 3 at 6.) Because CEOH considers these expenses to be prudent and reasonable costs related to the provision of its natural gas service, the Company does not believe that they should be borne by shareholders. With respect to the Commission’s January 29, 2020 Entry in Case No. 20-99-GA-RDR, cited in Staff’s Comments, the Company agrees that the Entry required CEOH to pay the costs of the audit, but believes that the Entry did not specifically address the issue of

whether these costs once incurred by CEOH are recoverable from ratepayers. For these reasons, CEOH does not agree in principle with Staff's adjustment.

However, in the interest of resolving all issues raised in this proceeding, CEOH has agreed to withdraw its request to include the 2020 outside auditor payments in its proposed updated DRR charges in this proceeding. With that request withdrawn, CEOH does not object to the Commission's approval of the revised DRR charges set forth in the Staff Comments. (Staff Cmts. at 6.) In withdrawing this request, CEOH reserves the right to seek recovery of outside auditor expenses associated with the Commission's review of DRR investments in a subsequent application before the Commission.

Given the resolution of all issues raised by parties' comments in this proceeding, a hearing in this case is unnecessary. Entry ¶ 7(d) (May 7, 2021) ("In the event that all of the issues are not resolved or the parties enter into a stipulation, a hearing shall commence...."). *See, e.g.,* Case No. 19-1011-GA-RDR; *see also* Case No. 20-1625-GA-RDR. Therefore, CEOH respectfully requests that the Commission approve its Application, as modified by this Statement, and the DRR charges set forth in the Staff Comments.

Dated: July 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher T. Kennedy
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a courtesy copy of this filing was served by electronic mail this 14th day of July, 2021, to the following:

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/s/ Lucas A. Fykes
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Summary: Text Statement Informing Commission Whether Issues Raised in Comments Have Been Resolved electronically filed by Christopher T Kennedy on behalf of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Ohio