

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
ENHANCED SERVICE RELIABILITY RIDER
FOR 2020 AND 2021

CASE NO. 21-1268-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on January 19, 2023

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric distribution utility, as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(6), and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4928.141 provides that an electric distribution utility shall provide consumers within its certified territory a standard service offer (SSO) of all competitive retail electric services necessary to maintain essential electric services to customers, including a firm supply of electric generation services. The SSO may be either a market rate offer in accordance with R.C. 4928.142 or an electric security plan (ESP) in accordance with R.C. 4928.143.

{¶ 3} In Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved AEP Ohio's application for an ESP, which included approval of the enhanced service reliability rider (ESRR) through which the Company recovers costs associated with its enhanced vegetation management program. The ESRR is subject to Commission review and reconciliation on an annual basis. *In re Columbus Southern Power Co. and Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 08-917-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Mar. 18, 2009), Entry on Rehearing (July 23, 2009). In approving subsequent ESPs for AEP Ohio, the Commission has approved the continuation of the ESRR. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 11-346-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Aug. 8, 2012); *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 13-2385-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Feb. 25, 2015); *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Apr. 25, 2018).

{¶ 4} AEP Ohio's current ESRR rate was approved by the Commission on December 4, 2019. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 20-1454-EL-RDR, Finding and Order (Nov. 17, 2021).

{¶ 5} On December 27, 2021, AEP Ohio filed an application to reconcile its ESRR rate for 2021. AEP Ohio seeks an increase in its ESRR rate from 3.07070 percent to 5.98510 percent.

{¶ 6} On March 25, 2022, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene. No memoranda contra were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 7} On August 23, 2022, Staff filed its review and recommendations. As a part of its review, Staff recommends a total disallowance of \$66,098.26 for (a) license renewal expense of \$20.45, which the Company determined was not related to Ohio operations; and (b) customer education expenses of \$66,077.81, which the Staff determined was related to advertising rather than customer education as the work product included minimal materials that could be considered educational and directly beneficial to ratepayers. Staff's adjustments reduce the revenue requirement to \$53,838,508 and, therefore, Staff recommends the Company's application be at the ESRR rate of 5.90761 percent.

{¶ 8} On September 6, 2022, AEP Ohio filed a correspondence stating that, while the Company does not agree with Staff's recommended disallowance, AEP Ohio accepts Staff's position as a reasonable outcome to this case.

{¶ 9} In order to assist the Commission in its review of AEP Ohio's application, the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) Motions to intervene are due by January 27, 2023.
- (b) Initial comments are due by January 30, 2023.
- (c) Reply comments are due by February 6, 2023.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 9 be adopted.
It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons of
record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

MLW/hac

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Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

1/19/2023 11:35:32 AM

in

Case No(s). 21-1268-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that OCC's motion to intervene be granted and that the following procedural schedule should be established: (a) Motions to intervene are due by January 27, 2023. (b) Initial comments are due by January 30, 2023. (c) Reply comments are due by February 6, 2023 electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission