BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

AES OHIO

CASE NO. 22-0514-EL-UNC

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PATRICK DONLON

BEFORE THE

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PATRICK DONLON

ON BEHALF OF AES OHIO

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I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 2 Q. Please state your name and business address.
- 3 A. My name is Patrick Donlon. My business address is One Monument Circle, Indianapolis,
- 4 Indiana, 46204.

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- 5 Q. By whom and in what capacity are you employed?
- 6 A. I am employed by AES US Services, LLC ("AES Services") as Director of Regulatory
- Accounting for it US Strategic Business Unit ("SBU"), which includes The Dayton
- 8 Power & Light Company d/b/a AES Ohio ("AES Ohio" or "Company"), as well as
- 9 Indianapolis Power & Light Company ("AES Indiana").
- 10 Q. Please describe briefly your educational and business background.
- 11 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting with a minor in Economics
- Management from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2000. In 2010, I earned a Master of
- 13 Business Administration degree from Franklin University. I worked for American
- 14 Electric Power ("AEP") for just under ten years in two stints with the company serving in
- various roles. During my time at AEP, I was an accountant in the Generation Accounting
- Department; an Hourly Energy Trader focusing in the Southwestern Power Pool market;
- a Fuel, Emissions and Logistics Coordinator; and a Financial Planning Analyst in
- Commercial Operations. I worked for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- 19 ("Commission") from August 2012 through January 2018. I served as a Manager of the
- Rates Division of the Utilities Department and then was promoted to Director of the
- Rates and Analysis Department and Executive Director of Power Siting. Following my

1		time at the Commission I worked as a consultant and for a small energy startup prior to
2		joining AES Services in June 2020 as the Director of Regulatory Accounting.
3	Q.	Have you previously provided testimony before the Commission?
4	A.	Yes, I have provided testimony in various gas and electric rate cases, electric Standard
5		Service Offer cases, Significant Excessive Earnings Test ("SEET") and natural gas cost
6		recovery cases.
7		
8	II.	PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY
9	Q.	What is the purpose of this testimony?
10	A.	The purpose of this testimony is to demonstrate that AES Ohio did not have significantly
11		excessive earnings under R.C 4928.143(F) in 2021. As shown in PJD-1 and PJD-2, AES
12		Ohio's adjusted Return on Equity ("ROE") and unadjusted ROE for 2021 are
13		significantly lower than any appropriate ROE level to which AES Ohio's ROE in 2021
14		should be compared in this proceeding.
15	Q.	Please list the exhibits you are supporting.
16	A.	I am supporting the following exhibits:
17		Exhibit PJD-1: Calculation of Per Books Return on Equity – Base with Adjustments,
18		Exhibit PJD-2: Calculation of Per Books Return on Equity – Base,
19		Exhibit PJD-3: Future Estimated Capital Expenditures, and
20		Exhibit PJD-4: Calculation of Threshold ROE.

1 III. AES OHIO'S ADJUSTED ROE IN 2021 WAS 2.6%

- 2 Q. Please explain the calculations on Exhibit PJD-1, Calculations of Per Books Return
- 3 on Equity With Adjustments?
- 4 A. Exhibit PJD-1 is AES Ohio's recommended schedule that shows that AES Ohio earned
- 5 an ROE of 2.6% during 2021 after appropriate adjustments are made. The schedule
- 6 reflects the following adjustments:
- 7 a. Accrued Penalty in Account 426.3,
- 8 b. 2021 Property tax adjustment in 2022,
- 9 c. 2020 Property tax adjustment in 2021,
- d. Loss on Disposition of Retired Asset,
- e. Generation Asset Impairments, net of gain on sale, and
- f. AES Equity contributions 2021.
- 13 Q. Please explain the adjustment for Accrued Penalty in Account 426.3.
- 14 A. The Accrued Penalties have been added back so that any amounts associated with those
- penalties do not benefit AES Ohio in the SEET by reducing the earned return. The
- 16 Commission approved this adjustment most recently in Case No. 18-873-EL-UNC.

1	Q.	Please explain the adjustments for 2021 Property tax adjustment in 2022 and the
2		2020 Property tax adjustment in 2021.
3	Α.	Property taxes are estimated and accrued throughout the year and a final assessment of
4		property taxes is typically completed and booked in the following year. The property tax
5		adjustments move the final assessments into the actual year they are incurred.
6	Q.	Please explain the adjustment for Loss on Disposition of Retired Asset.
7	A.	The Loss on Disposition of Retired Assets adjustment was made for two reasons. First, it
8		is a one-time nonrecurring charge. Second, it is related to retired generation assets and
9		including this loss would reduce AES Ohio's ROE inappropriately if left in. The
10		adjustment is made to add back this loss to both the Adjusted Earnings and Equity. The
11		Commission approved this adjustment most recently in Case No. 18-873-EL-UNC.
12	Q.	Please explain the adjustment for Generation Asset Impairments, net of gain on
13		sale.
14	Α.	The Generation Asset Impairments adjustment are non-recurring, special and
15		extraordinary items that should be removed for SEET purposes. These asset generation
16		write-offs are extraordinary from an economic perspective. And the Commission has
17		acknowledged this in the past. Specifically, the Commission found that AES Ohio's
18		divestiture of the generation assets constitutes an extraordinary event and that its financial
19		impact should be excluded from AES Ohio's SEET:
20		"Further, we agree that the sale of the divestiture of the generation assets
21		constitutes an extraordinary event. Consistent with our past practice, the financial

1	impact of the divestiture should be excluded from the SEET test. See In re Ohio
2	Edison Co., Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co., and Toledo Edison Co., Case No. 10-
3	1265-EL-UNC, Opinion and Order (November 22, 2010) at 3."1
4	Adjusting for AES Ohio's prior asset generation write-downs is consistent with the
5	Commission's stated intention that the financial impact of AES Ohio's asset generation
6	divestitures be excluded from the SEET. Additionally, the Commission has excluded the
7	effects of extraordinary items, including fixed-asset impairments in prior proceedings.
8	For example, in Case No. 13-1495-EL-UNC, an adjustment removing a fixed asset

10 Q. Please explain the adjustment for AES Equity contributions 2021.

impairment loss was made in AES Ohio's annual filing. ²

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A. AES Ohio plans to make very large investments in its service territory over the next five
years, and those investments would not be possible without the \$300 million that The
AES Corporation ("AES") has invested in AES Ohio. I understand that the Commission
is required to "[c]onsider[]... the capital requirements of future committed investments in
this state" when conducting the SEET (R.C. 4928.143(F)), and the Commission should
do so by adding to AES Ohio's equity balance the \$300 million investment that AES has
made in AES Ohio. In the second quarter of 2020, AES invested \$150 million in AES

¹ In the Matter of the Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Authority to Transfer or Sell its Generation Assets, Case No. 13-2420-EL-UNC, September 17, 2014, p. 9. (Emphasis added.)

² In the Matter of the Determination of the Existence of Significantly Excessive Earnings for 2012 Under the Electric Security Plan of The Dayton Power and Light Company, Case No. 13-1495-EL-UNC ("DP&L 2012 SEET Case"), Application of The Dayton Power and Light Company, Direct Testimony of Gregory S. Campbell, CPA, July 31, 2013, p. 5. In the DP&L 2012 SEET Case, the Commission approved a Stipulation and Recommendation between DP&L and Staff, which recommended that "the Commission determine that significantly excessive earnings did not occur with respect to DP&L's ESP in 2012." DP&L 2012 SEET Case, February 13, 2014, Opinion and Order, pp. 2-4. No parties intervened in that proceeding.

Ohio, which is reflected in the increase on Exhibit PJD-1 line 11 Proprietary Capital, and 1 2 line 20, which reflects the remaining \$150 million investment. AES announced its plan to invest \$300 million in AES Ohio because AES Ohio needed those funds in order to 3 4 make the necessary capital investments so that AES Ohio could continue to provide safe 5 and reliable service to its customers. Pursuant to a Stipulation and Recommendation approved by the Commission in Case No. 18-1875-EL-GRD, et al., AES Ohio has 6 7 committed and started to invest approximately \$249 million over four years to modernize 8 its distribution grid. AES Ohio and the signatories to that Stipulation agree that those 9 investments will provide significant benefits for customers, including improved 10 reliability. In addition to grid modernization, AES Ohio is planning to invest \$558 11 million over the next five years in its distribution system. AES Ohio is also planning to 12 construct approximately \$270 million in transmission enhancements as part of PJM's 13 overall RTEP plan over the next five years. Those amounts total \$828 million dollars of 14 investment into Ohio to benefit AES Ohio customers and improve reliability. 15 Q. Please explain the calculations on Exhibit PJD-2, Calculations of Per Books Return

- on Equity.
- 17 A. Exhibit PJD-2 shows the per books ROE using the unadjusted per books amounts from 18 the FERC Form 1. The per books unadjusted ROE is 7.1%.

16

- 1 Q. Please explain Exhibit PJD-3, Future Capital Expenditures.
- 2 A. Exhibit PJD-3 shows the future estimated jurisdictional capital expenditures for the
- 3 calendar year 2022 through 2026.³ It is based on the AES Ohio's current estimates of
- 4 future capital spending.

5 IV. AES OHIO DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY EXCESSIVE

6 **EARNINGS IN 2021**

proceedings.

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- Q. How did you determine whether AES Ohio had significantly excessive earnings in 2021?
- 9 First, we determined the appropriate benchmark ROE ("Benchmark ROE") and then A. 10 determined the appropriate amount by which the Benchmark ROE could be exceeded 11 before the return earned by AES Ohio would be deemed excessive ("Threshold ROE"). 12 The Benchmark ROE was calculated using the average 2021 ROE of a sample of peer 13 firms to AES Ohio. The spread that was added to the Benchmark ROE to arrive at the 14 Threshold ROE was based on two alternative approaches: the "1.5x Approach," where 15 the threshold is determined by multiplying the Benchmark ROE by 1.5x; and the 16 "Standard Deviation Approach," where the standard deviation of the peer group ROEs is multiplied by 1.64x based on a 95% confidence threshold and then added to the 17 18 Benchmark ROE. Both of these approaches have been used by the Commission in past

³ The future estimated Capital Expenditures for 2022 through 2026 contained in PJD-3 is trade secret financial information that should be kept confidential. This information has not been shared outside the Company other than counterparties in negotiation subject to non-disclosure agreements and is not disseminated to internal employees unless those employees have a legitimate business need to know the information. Public disclosure of this information would have a negative competitive impact in Ohio's market as well as the financial markets.

1 Q. What data did was used for the analysis of the Benchmark ROE? 2 A. Bloomberg, a well-known and respected provider of financial-related information, was 3 used as the source of data that was used. 4 How the sample peer group identified in developing the Benchmark ROE? Q. 5 The sample is comprised of firms in the SPDR Select Sector Fund – Utility ("XLU") A. 6 ("Peer Group"). The XLU is a well-known exchange traded fund that consisted of 28 7 during 2021, entirely from the utility and energy sector, who are independently selected. 8 The XLU exchange fund has been used to select peer groups in the past by the 9 Commission. 10 Q. What Threshold ROEs came out of the analysis? 11 A. The Benchmark ROE based on the average ROEs for the Peer Group in 2021 was 12 11.17%. The Threshold ROE using the 1.5x Approach is thus 16.75%. The Threshold 13 ROE under the Standard Deviation Approach is 17.87%. 14 Q. What is the "Safe Harbor" in SEET Analyses? 15 I understand that in the 09-786-EL-UNC case, the Commission was willing to accept a A. 16 "safe harbor" threshold of 200 basis points above the mean of the comparable group, 17 whereby the electric utility will be found not to have significantly excessive earnings. 18 Q. What is the Safe Harbor ROE for AES Ohio in 2021? 19 The Safe Harbor threshold for AES Ohio in 2021, based upon the XLU Peer Group is A.

20

13.17%.

- 1 Q. Does AES Ohio pass the Retrospective SEET for 2021?
- 2 A. Yes. AES Ohio's adjusted ROE for 2021 was 2.6% as shown on line 21 of Exhibit PJD-
- 3 1, which is significantly lower than the Safe Harbor of 13.17% and the Threshold ROE
- 4 range of 16.75% to 17.87%. Additionally, the unadjusted ROE, shown on line 9 of
- 5 Exhibit PJD-2 is 7.1% which is also significantly lower than the Safe Harbor and
- 6 Threshold ROE range.

7 V. CONCLUSION

- 8 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?
- 9 A. Yes, it does.

Calculation of Per Books Return on Equity - With Adjustments

PJD-1 Witness Responsible: Donlon

Line No.	Description	Calendar 2021 Income Statement	Balance Sheet December 31, 2020	Balance Sheet March 31, 2021	Balance Sheet June 30, 2021	Balance Sheet September 30, 2021	Balance Sheet December 31, 2021	Average Beginning and Ending Balances	Comments
(A)	(B)	(C) (\$000's)	(D) (\$000's)	(E) (\$000's)	(F) (\$000's)	(G) (\$000's)	(H) (\$000's)	(Col. (D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H))/5 = (I) ($$000$'s)	(J)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Earnings for Common Net Income Preferred Dividends Earnings for Common Accrued Penalty in Account 426.3 2021 Property tax adjustment in 2022 2020 Property tax adjustment in 2021 Loss on Disposition of Retired Asset	47,067 47,067 411 (43) (710)							2021 FERC Form 1, Page 114-117, Line 78, Col (C) 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 118, Line 29, Col (C) Sum of Lines 2 and 3 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 114-117, Line 47, Col (C) Accounting Records Accounting Records Accounting Records
10 11 12	Proprietary Capital Preferred Stock Outstanding	46,725	616,569	635,869	638,427	642,865	781,988	663,144	Sum of Lines 4 thru 8 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 112, Line 16 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 112, Line 3
14 15 16 17 18 19	2020 Property tax adjustment in 2021 Generation Asset Impairments, net of gain on sale Loss on Disposition of Retired Asset,		616,569 22 - (710) 1,008,281 9,738 150,000 1,783,900	635,869 433 (43) - 1,008,281 9,738 150,000 1,804,278	638,427 433 (43) - 1,008,281 9,738 150,000 1,806,836	642,865 433 (43) - 1,008,281 9,738 150,000 1,811,274	781,988 433 (43) 1,008,281 9,738 - 1,800,397	663,144 351 (34) (142) 1,008,281 9,738 120,000 1,801,338	Sum of Lines 11 and 12 Accounting Records Accounting Records Accounting Records Accounting Records Line 8 plus Prior Year Accounting Records Sum of Lines 13 thru 19
21	Return on Equity - Base with Adjustment							2.6%	Line 9 divided by Line 20, Col (O)

Calculation of Per Books Return on Equity - Base

PJD-2 Witness Responsible: Donlon

Line No.	Description	Calendar 2021 Income Statement	Balance Sheet December 31, 2020	Balance Sheet March 31, 2021	Balance Sheet June 30, 2021	Balance Sheet September 30, 2021	Balance Sheet December 31, 2021	Average Beginning and Ending Balances	Comments
(A)	(B)	(C) (\$000's)	(D) (\$000's)	(E) (\$000's)	(F) (\$000's)	(G) (\$000's)	(H) (\$000's)	(Col. (D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H))/5 = (I) (\$000's)	(J)
2	Earnings for Common Net Income Preferred Dividends Earnings for Common	47,067 - 47,067							2021 FERC Form 1, Page 114-117, Line 78, Col (C 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 118, Line 29, Col (C) Sum of Lines 2 and 3
6 7	Common Equity Proprietary Capital Preferred Stock Outstanding Common Equity		616,569 - 616,569	635,869 - 635,869	638,427 - 638,427	642,865 - 642,865	781,988 - 781,988	663,144 	2021 FERC Form 1, Page 112, Line 16 2021 FERC Form 1, Page 112, Line 3 Sum of Lines 6 and 7
9	Return on Equity - Base with Adjustment							7.1%	Line 4 divided by Line 8, Col (O)

Future Estimated Capital Expenditures

PJD-3
Witness Responsible: Donlon
CONFIDENTIAL

Line	December floor	0000	0000	0004	0005	0000	0
No.	Description	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Comments
(A)	(B)	(C) (\$ millions)	(D) (\$ millions)	(E) (\$ millions)	(F) (\$ millions)	(G) (\$ millions)	(H)
1 Es	stimated Capital Expenditures					 _	

Calculation of Threshold ROE

PJD-4 Witness Responsible: Donlon

									Witness Responsible: Donlon
Line				Adjusted Net	Adjusted 2020 Common	Adjusted 2021 Common			<u> </u>
No.	Utilities ¹	Ticker	Currency	Încome	Equity	Equity	Average Common Equity		Comments
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	Col.((F)+(G))/2 = (H)	Col. (E) / (H) = (I)	(J)
	NEVTERA ENERGY ING	NEE HO	HOD	4 000 000 000 00	00 540 000 000 00	07 000 000 000 00	00 057 500 000 00	40.000/	
1	NEXTERA ENERGY INC	NEE US	USD USD	4,899,300,000.00	36,513,000,000.00	37,202,000,000.00			
2	SOUTHERN CO/THE	SO US		3,618,000,000.00	27,972,000,000.00	27,874,000,000.00			
3	EXELON CORP	EXC US	USD	2,544,200,000.00	32,585,000,000.00	34,393,000,000.00			
4	DOMINION ENERGY INC	D US	USD	4,420,900,000.00	23,730,000,000.00	25,525,000,000.00			
5	DUKE ENERGY CORP	DUK US	USD	4,298,000,000.00	46,002,000,000.00	47,334,000,000.00			
6	PPL CORP	PPL US	USD	786,000,000.00	13,373,000,000.00	13,723,000,000.00	13,548,000,000.00		
7	AES CORP	AES US	USD						Excluded
8	CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC	CNP US	USD	730,000,000.00	5,985,000,000.00	8,628,000,000.00			
9	FIRSTENERGY CORP	FE US	USD	1,555,600,000.00	7,237,000,000.00	8,675,000,000.00		19.55%	
10	XCEL ENERGY INC	XEL US	USD	1,597,000,000.00	14,575,000,000.00	15,612,000,000.00		10.58%	
11	PUBLIC SERVICE ENTERPRISE GP	PEG US	USD	1,216,900,000.00	15,984,000,000.00	14,438,000,000.00		8.00%	
12	AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	AEP US	USD	2,382,100,000.00	20,596,100,000.00	22,476,500,000.00		11.06%	
13	NISOURCE INC	NI US	USD	576,400,000.00	4,872,200,000.00	5,400,800,000.00		11.22%	
14	EDISON INTERNATIONAL	EIX US	USD	1,772,000,000.00	14,048,000,000.00	15,888,000,000.00	14,968,000,000.00		
15	CONSOLIDATED EDISON INC	ED US	USD	1,528,000,000.00	18,847,000,000.00	20,037,000,000.00	19,442,000,000.00		
16	EVERSOURCE ENERGY	ES US	USD	1,330,200,000.00	14,063,566,000.00	14,599,800,000.00	14,331,683,000.00	9.28%	
17	SEMPRA ENERGY	SRE US	USD	2,585,000,000.00	20,226,000,000.00	25,072,000,000.00	22,649,000,000.00	11.41%	
18	WEC ENERGY GROUP INC	WEC US	USD	1,300,300,000.00	10,469,700,000.00	10,913,200,000.00	10,691,450,000.00	12.16%	
19	CMS ENERGY CORP	CMS US	USD	767,000,000.00	5,496,000,000.00	6,407,000,000.00	5,951,500,000.00	12.89%	
20	AMEREN CORPORATION	AEE US	USD	990,000,000.00	8,938,000,000.00	9,700,000,000.00	9,319,000,000.00	10.62%	
21	ALLIANT ENERGY CORP	LNT US	USD	659,000,000.00	5,688,000,000.00	5,990,000,000.00			
22	NRG ENERGY INC	NRG US	USD	704,200,000.00	1.680.000.000.00	3,680,000,000.00		26.28%	
23	EVERGY INC	EVRG US	USD	810,500,000.00	8,733,400,000.00	9,244,400,000.00			
24	ENTERGY CORP	ETR US	USD	1,715,800,000.00	10,926,142,000.00	11,637,300,000.00		15.21%	
25	DTE ENERGY COMPANY	DTE US	USD	1,325,400,000.00	12,425,000,000.00	8,705,000,000.00			
26	AMERICAN WATER WORKS CO INC	AWK US	USD	672.900.000.00	6,454,000,000.00	7,298,000,000.00			
27	ATMOS ENERGY CORP	ATO US	USD	665,600,000.00	6,791,203,000.00	7,906,900,000.00			
28	PINNACLE WEST CAPITAL	PNW US	USD	588,700,000.00	5,633,503,000.00	5,633,503,000.00			
29	Total	FINW US		46.039.000.000.00	399.843.814.000.00	423.993.403.000.00	412,191,305,500.00	11.17%	
30	Total		-	40,039,000,000.00	399,843,814,000.00	423,993,403,000.00	412, 191,303,300.00	11.1770	
31	¹ AES Corporation is excluded						Standard Deviation	Annroach	
32	Calculated as 2021 Net Income after de	aduction of all e	vnancae hut	hefore any non-			Standard Deviation	4.09%	
33	recurring, special, discontinued, and extra						95% Confidence	1.64	
33 34	Q4 2020 and Q4 2021 adjusted Common						Adder	6.70%	
	Q4 2020 and Q4 2021 adjusted Common	Equity. All ac	ijustea ligure:	s are as determined					in a 00 Oct (I) a Line 04 Oct (I)
35							2021 Threshold ROE	17.87% L	ine 29, Col. (I) + Line 34, Col. (I)
36									
37							1.5x Appro		
38							Adder	1.5	
39							2021 Threshold ROE	16.75% L	ine 29, Col. (I) multiplied by Line 38, Col. (I)
40							Cafa Haubau Au		
41							Safe Harbor Ap		
42							Adder	2%	in - 00, 0 -1 (l) - 1 in - 40, 0 -1 (l)
43							2021 Threshold ROE	13.1/%_L	ine 29, Col. (I) + Line 42, Col. (I)

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