

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 SERVICE FUND RIDERS OF
JURISDICTIONAL OHIO ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES.

CASE NO. 21-659-EL-USF

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 1, 2021

{¶ 1} R.C. 4928.52(B) provides that if, after consultation with the Public Benefits Advisory Board, the director of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) determines that revenues in the Universal Service Fund (USF) and revenues from federal or other sources of funding for those programs will be insufficient to cover the administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs and the consumer education program and provide adequate funding for those programs, ODOD shall file a petition with the Commission for an increase in the USF riders. The Commission, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing, may adjust the USF riders by the minimum amount necessary to provide additional revenues.

{¶ 2} On June 1, 2021, ODOD¹ filed a notice of intent (NOI) to file an application to adjust the USF riders of all Ohio jurisdictional electric distribution utilities, namely, AES Ohio, formerly known as the Dayton Power & Light Company (AES Ohio), Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), Ohio Edison Company (OE), Ohio Power Company (AEP Ohio), and Toledo Edison Company (TE) (collectively, EDUs) in accordance with R.C. 4928.52. The function of the NOI phase of this proceeding is to provide interested stakeholders with an opportunity to raise and pursue objections to the methodology ODOD intends to use to develop the USF rider revenue

¹ After the NOI application was filed, the Ohio Development Services Agency's name was changed to ODOD.

requirement and rate design. *In re ODSA*, Case No. 20-1103-EL-USF, Opinion and Order (Dec. 16, 2020).

{¶ 3} On October 10, 2021, the Commission approved, pursuant to an unopposed Joint Stipulation and Recommendation, the proposed USF rider revenue requirement methodology and the USF rider rate design methodology to be followed by ODOD for the 2022 USF collection period. *In re Ohio Department of Development*, Case No. 21-659-EL-USF, Opinion and Order (Oct. 10, 2021).

{¶ 4} On October 29, 2021, ODOD filed its USF application and supporting testimony to adjust the USF riders of all Ohio jurisdictional electric utilities, in accordance with R.C. 4928.52. In its application, ODOD requests that each of the USF riders be adjusted to more accurately reflect the current operating costs of the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus, the Electric Partnership Program, the consumer education program, and associated administrative costs. ODOD requests that the proposed USF riders for the electric utilities be effective January 1, 2022, on a bills-rendered basis. Based on ODOD's analysis, on an aggregated basis, the total annual revenues that will be generated by the current USF riders will be \$46,738,034 less than the annual revenues required to meet the objectives identified in R.C. 4928.52(A) for the 2022 collection period.

{¶ 5} Accordingly, to assist the Commission with its consideration of ODOD's USF adjustment application, the attorney examiner finds a hearing will commence on November 29, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., via Webex. Immediately preceding the commencement of the hearing, at 10:45 a.m., shall be a technology test session, for the parties and witnesses to test the Webex technology. The Commission will email instructions to counsel for the parties at the electronic mail address on record for participation in this proceeding prior to the events.

{¶ 6} Counsel and witnesses who will speak during the hearing should join the Webex event through internet access and must have a computer or smart device with a camera, microphone, and speakers; an electronic mail address; and reliable internet service.

{¶ 7} Interested individuals who wish to attend the hearing remotely can do so by accessing the Webex event by internet at <https://bit.ly/21-659-EVH> and entering PUCO as the password or dialing 1-408-418-9388 and entering 2338 971 4060 as the access code. Additional information is available by contacting the Commission's Consumer Call Center at 1-800-686-7826.

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 5 be adopted.
It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served on all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/hac

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11/1/2021 2:47:22 PM

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Case No(s). 21-0659-EL-USF

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 5 be adopted electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission