

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Ohio Power Company to Initiate its) Case No. 19-1475-EL-RDR
gridSMART[®] Phase 3 Project)

JOINT MOTION TO ADJUST THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DEADLINE

In accordance with Paragraph III.O of the Stipulation and Recommendation adopted by the Commission’s Opinion and Order in this case, Staff was to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) by December 1, 2022 to select a consultant to complete the operational benefits assessment associated with gridSMART Phase 3. For the reasons stated in the attached memorandum in support, Ohio Power Company (AEP Ohio) and the Staff of the Commission (collectively “Movants”) jointly request that the RFP deadline be continued to December 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven T. Nourse _____
Steven T. Nourse (0046705)
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: (614) 716-1608
Fax: (614) 716-2950
Email: stnourse@aep.com
Counsel for Ohio Power Company

(Willing to accept service by email)

/s/ Thomas Lindgren

Thomas Lindgren

Assistant Attorney General

Public Utilities Section

30 East Broad Street, 26th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

614.644. 8768 (telephone)

866.419.2743 (fax)

Thomas.Lindgren@OhioAGO.gov

Counsel for the Staff of

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Extension of the RFP deadline will be in the public interest because circumstances have developed that support a delay in order to more accurately capture operational savings associated with the technology deployments in this case.

For example, material shortages for components used to build AMI meters and network communications equipment have been the norm since 2020 and remain acute. Primarily, this a result of the worldwide shortage of semiconductors, though other components have extended lead times as well. The overall impact is that lead times are now 12 – 14 months for AMI network equipment (Itron) and 15 – 16 months (or more) for AMI meters (Aclara). In addition, recent conversations with our suppliers have indicated that, while both believe that the situation has stabilized, neither expect improvement until the 2nd half of 2023 or early 2024. Moreover, AEP Ohio's procurement experts are forecasting that improvements will not be realized until mid-2024.

Based upon these factors the AEP Ohio AMI team has adjusted the expected start of the Phase 3 AMI deployment, which was approved on December 1, 2021. The Company currently plans to begin meter installations in July 2023 and expect to have about 120,000 meters installed in the Phase 3 territory by the end of the year. This represents about 25% of the approximately 470,000 meters in Phase 3, with the remainder to be installed in 2024 and 2025. Assuming its suppliers can deliver materials to meet our planned schedule, the Company will not start to realize operational benefits from the Phase 3 AMI meters until 2024, at the earliest.

In addition, with respect to VVO deployment, the engineering time for deploying VVO is typically one year. Currently, 119 circuits are in different phases of engineering and 7 are

planned to be constructed by the end of 2022 and in-service in 2023. AEP Ohio expects approximately 43 to be in-service by the end of 2024. This represents 17% of the approximately 255 circuits approved in Phase 3. Customers benefits associated with Phase 3 VVO will not be substantial until after 2024.

Thus, in order to more accurately capture operational savings and design a rate credit that is more meaningful, commencement of the audit through issuance of an RFP should be delayed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Movants respectfully request that the Commission extend the RFP deadline to December 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: (614) 716-1608
Fax: (614) 716-2950
Email: stnourse@aep.com
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/s/ Thomas Lindgren

Thomas Lindgren
Assistant Attorney General
Public Utilities Section
30 East Broad Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414
614.644. 8768 (telephone)
866.419.2743 (fax)
Thomas.Lindgren@OhioAGO.gov

**Counsel for the Staff of
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a service copy of the foregoing was sent by, or on behalf of, the undersigned counsel to the following parties of record this 1st day of December 2022, via electronic transmission.

/s/ Steven T. Nourse

Steven T. Nourse

EMAIL SERVICE LIST

Michael.Nugent@igs.com

Joe.Oliker@igs.com

Evan.Betterton@igs.com

KBoehm@BKLawfirm.com

MKurtz@BKLawfirm.com

JKylerCohn@BKLawfirm.com

Bojko@carpenterlipps.com

Paul@CarpenterLipps.com

DBorcher@bricker.com

DParram@bricker.com

rmains@bricker.com

whitt@whitt-sturtevant.com

GLPetrucci@voys.com

amy.botschner.obrien@occ.ohio.gov

william.michael@occ.ohio.gov

mmcdonnell@dickinsonwright.com

jweber@elpc.org

jonfkelly@sbcglobal.net

rdove@keglerbrown.com

rkelter@elpc.org

nvijaykar@elpc.org

rlazer@elpc.org

ctavenor@theoec.org

Fdarr2019@gmail.com

Attorney Examiner

greta.see@puc.state.oh.us

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Summary: Motion Joint Motion to Extend Deadline of the Request for Proposal.
electronically filed by Mr. Steven T. Nourse on behalf of Ohio Power Company