### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for an Increase in Electric Distribution Rates.	)	Case No. 21-887-EL-AIR
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Tariff Approval.	)	Case No. 21-888-EL-ATA
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.	)	Case No. 21-889-EL-AAM

### PREFILED TESTIMONY IN RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE STAFF REPORT

**OF** 

#### DAVID M. LIPTHRATT RATES AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

STAFF EXHIBIT\_\_\_

- 1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.
- A. My name is David M. Lipthratt. My address is 180 East Broad Street,
- 3 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

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- 5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (the Commis-
- sion or PUCO) as a Public Utilities Administrator within the Rates and
- 8 Analysis Department.

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- 10 3. Q. Please briefly describe your educational and professional background.
- 11 A. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree that included a Major in Political
- Science and a Minor in History from the University of Georgia.
- Subsequently, I earned a Masters in Public Administration degree with a
- focus on public budgeting and finance and policy analysis from the
- University of Georgia. In addition, I earned a post-baccalaureate Certificate
- of Accounting Concentration at Columbus State Community College. I am
- a Certified Public Accountant (Ohio License # CPA.48876). Moreover, I
- have attended various seminars and rate case training programs sponsored
- by this Commission, professional trade organizations, and the utility
- 20 industry community.

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- 1 4. Q. Please describe your work experience.
- A. I have previously served as a Budget/Management Analyst for the Ohio
- Office of Budget and Management and a Fiscal Officer for the Ohio
- 4 Department of Commerce. In each of these roles I have been responsible
- for various accounting and financial-related tasks and responsibilities.

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- 7 5. Q. Have you testified in previous cases at the PUCO?
- 8 A. Yes.

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- 10 6. Q. What are your responsibilities in this proceeding?
- 11 A. I am the case team manager and oversaw Staff's review of the Application.

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- 13 7. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
- A. The purpose of my testimony is to respond to the Ohio Consumers
- 15 Counsels' (OCC) objections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, and 23.

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#### **OCC Objection 1 – Revenue Requirement**

- 8. Q. OCC objects to the revenue requirement for base rates and other charges to
- Duke's customers claiming it is unjust and unreasonable. Please respond.
- A. Given the components of the Stipulation and Recommendation filed in this
- case (Stipulation), Staff believes the revenue requirement is reasonable.
- After reviewing all parties' objections, Staff has made several corrections

and updates resulting in a revenue increase of \$22.6 million which Staff

deems to be reasonable. See Exhibit A which is the stipulated Schedule A-1

and Exhibit C which is the stipulated Schedule C-2.

- Q. Explain the adjustments made from the Staff Report of Investigation to
   arrive at the stipulated revenue requirement.
- A. Embedded within the stipulated revenue requirement are the following adjustments to the Staff Report of Investigation:
  - The Stipulation reflects approximately an additional \$2.12 million (\$1.75 million allocated to distribution) added to rate base associated with land that was incorrectly recorded as land held for future use; however, was used and useful. See Exhibit B which is the stipulated Schedule B-1.
  - The Stipulation reflects the elimination of \$509,771 in depreciation expense on leased transportation equipment as it was already accounted for in other operating expenses. The Stipulation also addresses an Excel cell reference issue related to omission of the Envision Center, which increases the depreciation expense by \$1,722,248. Lastly, the Stipulation reflects an approximate \$1 million reduction in annualized test year depreciation expense associated with these corrections. See Exhibit E for the stipulated Schedule C-3.4.

The Stipulation reflects a reduction of approximately \$5.9 million of 1 revenue associated with updating the billing determinants to reflect 2 weather normalized actual sales for the twelve months ending March 3 31, 2022. See Exhibit D for a stipulated Schedule C-3.1. 4 The Stipulation reflects a reduction of approximately \$0.65 million 5 of miscellaneous revenue associated with updating pole attachment 6 revenue to actuals. See Exhibit D and Exhibit J for a stipulated 7 Schedule C-3.1 and Schedule C-3.22. 8 In response to OCC objection B.1, which is discussed in more detail 9 10 below, the Stipulation reflects approximately an additional \$663,114 as result of updating the test year operating expenses using the 11 average of the five-year period of calendar years 2017 through 2021. 12 See Exhibit F for a stipulated Schedule C-3.8. 13 The Stipulation reflects a decrease of approximately \$4.3 million in 14 labor related test year operating expenses. See Exhibit G for a 15 stipulated Schedule C-3.14. 16 The Stipulation reflects approximately an additional \$34,469 17

stipulated Schedule C-3.20.

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associated with miscellaneous expenses. See Exhibit H for a

The Stipulation reflects approximately an additional \$198,240
 associated with out-of-period expenses. See Exhibit I for a stipulated
 Schedule C-3.21.

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- 5 10. Q. Does the Stipulation make any other changes to the revenue requirement?
- A. Yes. As a result of these adjustments, there were flow through impacts
  associated with taxes and uncollectible expenses. Additionally, the
  Signatory Parties have modified the recommended rate of return as
  discussed by Staff witness James Zell.

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#### OCC Objection 2 – Revenue Requirement

- 12 11. Q. OCC objects that the Staff Report did not adjust the annual revenue cap for
  the Distribution Capital Investment Rider (Rider DCI) to reflect Duke's
  failure to meet its minimum Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
  required reliability standards. Please respond.
- 16 A. In Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO, Rider DCI caps were set for years 2018

  17 through 2025. In only two of those years were cap amounts dependent on

  18 Duke meeting their reliability goals, 2019 and 2020. Duke met their

  19 reliability goals in both years. From years 2021 through 2025, the Rider

  20 DCI cap amounts were not tied to reliability standards from the prior year.

  21 Staff does not believe Duke should be penalized in their caps in the instant

case for a reliability metric that the original Rider DCI caps were not tied to.

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#### OCC Objection 3 – Rate Base and Operating Income

- OCC claims the Staff Report harms consumers by adopting Duke's method of calculating normalization of major event day distribution storm recovery expense. OCC asserts the costs for the years from 2017 through 2021 are more recent; therefore, they can be expected to be more reflective of costs likely to be incurred during the rate effective period going forward. Please respond.
  - A. The Stipulation addresses this objection. The Stipulation reflects a reduction of approximately \$663,114 as a result of using the average of the five-year period of calendar years 2017 through 2021.

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#### **OCC Objection 4 – Rate Base and Operating Income**

- 13. Q. OCC objects that the Staff Report did not remove all short-term incentive compensation expense from operating expense and rate base. Please respond.
- A. During the course of the investigation, the Company provided information
  that indicated portions of the incentive compensation programs were based
  on stock-based compensation and financial metrics such as earnings per

share (EPS) and portions were based on operations and safety metrics.<sup>1</sup> The Staff Report removed incentive compensation based on stock-based compensation and financial metrics in order to create a reasonable balance for allocating costs associated with incentive compensation between ratepayers and shareholders. This is consistent with Staff past practices and Commission rulings in prior rate cases.

Regarding Staff's adjustment to rate base, Staff removed the capitalized financial incentives that were reflected as an offset to the revenue requirement in Rider DCI, pursuant to the Commission's Order in the Company's previous rate case. This adjustment was based on the portion of incentive compensation attributable to financial performance. In addition, Staff adjusted capitalized incentive compensation attributable to financial performance to both general and common plant accounts using the same methodology used in the Company's Rider DCI filings for the distribution plant accounts.

#### OCC Objection 5 - Rate Base and Operating Income

19 14. Q. OCC objects that the Staff Report did not reflect gains on the disposition of
 property. Please respond.

Staff Data Request 4, Attachments F and G.

A. Staff believes that whether or not ratepayers should receive gains on 1 disposition of property should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. OCC 2 has not sufficiently demonstrated the need to reflect the gains in the 3 revenue requirement in this case. Further, the Stipulation proposes that the 4 gains on disposition of property be approved as proposed in the Company's 5 Application. Staff believes that the Stipulation represents a fair and 6 reasonable compromise of issues raised among the signatory parties. 7 8 Therefore, Staff recommends that no modifications to the Stipulation be 9 made regarding this issue.

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#### **OCC Objection 6 – Rate Base and Operating Income**

- 12 15. Q. OCC objects that the Staff Report did not remove costs and fees related to
   the Board of Directors. Please respond.
- A. Staff acknowledges that it did not consider the issue during its
  investigation. The Stipulation proposes that the Board of Directors costs
  issue be approved as proposed in the Company's Application. Staff
  believes that the Stipulation represents a fair and reasonable compromise of
  issues raised among the signatory parties. Therefore, Staff recommends that
  no modifications to the Stipulation be made regarding this issue.

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#### OCC Objection 16 – Riders

- 2 16. Q. OCC claims that the Staff Report harms consumers by failing to

  recommend that Duke be prohibited from modifying its existing riders or

  proposing new riders as part of this base distribution rate case. Does Staff

  agree?
- A. The objection is a legal issue before the Commission. I am not an attorney and therefore do not have a response.

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#### 9 OCC Objection 23 - ESRR

- 10 17. Q. In Objection 23, OCC objects that Staff did not consider the necessity of
  the Electric Service Reliability Rider (ESRR) and did not propose new
  spending caps for the rider. Does Staff agree?
- A. No, Staff does not agree. The Commission approved the ESRR, with

  spending caps, as part of Duke's most recent ESP case, Case No. 17-1263
  EL-SSO. The ESRR provides an important benefit to ratepayers because it

  allows Staff to audit all of Duke's vegetation management expenses for

  prudence. While the Staff Report does not speak to the necessity of the

  ESRR, Staff supports its continuation.

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- 20 18. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- A. Yes. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony as new information subsequently becomes available.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the **Pre-filed Testimony of David M. Lipthratt** has been served upon the below-named counsel via

#### /s/ Robert Eubanks

#### **Robert Eubanks**

#### **Parties of Record:**

mkurtz@BKLlawfirm.com kboehm@BKLlawfirm.com jkylercohn@BKLlawfirm.com mwarnock@bricker.com kherrnstein@bricker.com ktreadway@oneenergyllc.com idunn@oneenergyllc.com dborchers@bricker.com kherrnstein@bricker.com Fdarr2019@gmail.com paul@carpenterlipps.com rdove@keglerbrown.com nbobb@keglerbrown.com trent@hubaydougherty.com Rocco.dascenzo@duke-energy.com Jeanne.kingery@duke-energy.com Larisa.vaysman@duke-energy.com elyse.akhbari@duke-energy.com ebrama@taftlaw.com

electronic mail, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2022.

Bethany.allen@igs.com Joe.oliker@igs.com Evan.betterton@igs.com Stacie.cathcart@igs.com michael.nugent@igs.com ilang@calfee.com gjewell@calfee.com gwhaling@calfee.com sfranson@calfee.com dromig@nationwideenergypartners.com Bojko@carpenterlipps.com cgrundmann@spilmanlaw.com dwilliamson@spilmanlaw.com cpirik@dickinsonwright.com todonnell@dickinsonwright.com mmcdonnell@dickinsonwright.com angela.obrien@occ.ohio.gov ambrosia.wilson@occ.ohio.gov john.finnigan@occ.ohio.gov connor.semple@occ.ohio.gov

#### **Attorney Examiners:**

matthew.sandor@puco.ohio.gov nicholas.walstra@puco.ohio.gov

#### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR OVERALL FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

#### Schedule A-1

LINE NO.	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING SCHEDULE REFERENCE	JU	IRISDICTIONAL PROPOSED TEST YEAR	STIPULATED
1	Rate Base	B-1	\$	2,068,551,045	\$ 2,037,893,433
2	Current Operating Income	C-1	\$	107,787,484	\$ 122,213,489
3	Earned Rate of Return (Line 2 / Line 1)			5.21%	6.00%
4	Requested Rate of Return	D-1A		7.26%	6.86%
5	Required Operating Income (Line 1 x Line 4)		\$	150,176,806	\$ 139,735,001
6	Operating Income Deficiency (Line 5 - Line 2	2)	\$	42,389,322	\$ 17,521,512
7	Gross Revenue Conversion Factor	A-2		1.2901147	1.2877642
8	Revenue Deficiency (Line 6 x Line 7)		\$	54,687,087	\$ 22,563,576
9	Revenue Increase Requested	E-4	\$	54,686,965	\$ 22,563,576
10	Adjusted Operating Revenues	C-1	\$	546,778,619	\$ 555,522,154
11	Revenue Requirements (Line 9 + Line 10)		\$	601,465,584	\$ 578,085,730

#### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR JURISDICTIONAL RATE BASE SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

SCHEDULE B-1 PAGE 1 OF 1

LINE NO.	RATE BASE COMPONENT	SUPPORTING SCHEDULE REFERENCE	COMPANY PROPOSED AMOUNT	STIPULATED
1	Plant In Service	,	,	
2	Distribution	B-2	\$ 3,107,662,041	\$ 3,104,918,512
3	General	B-2	460,604,544	447,237,242
4	Common	B-2	219,458,649	218,907,067
5	Total Plant In Service		3,787,725,234	3,771,062,821
6	Reserve for Accumulated Depreciation			
7	Distribution	B-3	(695,777,783)	(695,456,813)
8	General	B-3	(179,270,154)	(177,473,947)
9	Common	B-3	(92,346,221)	(92,173,977)
10	Total Reserve for Accumulated Depreciation		(967,394,158)	(965,104,737)
11	Net Plant In Service (Line 5 + Line 10)		2,820,331,076	2,805,958,084
12	Construction Work in Progress	B-4	0	0
13	Cash Working Capital Allowance	B-5	0	0
14	Material and Supplies	B-5	31,710,429	0
15	Other Items:			
16	Contributions in Aid of Construction (a)	B-6	0	
17	Customer Service Deposits	B-6	(13,932,491)	(13,932,491)
18	Postretirement Benefits	B-6	10,225,439	10,225,439
19	Investment Tax Credits	B-6	0	0
20	Excess Deferred Income Taxes	B-6	(195,368,779)	(195,368,779)
21	Deferred Income Taxes	B-6	(606,954,811)	(591,529,002)
22	Other Rate Base Adjustments	B-6	22,540,182	22,540,182
23	Rate Base (Line 11 through Line 22)		\$ 2,068,551,045	\$ 2,037,893,433

<sup>(</sup>a) Contributions in aid of construction are already netted against gross plant per FPC Order No. 490.

## DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR ADJUSTED TEST YEAR OPERATING INCOME FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

SCHEDULE C-2 PAGE 1 OF 1

LINE NO.	DESCRIPTION	ı	UNADJUSTED REVENUE & ADJU EXPENSES		E & ADJUSTMENTS		ADJUSTMENTS RE		ADJUSTED REVENUE & EXPENSES
1	OPERATING REVENUES								
2	Base Revenue and Riders	\$	617,296,302	\$	(74,702,899)	\$	542,593,403		
3	Fuel Cost Revenue		0		0		-		
4	Other Operating Revenue		8,680,178		4,248,573		12,928,751		
5	Total Operating Revenues		625,976,480		(70,454,326)	\$	555,522,154		
6									
7	OPERATING EXPENSES								
8	Operation and Maintenance Expenses								
9	Production Expenses		•		•		•		
10	Fuel Cost		0		0		0		
11	Other		0		0		0		
12	Total Production Expense		0		0		0		
13 14	Transmission Expense		74.067.154		· ·		0		
15	Distribution Expense		74,067,154		(930,704)		73,136,450		
16	Customer Accounts Expense Customer Service & Information Expense		26,712,466 2,366,433		(6,897,863) (76,096)		19,814,603 2,290,337		
17	•				,		4,538,852		
17	Sales Expense Administrative & General Expense		4,614,766 44,379,267		(75,914) (5,453,252)		38,926,015		
19	Amortization of Deferred Expense		3,625,534		(306,590)		3,318,944		
20	Total Operation and Maintenance Expense		155,765,620		(13,740,419)		142,025,201		
21	Total Operation and Maintonance Expense		100,700,020		(10,710,110)		1-12,020,201		
22	Depreciation Expense		123,683,601		(1,046,003)		122,637,598		
23					(1,010,000)		,,		
24	Taxes Other Than Income Taxes								
25	Other Federal Taxes		3,036,256		304,134		3,340,390		
26	State and Other Taxes		211,647,376		(69,719,669)		141,927,707		
27	Total Taxes Other Than Income Taxes		214,683,632		(69,415,535)		145,268,097		
28									
29	State and Municipal Income Taxes								
30	Normal and Surcharge		37,463		78,491		115,954		
31	Provision for Deferred Income Taxes		404,779		23,123		427,902		
32	Total State Income Tax Expense		442,242		101,614		543,856		
33									
34	Federal Income Taxes								
35	Normal and Surcharge		1,585,355		3,321,482		4,906,837		
36	Provision for Deferred Income Taxes		16,948,392		978,684		17,927,076		
37	Total Federal Income Tax Expense		18,533,747		4,300,166		22,833,913		
38	Total On south a Femous and T.		E40 400 040		(70,000,477)		400 000 005		
39	Total Operating Expenses and Taxes		513,108,842		(79,800,177)		433,308,665		
40 41	Net Operating Income	\$	112,867,638	\$	9,345,851	\$	122,213,489		

### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR ANNUALIZED REVENUE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

WORK PAPER REFERENCE NO(S).: WPC-3.1a, WPC-3.1b

SCHEDULE C-3.1 PAGE 1 OF 1

	TOTAL		ALLO	CATION	JURISDICTIONAL	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	7	TOTAL	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: To eliminate unbilled revenue and to adjust test year base and other revenues to the amounts calculated on Schedule E-4.						
Billed Base Revenue Adjustments Unbilled Revenue	\$ (	2,956,998 (13,813,607)	DALL DALL	100.000% 100.000%	\$ 2,956,998 (13,813,607)	
Total Base Revenue	\$ (	10,856,609)			\$ (10,856,609)	
					$\downarrow$	
				Т	o Sch C-3 Summary	
Other Revenue	<u>\$</u>	(1,107,084)	DALL	100.000%	\$ (1,107,084)	
					$\downarrow$	
				Т	o Sch C-3 Summary	

### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR ANNUALIZED DEPRECIATION EXPENSE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

SCHEDULE C-3.4 PAGE 1 OF 1

PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	TOTAL AMOUNT	ALLC	<u>CATION</u>	JURISDICTIONAL
PORPOSE AND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL AMOUNT	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: To reflect the adjustment to annualized depreciation expense as shown on Schedule B-3.2 based on plant at June 30, 2021.				
Total	\$ (1,046,003)	DALL	100.000%	\$ (1,046,003)
			-	To Sch C-3 Summarv

### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR NORMALIZATION OF MED DISTRIBUTION STORM RECOVERY EXPENSES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

SCHEDULE C-3.8 PAGE 1 OF 1

PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	TOTAL ALLOCATION		JURISDICTIONAL
FURFUSE and DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: Normalization of MED distribution storm recovery expenses.				
Total	\$ 117,666	DALL	100.000%	\$ 117,666
			7	Го Sch C-3 Summary

# DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR ANNUALIZE TEST YEAR WAGES, PAYROLL TAXES, PENSION and BENEFITS, & INCENTIVE COMPENSATION FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

WORK PAPER REFERENCE NO(S).: WPC-3.14a through WPC-3.14f

SCHEDULE C-3.14 PAGE 1 OF 1

To Sch C-3 Summary

PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	Schedule/ Work Paper Reference	4	TOTAL AMOUNT	ALLOCATION CODE PERCENT		JURISDICTIONAL AMOUNT	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: To annualize test year payroll costs, payroll taxes and pension and benefits using 12 months ended June 2021							
Total Annualized Test Year Wages	Staff WPC-3.14a	\$	(480,765)	DALL	100.000%	\$	(480,765)
Total Incentive Compensation Adjustment	Staff WPC-3.14c	\$	(6,696,448)			\$	(5,165,841)
Total FERC 912 Demonstrating and Selling Adjusment	Staff WPC-3.14c	\$	(2,706,172)			\$	(63,641)
Total Annualized Pension and Benefits Adjustment	Staff WPC-3.14d		856,674	DALL	100.000%		856,674
		\$	(9,026,711)			\$	(4,853,573)
						To So	h C-3 Summary
Total Annualized Payroll Taxes Adjustment	Staff WPC-3.14e	\$	124,049	DALL	100.000%	\$	304,134

## DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

SCHEDULE C-3.20 PAGE 1 OF 1

	TOTAL		CATION	JURISDICTIONAL	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: To adjust test year for removal of expenses associated with dues to various organizations.					
Total	<u>\$0</u>	DLAB	82.585%	<u>\$0</u>	
			7	♦ Γο Sch C-3 Summary	

# DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR OUT OF PERIOD EXPENSES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

WORK PAPER REFERENCE NO(S).: WPC-3.21a,b,c,d

SCHEDULE C-3.21 PAGE 1 OF 1

To Sch C-3 Summary

DUDDOOF I DECODIDEION	TOTAL		CATION	JURISDICTIONAL
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION: To adjust test year for removal of expenses incurred prior to the test year.				
O&M Accounts Full Jurisdiction	0	DALL	100.000%	0
O&M Accounts Partial Jurisdiction	0	DLAB	82.585%	0
Total	\$0			\$0
				<b>↓</b>

### DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. CASE NO. 21-887-EL-AIR POLE ATTACHMENT REVENUES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

WORK PAPER REFERENCE NO(S).: Staff WPC-3.22

SCHEDULE C-3.22 PAGE 1 OF 1

PURPOSE I PESSPIRTION	TOTAL	ALLO	CATION	JURISDICTIONAL	
PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CODE	PERCENT	AMOUNT	

**PURPOSE and DESCRIPTION:** To adjust test year pole attachment revenue to reflect normalized revenue and to reflect an increase in the pole attachment tariff rate.

Adjusted Pole Attachment Revenue 3,086,882

Test Year Pole Attachment Revenue 1,988,254

 Adjustment to Pole Attachment Revenue
 \$ 1,098,628
 DALL
 100.000%
 \$ 1,098,628

To Sch C-3 Summary

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Case No(s). 21-0887-EL-AIR, 21-0888-EL-ATA, 21-0889-EL-AAM

Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony In Response To Objections To The Staff Report Of David M. Lipthratt. Rates And Analysis Department, Public Utilities Commission Of Ohio electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M. Naeder on behalf of PUCO