

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
INSPIRE ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC FOR
WAIVERS OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
OHIO ADM.CODE CHAPTERS 4901:1-21
AND 4901:1-29, TO PERMIT THIRD-PARTY
VERIFICATION BY DIGITAL
CONFIRMATION.

CASE NO. 22-29-GE-WVR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 14, 2022

{¶ 1} Inspire Energy Holdings, LLC (Inspire or Applicant) is an electric services company and retail natural gas supplier as defined in R.C. 4928.01 and 4929.01, is certified to provide competitive retail electric service and competitive retail natural gas service under R.C. 4928.08 and 4929.20 and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4928.16 and 4929.24.

{¶ 2} On January 11, 2022, the Applicant submitted an application to the Commission requesting waivers of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-21-06(D)(1)(h), Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-21-06(D)(2)(a), Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-29-06(D)(6)(b), and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-29-06(E)(1). Inspire seeks waivers of certain rules governing the third-party verification (TPV) process for new customers enrolled through sales channels requiring TPV. Applicant contends that the requested waivers will enable Inspire to offer customers the ability to complete the verification process through digital confirmation. Applicant contends that digital TPV enables better, faster, more accurate enrollment verification and a greatly enhanced customer experience, without diminishing any consumer protections afforded by the Commission's rules.

{¶ 3} On April 15, 2022, the attorney examiner issued an entry setting a procedural schedule in the case, setting deadlines for motions to intervene and initial comments, and for reply comments for May 31, 2022, and June 15, 2022, respectively.

{¶ 4} On May 31, 2022, Staff filed its initial comments. Also on May 31, 2022, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, LLC, the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), Ohio Poverty Law Center, Pro Seniors, Inc., and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services filed initial comments.

{¶ 5} On June 10, 2022, Staff filed a motion for leave to file instant amended comments and to extend the procedural schedule. Specifically, Staff notes that new information has come into its possession since it filed its initial comments that have changed its commentary on Inspire's application for waivers, and that an extension of time would allow interested parties sufficient time to file reply comments to Staff's amended comments.

{¶ 6} In its memorandum in support of its motion, Staff states that the Commission would benefit from a full record in the case, which includes Staff's updated recommendations. Staff requests that the deadline to file reply comments be moved to June 21, 2022, and that no party opposes the request for an extension of time; however, Staff also states that OCC opposes Staff's request for an expedited ruling on Staff's motion for leave to file its amended comments.

{¶ 7} Upon review, the attorney examiner finds that the unopposed motion to extend the procedural schedule is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, reply comments shall be filed by June 21, 2022.

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the motion to extend the procedural schedule be granted in accordance with Paragraph 7. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Jesse M. Davis

By: Jesse M. Davis
Attorney Examiner

GAP/mef

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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in

Case No(s). 22-0029-GE-WVR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting the motion to extend the procedural schedule and setting the due date for reply comments to July 21, 2022, accordingly electronically filed by Ms. Mary E. Fischer on behalf of Jesse M. Davis, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio