

# 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 17, 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 for 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} On June 14, 2022, the attorney examiner, by Entry, granted Staff's motion to extend the deadline for the filing of reply comments in the case to June 21, 2022.

{¶ 8} Upon review, the attorney examiner finds that Staff's unopposed motion to file amended comments is reasonable and should be granted. The attorney examiner here notes that in the seven days since the filing of Staff's motion to file instant, amended comments, no party has opposed the motion.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the motion to file amended comments be granted in accordance with Paragraph 8. It is, further,

{¶ 11} 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

MJA/hac

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the motion to file amended comments be granted electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Jesse Davis, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio