

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF A CHANGE IN BILL FORMAT.

CASE No. 22-222-EL-UNC

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on March 23, 2022

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} Consistent with this Finding and Order, the Commission approves the application of Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio to amend its bill format.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric light company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-10-22(D) and 4901:1-10-33(F) provide that an electric utility proposing a new bill format shall file its proposed bill format with the Commission for approval. If the Commission does not act upon an application for a new bill format approval within 45 days, the proposed bill format shall automatically be approved on the 46th day.

{¶ 4} On March 16, 2022, AEP Ohio filed an application to amend its bill format. Specifically, AEP Ohio seeks to implement a delayed payment charge applicable to residential customer bills beginning on April 1, 2022, in accordance with the stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) approved by the Commission in the Company's most recent rate case proceedings. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 20-585-EL-AIR, et al. (*Rate Case*), Opinion and Order (Nov. 17, 2021) at ¶¶ 80, 165. Among other changes to the bill format, AEP Ohio proposes to update the definition of "late payment charge" and to add a new bill message referencing the charge in the "Notes from AEP Ohio" section of the bill. In addition to the application, AEP Ohio provided sample residential bills for both

shopping and non-shopping customers. Finally, AEP Ohio acknowledges that, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-10-22(D) and 4901:1-10-33(F), its proposed bill format would be automatically approved on May 1, 2022, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. However, given the April 1, 2022 implementation date for the delayed payment charge contemplated in the Stipulation, AEP Ohio requests expedited approval of its application by April 1, 2022.

{¶ 5} On March 21, 2022, Staff filed comments stating that it has reviewed AEP Ohio's proposed bill format changes. Staff recommends that the proposed bill format changes be approved on an expedited basis.

{¶ 6} Upon review of AEP Ohio's application to amend its bill format, the Commission finds that the application is reasonable and should be approved. We note that our approval of the proposed bill format is limited to the changes necessary to implement the delayed payment charge for residential customer bills, as specifically referenced in AEP Ohio's application, and does not include authorization to modify any other aspect of the Company's bill format. With respect to AEP Ohio's request for expedited approval, we note that the Company filed its application on March 16, 2022, along with the request for approval by April 1, 2022, despite the fact that the Company has been fully aware, since the approval of the Stipulation in the *Rate Case*, that the delayed payment charge would be implemented on April 1, 2022. On a going-forward basis, AEP Ohio is directed to submit its applications sufficiently far enough in advance to afford the Commission adequate time to review the filing, perform due diligence with regard to its review, and provide any appropriate opportunity for participation by interested stakeholders.

III. ORDER

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That AEP Ohio's application to amend its bill format be approved, consistent with this Finding and Order. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That AEP Ohio comply with the directive set forth in this Finding and Order. It is, further,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair
M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis Deters

SJP/mef

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Case No(s). 22-0222-EL-UNC

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Ohio Power Company d/b/a
AEP Ohio to amend its bill format electronically filed by Ms. Mary E. Fischer on
behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio