

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF
MEROPI STEVE AND GEORGE
STEVENSON,

COMPLAINANT,

CASE NO. 21-247-EL-CSS

v.

OHIO EDISON COMPANY,

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on July 20, 2021

{¶ 1} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.26, the Commission has authority to consider written complaints filed against a public utility by any person or corporation regarding any rate, service, regulation, or practice relating to any service furnished by the public utility that is in any respect unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory.

{¶ 2} Ohio Edison Company (Ohio Edison or Respondent) is a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02. Accordingly, Ohio Edison is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

{¶ 3} On March 16, 2021, Meropi Steve and George Stevenson (Complainants) initiated a complaint against Ohio Edison alleging that the \$28.00 monthly opt-out fee from Ohio Edison's smart metering program is excessive and potentially unlawful. Complainants request that the Commission instead direct Respondent to allow customers wishing to opt out the opportunity to read and submit their monthly meter readings without being charged a fee.

{¶ 4} On April 5, 2021, Respondent filed its answer to the complaint, denying many of the allegations set forth in the complaint and asserting several affirmative defenses.

{¶ 5} A settlement conference was held, as scheduled, on May 20, 2021.

{¶ 6} At this time, the attorney examiner finds it appropriate to schedule a prehearing conference to discuss the status of this case and procedural issues, including potential hearing dates. Accordingly, a prehearing teleconference shall be scheduled for August 3, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. To participate in the teleconference, the parties shall dial (614) 721-2972 and, when prompted, enter conference code 105 926 080#.

{¶ 7} As is the case in all Commission complaint proceedings, the complainant has the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint. *Grossman v Pub. Util. Comm.*, 5 Ohio St.2d 189, 214 N.E.2d 666 (1966).

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That a prehearing teleconference be scheduled for August 3, 2021, as provided in Paragraph 6. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon each party of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Megan J. Addison

By: Megan J. Addison
Attorney Examiner

GAP/kck

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Case No(s). 21-0247-EL-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling a prehearing teleconference for August 3, 2021, as provided in Paragraph 6. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of Megan J. Addison, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio