

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of the Ohio)	
Department of Development for an Order)	
Approving Adjustments to the Universal)	Case No. 21-659-EL-USF
Service Fund Riders of Jurisdictional Ohio)	
Electric Distribution Utilities.)	

**JOINT MOTION FOR A MODIFIED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE,
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RULING
AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

Joint Movants,¹ pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-12, respectfully request the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“PUCO”) to modify the procedural schedule in the Notice of Intent (“NOI”) phase of this proceeding to permit a “paper hearing.” Joint Movants make this request to allow for the PUCO’s efficient consideration of an unopposed Stipulation and Recommendation (“Stipulation”). Joint Movants also request that an expedited ruling be issued pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C). None of the parties to this proceeding objects to the modified procedural schedule or the expedited ruling.

Pursuant to R.C. 4928.52, et seq., Development is the administrator of the universal service fund and the low-income customer assistance programs for electric distribution customers. Development filed a Notice of Intent to File an Application for Adjustments to Universal Service Fund Riders on June 1, 2021. The entry also joined the state's jurisdictional

¹ Joint Movants include all parties to this proceeding: Ohio Department of Development (“Development”); Ohio Power Company (“Ohio Power”); The Dayton Power and Light Company (“AES Ohio”); Duke Energy Ohio (“Duke”); the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (“OCC”); Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (“IEU-Ohio”); Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Staff”), Ohio Energy Group (“OEG”), and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company, and Ohio Edison Company (collectively, the “FirstEnergy Companies”).

electric distribution utilities as indispensable parties.² Unopposed motions to intervene were filed by OCC, IEU-Ohio, and OEG.

On August 6, 2021, Development filed in this proceeding the Stipulation and supporting direct testimony of Megan Meadows. The signatory parties to the Stipulation include Development, Ohio Power, Duke, AES Ohio, IEU-Ohio and OEG (the “Signatory Parties”). The remaining parties neither support nor oppose the Stipulation and include the PUCO Staff, OCC, and the FirstEnergy Companies (the “Non-Opposing Parties”).

Hearing in this matter was scheduled for August 19, 2021. However, the hearing was called and continued upon the motion of Development because its witness was unavailable due to quarantine as a result of potential exposure to the corona virus. By entry of August 20, 2021, the attorney examiner ordered the date and time of the continued hearing would be set by future entry.

The Signatory Parties and the Non-Opposing Parties jointly move that the NOI portion of this proceeding be processed through a “paper hearing”³ as opposed to an in-person hearing. Specifically, Joint Movants propose that the following be admitted into the record and serve as the basis of the PUCO’s order in this NOI phase of the proceeding: (1) the NOI filed June 1, 2021, (2) the Stipulation filed August 6, 2021, and (3) Megan Meadows’ testimony filed August 6, 2021 in support of the Stipulation. Joint Movants waive cross examination of Development witness Meadows, and waive objections to the admissibility of the NOI filed June 1, 2021, the Stipulation filed August 6, 2021 and Ms. Meadows’ direct testimony filed August 6, 2021. Joint Movants also waive written and oral motions to strike the NOI, Stipulation and Ms. Meadows’ testimony.

² The EDUs are Duke, AES Ohio, Ohio Power, and the FirstEnergy Companies.

³ Joint Movants do not object to a hearing using remote access technology for the purpose of the Attorney Examiner admitting the evidence into the record, if the Attorney Examiner deems it necessary.

Joint Movants believe that their proposal will provide due process for all of the parties, while allowing the unopposed NOI portion of this case to proceed without the need for an in-person hearing. Further, processing the NOI phase of this proceeding based upon the documents identified and already filed in the docket will allow the PUCO to enter its order in time so that the Application may be filed on schedule by October 31, 2021.

Joint Movants also request that an expedited ruling be issued pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C). None of the parties objects to modifying the procedural schedule or an expedited ruling.

Respectfully submitted,

Ohio Development Services Agency

By: /s/ Dane Stinson

The Dayton Power & Light Company

By: /s/ Michael J. Schuler
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Industrial Energy Users – Ohio

By: /s/ Rebekah Glover
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Ohio Power Company

By: /s/ Steven T. Nourse
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

By: /s/ Amy Botschner O'Brien
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.

By: /s/ Elizabeth Watts
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Staff, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

By: /s/ Kyle Kern
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company

By: /s/ Kristen M. Fling
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

Ohio Energy Group

By: /s/ Jody Kyler Cohn
[per e-mail authorization (DS)]

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing *Motion for a Modified Procedural Schedule and Request for Expedited Ruling* has been served upon the following parties by electronic mail this 15th day of September 2021.



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Summary: Text Joint Motion for A Modified Procedural Schedule, Request for Expedited Ruling and Memorandum in Support electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Dane Stinson