

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES

COMMISSION OF OHIO

CASE NUMBERS: 20-1651-EL-AIR

20-1652-EL-AAM

20-1653-EL-ATA

Hearing before the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio held on Friday, September 17th,
2021, at 1:04 p.m., at the Dayton Municipal
Building, Commission Chambers, 101 W. Third Street,
Second Floor, Dayton, Ohio 45402.

* * * * *

PRESENT:

Ms. Patricia Schabo
Ms. Jenifer French
Ms. M. Beth Trombold

1 MS. SCHABO: We'll go ahead and
2 get started. All right. Good afternoon and
3 welcome. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
4 has assigned for public hearing at this time and
5 place Case Number 20-1651-EL-AIR, 20-1652-EL-AAM
6 and 20-1653-EL-ATA being the matter of the
7 application of the Dayton Power and Light Company
8 for an increase in electric distribution rates for
9 accounting authority and for approval of revised
10 tariffs.

11 My name is Trish Schabo. I'm one
12 of the attorney examiners assigned by the Public
13 Utilities Commission to preside over the hearing.
14 With me today are Chair Jenifer French and
15 Commissioner Beth Trombold along with two members
16 of the commission staff. Susan Dugan is here with
17 Service Monitoring and Enforcement Division
18 Department and Jill Kocher is here from our Public
19 Affairs Department.

20 Our PUCO staff members are
21 available if you have a question concerning a
22 general utility matter. At this time I would like
23 to take appearances on behalf of the parties
24 beginning with the company.

25 MR. SHARKEY: Yes. Thank you,

1 Your Honor. Jeff Sharkey from the Faruki PLL Firm
2 and I have with me Chris Hollon representing the
3 Government.

4 MS. SCHABO: Thank you. Are there
5 any other interveners who would like to make an
6 appearance?

7 MR. HEALEY: Yes, Your Honor. On
8 behalf of Ohio Consumer's Council Bruce West and
9 I'm Christopher Healey. I'm here to represent the
10 interest of Dayton Power and Light, AES Ohio.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. SCHABO: Anyone? I don't see
13 anyone else. The subject of today's public hearing
14 is AES Ohio's application for an increase in
15 electric distribution rates which is accompanied by
16 an application for approval of accounting authority
17 and the revised tariffs. AES Ohio filed its
18 application on November the 30th, 2020. AES Ohio
19 is requesting to increase its revenue requirement
20 by approximately 121 million.

21 Commission staff filed its report
22 and recommendation on July 26th, 2021 and its
23 report staff recommends limiting the increase to a
24 range of between approximately 61 million and
25 approximately \$67 million. Staff's report is only

1 a recommendation and the final decision will
2 ultimately be made by the Commission. The local
3 public hearings are only one aspect of the process.

4 In addition to today we have a
5 second public hearing that is scheduled to occur on
6 September the 28th at 6 p.m. here in the Dayton
7 Municipal Building. An evidentiary hearing is
8 scheduled to occur at the Commissions Offices in
9 Columbus. The evidentiary hearing is for the
10 company staff and interviewing parties will present
11 testimony and other evidence regarding the
12 application.

13 Notice was published in the local
14 newspapers for that hearing to start on October the
15 26th, 2021. Because, to honor that notice we will
16 open the record on October the 26th but due to the
17 many challenges presented by the resent surge in
18 Covid 19 cases it is our intention to move the
19 hearing to remote technology via Webex. This means
20 that after we open the record, we will adjourn for
21 a brief time, 30 to 90 minutes, and reconvene to
22 conduct the hearing remotely via Webex.

23 If members of the public are
24 interested in following the hearing, details on how
25 to observe will be published by a future entry.

1 The details to watch the Webex hearing will also be
2 available on the event page of the hearing which
3 is, which you can find on the calendar on the
4 Commission's website. The purpose today is to
5 receive comments from the public regarding AES
6 Ohio's application for its increase in rates.

7 Today's hearing is being
8 transcribed by a court reporter. Any testimony
9 given will be incorporated into the official record
10 in the case and will be reviewed and considered by
11 the Commission in making any final decision on the
12 application. The members of the public may also
13 submit written comments under Case Number
14 20-1651-EL-AIR on the PUCO website or by mail.

15 All right. Let's go ahead and
16 start to take testimony. At this time we have one
17 individual who signed up. Mr. Kershner, come on
18 up. I will ask you to state your name. After I
19 swear you in, I will ask you to state your name and
20 any business or personal address, whichever
21 capacity you're testifying in for the record.

22 MR. KERSHNER: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. SCHABO: All right.

24 (WHEREUPON, Mr. Kershner was
25 sworn.)

1 MS. SCHABO: Thank you very much.
2 Please go ahead and state your name for the record
3 and give your testimony.

4 MR. KERSHNER: Chris Kershner.
5 Address is 8 North Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton,
6 Ohio 45402. Madam Chair, Commissioner, PUCO
7 Representatives, my name's Chris Kershner and I'm
8 President and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of
9 Commerce. Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
10 represents over 2,200 businesses throughout the
11 greater Dayton region which employs over 200,000
12 individuals in our 10 county area.

13 We are the 25th largest Chamber of
14 Commerce in the nation and the 25th largest
15 metropolitan area in the nation so it's a true
16 testament to the integrity and health of this
17 region's business community. I'm here today to
18 testify in support of AES Ohio and their economic
19 impact on the Dayton region. With over 700
20 employees AES Ohio's impact on jobs, families, and
21 our economy permeates throughout the entire greater
22 Dayton region.

23 AES Ohio does not rest on their
24 laurels but instead they are continually seeking
25 ways to increase their corporate investment in

1 Ohio, grow jobs, and provide more efficient and
2 cost effective utility service to our business
3 community. AES Ohio recently relocated a number of
4 significant, high paying technical jobs to Dayton,
5 Ohio. These jobs came from outside of the United
6 States and could have been located at any
7 geographic location.

8 Instead, AES Ohio chose to invest
9 right here in Ohio and relocate the AES Global
10 Smart Operations Center to Dayton. This Smart
11 Operation Center oversees AES corporate's national
12 and global technical assets. This is a significant
13 investment and signifies corporate wide that AES is
14 committed to Ohio and committed to being part of
15 the economic fabric of our community.

16 I'll be honest with you, from a
17 quality of life perspective attracting these high
18 paying jobs here pretty much sells itself. Dayton
19 and Ohio boasts a low cost of living, great
20 education system, outdoor recreation, and one of
21 the most efficient transportation and
22 infrastructure networks in the world.

23 When it comes to utility service
24 to our business community there are two things that
25 must be paramount at all times, reliable and

1 efficient service, and corporate economic health.
2 Businesses need certainty and reliability to
3 operate, plan, and make future investments in their
4 companies. I'm proud to say that AES Ohio has
5 always been on the forefront of these objectives.

6 However, as operation costs have
7 increased it can position a company like AES Ohio
8 to be forced to do more with less and potentially
9 be forced to sacrifice key characteristics of these
10 objectives in the future. That shouldn't be
11 acceptable for our business community, it shouldn't
12 be acceptable for AES Ohio or our state regulators.
13 Continued investment in infrastructure, operations,
14 and safe and stable job growth must be a priority.

15 AES Ohio has been a leader, a
16 corporate partner, and a job creator all while
17 still having the lowest rates of any electric
18 utility in the state of Ohio. I respectfully ask
19 you today to fully consider AES Ohio's proposal
20 based on its merits, the character assessment of
21 their company, and their long-term commitment to
22 Ohio and the Dayton region. Thank you for your
23 time today. I'll be happy to answer any questions
24 you may have.

25 MS. SCHABO: Thank you,

1 Mr. Kershner. As I said, Mr. Kershner was, or I
2 have no questions.

3 MS. FRENCH: I have no questions.

4 MS. SCHABO: Thank you very much.

5 MR. KERSHNER: Thank you.

6 MS. SCHABO: Mr. Kershner was the
7 only witness on our list. I generally open the
8 floor for anyone and it is only just short of 1:15.
9 In the interest of making sure that no one is just
10 still on their way here we will take a brief recess
11 and we'll adjourn at 1:30. Thank you.

12 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

13 (WHEREUPON, Exhibit No. 1 was
14 marked for identification.)

15 MS. SCHABO: It is about 1:32. We
16 took a brief recess to accommodate any late
17 arrivals. I do not believe anybody has joined us
18 but I will ask if there's anyone here that will
19 like to testify? Okay. Seeing no one, I'll thank
20 everyone for coming out today. The commission will
21 consider Mr. Kershner's testimony. If any members
22 of the public would like to submit comments please
23 remember that you can do so online or by mail and
24 just reminder that there is a second public hearing
25 Tuesday the 28th at 6 p.m. here at Dayton Municipal

1 Building. Today's public hearing is concluded and
2 we are adjourned. Thank you very much. Have a
3 good day.

4 (WHEREUPON, public hearing
5 concluded at 1:33 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jamie S. Hurley, a Court Reporter
and Notary Public do hereby certify that the
foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of
my notes taken in the above-styled case and
thereafter transcribed by me.

Jamie S. Hurley

Jamie S. Hurley



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Case No(s). 20-1652-EL-AAM, 20-1651-EL-AIR, 20-1653-EL-ATA

Summary: Transcript PUCO HEARING TRANSCRIPT electronically filed by Missy
Riegel on behalf of Riegel, Missy