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### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Annual Application	)	
of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for an	)	Case No. 21-618-GA-RDR
Adjustment to the Capital Expenditure	)	
Rider Rate.		

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DANIEL J. DUANN, Ph.D.

On Behalf of Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

> 65 East State Street, Suite 700 Columbus, Ohio 43215

> > **JANUARY 25, 2022**

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1	1.	INTRODUCTION
2		
3	<i>Q1</i> .	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND POSITION.
4	<i>A1</i> .	My name is Daniel J. Duann. My business address is 65 East State Street, Suite
5		700, Columbus, OH 43215. I am the Co-Director for Traditional Regulation in the
6		Analytical Services Department within the Office of the Ohio Consumers'
7		Counsel ("OCC").
8		
9	<i>Q2</i> .	DR. DUANN, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
10		AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.
11	A2.	I joined OCC in January 2008 as a Senior Regulatory Analyst. I was promoted to
12		the position of Principal Regulatory Analyst in 2011, and then to the position of
13		Assistant Director in 2018. I began my current position in July 2021. My primary
14		responsibility at OCC is to provide analytical support for OCC's participation in
15		proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") and the
16		Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). These proceedings include,
17		among others, rate cases, cost of capital, fuel adjustment clause, standard service
18		offer, and infrastructure replacement riders.
19		
20		Prior to joining OCC, I was an independent consultant. Before that, I was a Senior
21		Institute Economist at the National Regulatory Research Institute ("NRRI") at
22		The Ohio State University. NRRI has been a policy research center funded by the
23		National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and state public

1		utilities commissions since 1976. NRRI is currently located in Washington, DC
2		and no longer a part of The Ohio State University. My work at NRRI involved
3		research, publishing, and public services in the areas of regulatory and energy
4		policy. Before NRRI, I held various positions with the Forecasting Section of the
5		Ohio Division of Energy (which was later transferred to the PUCO), the Center of
6		Health Policy Research at the American Medical Association, and the Policy
7		Analysis and Research Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission.
8		
9		I received my Ph.D. degree in Public Policy Analysis and M.S. degree in Energy
10		Management and Policy from the University of Pennsylvania. I also have an M.A.
11		degree in Economics from the University of Kansas. I completed my
12		undergraduate study in Business Administration at the National Taiwan
13		University, Taiwan, Republic of China. I have been a Certified Rate of Return
14		Analyst by the Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts since 2011.
15		
16	<i>Q3</i> .	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY OR TESTIFIED
17		BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO AND OTHER
18		AGENCIES AND LEGISLATURES?
19	<i>A3</i> .	Yes. I have submitted expert testimony or testified on behalf of the OCC before
20		the PUCO in many proceedings. A list of these cases is included in Attachment
21		DJD-01. I have also testified before the Illinois Commerce Commission and the

1		California Legislature (specifically, the Senate Committee on Energy and Public
2		Utilities).
3		
4	<i>Q4</i> .	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED OR PRESENTED IN ACADEMIC
5		JOURNALS, TRADE PUBLICATIONS, AND PROFESSIONAL
6		CONFERENCES?
7	A4.	Yes. I have published in several academic journals and trade publications. I have
8		also presented in conferences on issues related to utility regulation, energy policy,
9		and emerging energy technology. A selected list of these publications and
10		presentations is included as Attachment DJD-02.
11		
12	II.	PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION
13		
14	<i>Q5</i> .	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?
15	A5.	My testimony supports OCC's recommendation that the PUCO should protect
16		consumers by rejecting the outdated and unreasonable 9.16% pre-tax rate of
17		return proposed by Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke" or "Utility") in its Capital
18		Expenditure Program Rider ("CEP") Rate Application. The PUCO should protect
19		Duke's 406,000 residential gas consumers against charges for inflated profits and
20		debt costs that do not reflect the actual market conditions for return on equity or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Adjustment to the Capital Expenditure Program Rider Rate, PUCO Case No. 21-618-GA-RDR (April 23, 2021), "Application".

1		Duke's true cost of debt. The PUCO should adopt a pre-tax rate of return, as
2		recommended by OCC, of no higher than 8.29%.
3		
4	<i>Q6</i> .	IS IT JUST AND REASONABLE FOR DUKE'S CUSTOMERS TO PAY A
5		PRE-TAX RATE OF RETURN OF 9.16% THAT WAS DECIDED IN DUKE'S
6		LAST RATE CASE?
7	<i>A6</i> .	No. A pre-tax rate of return of 9.16% on Duke's CEP rate base is neither justified
8		nor reasonable under current market conditions or established regulatory
9		principles. Given the significant decline in the interest rates and cost of capital
10		since 2012, continuing to use that return on equity and cost of debt will lead to
11		excessive and unreasonable CEP charges for customers.
12		
13		The reliance on a rate of return set nearly ten years ago under vastly different
14		financial market conditions in setting current rates charged to consumers is
15		problematic and unreasonable. It should not continue.
16		
17		In a prior Dominion case, Commissioner Conway said during a public meeting
18		announcing the PUCO's Order:
19		[W]e have a utility that not unlike some other utilities hasn't been in for a
20		rate case in quite a while so our policy of referring back to cost of capital
21		values that were established in the most recent prior base rate case means
22		that we refer back quite a distance in time, and during that period, as the

1		record in this case and OCC and NOPEC have pointed out, there have
2		been macro changes with regard to capital costs that have undoubtedly
3		caused the cost of capital to decline in a material way. <sup>2</sup>
4		
5		It is unfortunate (if not inexplicable) for consumers that both the PUCO Staff's
6		Report <sup>3</sup> and the Audit Report by the PUCO-hired Auditor (Blue Ridge Consulting
7		Services, Inc.) <sup>4</sup> did not specifically address this consumer protection issue. This
8		issue of a utility overcharging consumers for its profits and debt costs should have
9		been front and center at the PUCO.
10		
11	<i>Q7</i> .	DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ASSERTION OF DUKE THAT THE PRE-TAX
12		RATE OF RETURN SHOULD NOT BE REVISED IN THIS PROCEEDING?
13	A7.	No. In the supplemental testimony of Duke witness, Jay P. Brown, filed on
14		January 18, 2022, Duke asserted that the pre-tax rate of return of Rider CEP
15		should not be revised. <sup>5</sup> This assertion is without merit and should be rejected by
16		the PUCO.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See In the Matter of the East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio for Approval of an Alternative Form of Regulation, Case No. 19-468-GA-ALT, available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\_ozIp9-4tQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\_ozIp9-4tQ</a> (starting at 13:58). This is a webcasting of the PUCO Commission Meeting of December 30, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See PUCO Case No. 21-618-GA-RDR, Staff's Review and Recommendation (October 22, 2021), (Staff Report).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See PUCO Case No. 21-618-GA-RDR, Audit Report (October 14, 2021), (Audit Report).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See PUCO Case No. 21-168-GA-RDR, Supplemental Testimony of Jay P. Brown at 18-19 (January 18, 2022).

1		First, based on my review of the stipulation and the order approving and
2		modifying the stipulation in Case No. 19-791-GA-ALT, the PUCO did not set the
3		pre-tax rate of return to be used for this proceeding. The PUCO order only
4		approved the CEP program and the first-year CEP Rider charge.
5		
6		Second, the Auditor in this proceeding does not endorse or support a specific pre-
7		tax rate of return. The Auditor simply verified the 9.16% rate of return, as
8		proposed by Duke in its Application, did reflect the approved pre-tax rate of
9		return that was set in accordance with the rate case settlement in Case No. 12-
10		1685-GA-AIR and adjusted to reflect a reduction in the corporate tax rate from
11		35% to 21%.6 Consequently, the PUCO can and should re-set the pre-tax rate of
12		return for CEP investments based on consideration of public interest (such as
13		protecting consumers from unjust and unreasonable rates charged by a regulated
14		utility) and sound regulatory principles.
15		
16	<i>Q8</i> .	DR. DUANN, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND REGARDING DUKE'S
17		APPLICATION TO ADJUST ITS CEP RIDER RATES?
18	A8.	For consumer protection, the PUCO should reject the pre-tax rate of return of
19		9.16% proposed by Duke. The PUCO should reduce the pre-tax rate of return
20		used in calculating the CEP Rider charges to be no higher than 8.29%.

6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Audit Report at 33.

1		My recommendation is based on the following conclusions: (1) the pre-tax rate of
2		return of return of 9.16% was based on the rate of return components approved
3		nearly 10 years ago in Duke's last gas rate case and it does not reflect current
4		market conditions or current business and financial risks facing Duke; and (2) the
5		use of the 9.16% pre-tax rate of return will hurt the consumers that the PUCO is
6		supposed to protect because it will increase the annual CEP Rider revenue
7		requirement (charges) to consumers by approximately \$2.5 million in this
8		proceeding while providing no offsetting benefits.
9		
10	III.	THE PUCO SHOULD REJECT DUKE'S PROPOSED PRE-TAX RATE OF
11		RETURN OF 9.16% TO PROTECT CONSUMERS
10		
12		
13	Q9.	WHAT ARE THE REGULATORY PRINCIPLES COMMONLY USED IN
	Q9.	WHAT ARE THE REGULATORY PRINCIPLES COMMONLY USED IN SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED
13	Q9.	
13 14	Q9.	SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED
<ul><li>13</li><li>14</li><li>15</li></ul>	_	SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED UTILITY SUCH AS DUKE?
13 14 15 16	_	SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED  UTILITY SUCH AS DUKE?  The regulatory principles in setting a reasonable rate of return for regulated
13 14 15 16 17	_	SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED  UTILITY SUCH AS DUKE?  The regulatory principles in setting a reasonable rate of return for regulated utilities, including the cost of equity ("return on equity" or "allowed profits") and
13 14 15 16 17	_	SETTING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN FOR A REGULATED  UTILITY SUCH AS DUKE?  The regulatory principles in setting a reasonable rate of return for regulated  utilities, including the cost of equity ("return on equity" or "allowed profits") and  cost of debt, are well-established. The fundamental regulatory principles

1		A public utility is entitled to such rates as will permit it to earn a
2		return on the value of the property which it employs for the
3		convenience of the public equal to that generally being made at the
4		same time and in the same general part of the country on investments
5		in other business undertakings which are attended by corresponding
6		risks and uncertainties; but it has no constitutional right to profits
7		such as are realized or anticipated in highly profitable enterprises or
8		speculative ventures.
9		
10		Accordingly, for the purpose of this proceeding, the returns on the net rate
11		base (net plant investment and deferrals) included in the CEP Rider
12		charges should be commensurate with the current business and financial
13		risks facing Duke and current financial market conditions.
14		
15	Q10.	WHAT IS THE PRE-TAX RATE OF RETURN THAT DUKE PROPOSES TO
16		CHARGE CONSUMERS FOR ITS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM
17		("CEP")?
18	A10.	Duke proposes to use a pre-tax rate of return of 9.16% in calculating the Rider
19		CEP revenue requirement. <sup>7</sup> Duke indicates that this pre-tax rate of return reflects
20		the rate of return components stipulated in Duke's last rate case, Case No. 12-
21		1685-GA-AIR et al. Specifically, the 9.16% pre-tax rate of return is based on: a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Application, Schedule 1, Line 20.

1		cost of equity (or return on equity, ROE) of 9.84%, a cost of long-term debt of
2		5.32%, a capital structure of 46.7% debt and 53.3% equity, and a tax gross-up
3		factor reflecting the federal income tax rate of 21% currently in place.
4		
5	Q11.	IS THE PUCO REQUIRED TO USE THE RATE OF RETURN SET IN THE
6		LAST RATE CASE FOR SUBSEQUENT RIDERS THAT CUSTOMERS
7		PAY?
8	A11.	No. There is no requirement that the PUCO use the rate of return decided in the
9		last rate case for any subsequent rider cases or other proceedings that involve a
10		return on rate base. As stated earlier, the proper standards for the PUCO in
11		making such a decision is the consideration of public interest and sound
12		regulatory principles.
13		
14	Q12.	HAS THERE BEEN ANY FACTUAL SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR THE
15		PRE-TAX RATE OF RETURN OF 9.16% PROPOSED IN THE
16		APPLICATION?
17	A12.	No. Neither Duke, the PUCO Staff, nor the Auditor has provided any factual
18		support for using the pre-tax rate of return of 9.16%. This pre-tax rate of return is
19		in turn based on a high cost of equity of 9.84% and a high cost of debt of 5.32%.
20		Duke and the PUCO staff have provided no rate of return expert witness or any
21		testimony to demonstrate Duke's current actual cost of long-term debt is 5.32% or
22		cost of equity 9.84%.

1 Additionally, there is no evidence presented in this case that Duke cannot 2 continue its CEP program without a pre-tax rate of return of 9.16%. The use of 3 this inflated and unreasonable pre-tax rate of return of 9.16% will only enrich 4 Duke at the expense of its gas consumers. 5 6 *Q13*. WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDED COST OF LONG-TERM DEBT FOR 7 **DUKE IN THIS PROCEEDING?** I recommend that the PUCO apply a cost of debt of 4.03% in setting the pre-tax 8 *A13*. 9 rate of return for Duke's CEP program in this proceeding. 10 11 As discussed in great detail in my testimony in Case 19-791-GA-ALT that was 12 filed on January 13, 2021, this cost of debt of 4.03% properly reflects the 13 reduction of Duke's cost of debt after the refinancing of debt at lower interest rates after 2012.8 For example, Duke has sold three First Mortgage Bonds totaling 14 15 \$1.2 billion in 2019 and 2020: a \$400 million bond due in 2029 with an interest 16 rate of 3.65%, another \$400 million bond due in 2049 with an interest rate of 17 4.30%, and a \$400 million due in 2030 with an interest rate of 2.125% on May 21, 2020.9 I have reviewed Duke's debt financing after 2020 and the current financial 18 19 market conditions and the U.S. economy such as the interest rates of U.S. 20 Treasury Bonds and corporate bonds. Based on these additional reviews, I

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See PUCO Case 19-791-GA-ALT, Direct Testimony of Daniel J. Duann, Ph.D. at 20-24 (January 13, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id*.

1		conclude a reasonable calculation of Duke's current cost of long-term debt is
2		approximately 4.03%
3		
4	Q14.	WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDED COST OF EQUITY (OR RETURN ON
5		EQUITY) THAT CUSTOMERS SHOULD PAY FOR DUKE'S CEP
6		PROGRAM IN THIS PROCEEDING?
7	A14.	As discussed in my testimony in Case 19-791-GA-ALT, Duke has not been facing
8		any unusual and distinct business and financial risks in comparison to other
9		regulated gas utilities. 10 Based on my review of the average ROEs authorized for
10		gas distribution utilities in recent years (including 2021) <sup>11</sup> and Ohio's current
11		favorable regulatory environment for gas utilities, I recommend a cost of equity of
12		9.36% for Duke in this proceeding. Specifically, according to S&P Global Market
13		Intelligence published on October 28, 2021, the average ROE authorized for gas
14		utilities nationwide was 9.54% in rate cases decided in the first nine months of
15		2021and 9.46% for cases decided in the full year of 2020. The 9.36% is a
16		reasonable estimate of Duke's current cost of equity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See <a href="https://www.capitaliq.spglobal.com/web/client?auth=inherit#news/file?keyfileversion=1B172F43-BFF4-2161-CCE9-C31633A73132&KeyFileFormat=3&isNewsletter=1">https://www.capitaliq.spglobal.com/web/client?auth=inherit#news/file?keyfileversion=1B172F43-BFF4-2161-CCE9-C31633A73132&KeyFileFormat=3&isNewsletter=1</a>, the access may require subscription.

1	<i>Q15</i> .	WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDED PRE-TAX RATE OF RETURN FOR
2		DUKE IN THIS PROCEEDING?
3	A15.	If my recommended cost of equity of 9.36% and cost of long-term debt of 4.03%
4		were adopted and applied to the capital structure of 46.03% debt and 53.97%
5		equity, the resulting pre-tax rate of return would be 8.29%. This capital structure
6		is the same as what I recommended in Case 19-791-GA-ALT and it is also similar
7		to the capital structure of gas utilities with rate case decided in recent years. 12
8		
9	Q16.	WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TO CONSUMERS AS A RESULT
10		OF USING DUKE'S OUTDATED AND INFLATED PRE-TAX RATE OF
11		RETURN?
12	A16.	I calculate that the use of the 9.16% pre-tax rate of return (vs. the 8.29% pre-tax
13		rate of return OCC recommends) would increase the CEP Rider charges by
14		approximately \$2.5 million (\$2,453,580) for the twelve-month period covered in
15		this proceeding. Because my calculation here is to illustrate the adverse impact of
16		an inflated and unreasonable pre-tax rate of return, I will use the adjustments
17		proposed and supplemented in the Audit Report, specifically Table 15 of the
18		Audit Report, and calculate the revenue requirement accordingly. <sup>13</sup> However, this
19		does not mean I support all the adjustments proposed and the resulting revenue
20		requirements included in the Audit Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> *Id.* For example, the average equity ratio of gas utilities for 2020 was 51.86%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *See* Audit Report at 37. The Auditor later withdrew Adjustment No. 7 in a Supplemental filing on November 8, 2021. Also see Table 2 of the Supplemental filing.

My calculation is shown in Table 1 and Table 2. It should be noted that the Rider CEP rates in Table 1 will be effective for six month and the difference in revenue requirements under the two different pre-tax rates of return is \$926,947.<sup>14</sup>

Similarly, the Rider CEP rates in Table 2 will be effective for six month and the difference in revenue requirement is \$1,528,633.<sup>15</sup> The total adverse impact to consumer of using this inflated and unreasonable pre-tax rate of return of 9.16% over the twelve-month period is approximately \$2,453,580.<sup>16</sup>

Table 1
Additional Cost to Consumers by Adopting the 9.16% Pre-Tax Rate of Return for 2013 to 2019 Investments

	Per Audit	Per OCC	Difference for
	Report	<b>Recommendation</b> (for	Consumer
		illustration purpose)	
Rate Base	\$212,631,495	\$212,631,495	\$0
Pre-tax Rate of	9.16%	8.29%	0.87%
Return			
<b>Annualized Return</b>	\$19,477,043	\$17,627,149	\$1,849,894
on Rate Base			
<b>Total Operating</b>	\$22,492,082	\$22,492,082	\$0
Expenses			
<b>Annual Revenue</b>	\$41,969,125	\$40,119,231	\$1,849,894
Requirement			
<b>Residential Share</b>	\$30,364,662	\$29,026,263	\$1,338,398
(72.35%)			
<b>Number of Bills</b>	4,872,985	4,872,985	0
<b>Rider CEP Rates</b>			
GSS/ECTA	\$6.23	\$5.96	\$0.27
Residential (per			
month)			

 $<sup>^{14}</sup>$  \$926.947 = \$1,849,894 / 2.

 $<sup>^{15}</sup>$  \$1,528,633 = \$3,057,267 / 2.

 $<sup>^{16}</sup>$  \$2,453,580 = \$926,947 + \$1,528,633.

Table 2
Additional Cost to Consumers by Adopting the 9.16% Pre-Tax Rate of Return for 2013 to 2020 Investments

	Per Audit	Per OCC	Difference for
	Report	<b>Recommendation</b> (for	Consumer
		illustration purpose)	
Rate Base	\$351,410,000	\$351,410,000	\$0
Pre-tax Rate of	9.16%	8.29%	0.87%
Return			
<b>Annualized Return</b>	\$32,189,156	\$29,131,889	\$3,057,267
on Rate Base			
<b>Total Operating</b>	\$31,206,531	\$31,206,531	\$0
Expenses			
<b>Annual Revenue</b>	\$61,395,687	\$60,338,420	\$3,057,267
Requirement			
<b>Residential Share</b>	\$45,866,780	\$43,654,846	\$2,211,933
(72.35%)			
Number of Bills	4,928,018	4,928,018	0
<b>Rider CEP Rates</b>			
GSS/ECTA	\$9.31	\$8.86	\$0.45
Residential (per			
month)			

5

6

1 2

3 4

#### Q17. DOES THE FINANCIAL EARNINGS REVIEW IN THE STAFF REPORT

#### 7 SUPPORT THE USE OF THE 9.16% PRE-TAX RATE OF RETURN

#### 8 **PROPOSED IN THE APPLICATION?**

9 *A17.* No. The Financial Earnings Review in the Staff Report has nothing to do with the
10 adoption of the 9.16% pre-tax rate of return.<sup>17</sup> The Financial Earnings Review is a
11 summary of the *overall* profitability of Duke in comparison to other local
12 distribution companies (locally and nationwide). It is not a review of the earnings
13 contributed by the Capital Expenditure Program to Duke's overall earnings. It is

14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See Staff Report at 4.

I		certainly not a review of the reasonableness of the pre-tax rate of return included
2		in the CEP Rider charges.
3		
4		If anything, the Financial Earnings Review indicates that the 9.84% return on
5		equity proposed in the Application is too high and thus unjust and unreasonable.
6		Specifically, the Financial Earnings Review shows the 3-year average median
7		earned profits by Ohio and nationwide local distribution companies (as calculated
8		in the Staff Report) is only 7.94%. Duke is financially healthy and has no
9		additional business or financial risks compared to an average local distribution
10		company to justify a profit that is much higher than the national median.
11		
12	IV.	CONCLUSION
13		
14	Q18.	PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMER
15		PROTECTION IN THIS PROCEEDING.
16	A18.	I recommend that the PUCO reject the pre-tax rate of return of 9.16% proposed
17		by Duke and adopt a fair and reasonable pre-tax rate of return of no higher than
18		8.29% in updating the CEP Rider charges.
19		
20		That 9.16% pre-tax rate of return based on a Duke rate case decision almost 10
21		years ago is outdated and unreasonable. The use of this outdated 9.16% pre-tax
22		rate of return will impose higher and unjust rates for Duke's approximately

1		406,000 residential gas consumers. This is especially concerning when many
2		Ohioans are still struggling financially and physically from the resurging
3		pandemic, high inflation and energy costs, and uncertain economic prospects. The
4		PUCO should protect Duke's consumers against charges for higher profits and
5		debt costs that do not correspond with the actual market conditions for return on
6		equity and for Duke's true cost of debt.
7		
8		As observed by the U.S. Supreme Court nearly one hundred years ago in the
9		landmark Bluefield decision, "[a] rate of return may be reasonable at one time and
10		become too high or too low by changes affecting opportunities for investment, the
11		money market, and business conditions generally." This is precisely the
12		situation here. The PUCO should adopt a pre-tax rate of return no higher than
13		8.29% for determining what consumers should pay if Rider CEP is approved.
14		
15	Q19.	DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
16	A19.	Yes. However, I reserve the right to supplement my testimony in the event that
17		additional testimony is filed, or if new information or data in connection with this
18		proceeding becomes available.

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See Bluefield Water Works v. Public Service Comm'n, 262 U.S. 679 (1923).

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing *Direct Testimony of Daniel J. Duann*, *Ph.D. on Behalf of Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel* has been served upon those persons listed below via electronic service this 25th day of January 2022.

/s/ William J. Michael
William J. Michael
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

The PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the following parties:

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#### Daniel J. Duann, Ph.D. List of Testimonies Filed Before PUCO

- 1. Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Its Electric Security Plan, Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO (January 26, 2009).
- 2. Application of Ohio American Water Company to Increase Its Rates for Water and Sewer Service Provided to Its Entire Service Area, Case No. 09-391-WS-AIR (January 4,2010).
- 3. Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR (February 22, 2010).
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- 31. In the Matter of the Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates. Case No. 18-1205-GA-AIR et al., (March 8, 2019).
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- 33. *In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Gas Corp. for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates.* Case No. 18-1720-GA-AIR et al., (July 25, 2019).

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- 34. *In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Gas Corp. for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates.* Case No. 18-1720-GA-AIR et al., (September 5, 2019).
- 35. In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Administration of the Significantly Excessive Earnings Test for 2018 Under Section 4029.143(F), Revised Code, and Rule 4901:1-35-10, Ohio Administrative Code. Case No. 19-1098-EL-UNC, (August 30, 2019).
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in

Case No(s). 21-0618-GA-RDR

Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Daniel J. Duann, Ph.D. On Behalf of Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed by Mrs. Tracy J. Greene on behalf of Michael, William J.