

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for an Increase in Natural Gas Rates.	)	Case No. 22-507-GA-AIR
	)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an Alternative Form of Regulation.	)	Case No. 22-508-GA-ALT
	)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Tariff Approval.	)	Case No. 22-509-GA-ATA
	)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.	)	Case No. 22-510-GA-AAM
	)	

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**PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY, INC.’S  
OBJECTION TO THE STAFF REPORT**

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In the above-captioned proceeding, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (“Duke”) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) for: an increase in natural gas rates; approval of an alternative form of regulation; approval of tariff modifications; and approval to change accounting methods (“Application”). On December 21, 2022, the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”) issued its Staff Report of Investigation (“Staff Report”) in this matter. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4909.18, Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-28(B), and the December 23, 2022 Entry issued in this matter, People Working Cooperatively, Inc. (“PWC”) hereby submits its objection to the Staff Report. PWC submits this objection without prejudice to or limitation upon its right to fully participate at the hearing in this matter, including the cross-examination of all witnesses, regardless

of whether or not PWC chooses to present witnesses in this case. Accordingly, PWC's objection to the Staff Report is as follows:

Both the Application and the Staff Report are silent with respect to the continuation of Duke's commitment of shareholder funding for residential weatherization assistance for low-income customers in Duke's service territory. For more than three decades, Staff has supported and the Commission has approved commitments by Duke to maintain its weatherization funding to PWC. These funds have been used by PWC for weatherization service to low-income customers in Duke's service territory.

PWC's weatherization services give low-income customers in Duke's service territory who are living in poorly insulated and drafty homes, a meaningful and significant opportunity to reduce their energy consumption. The weatherization program provides a way that is more effective than mere conservation for Duke's low-income customers to reduce their every-increasing energy bills.

The omission in the Staff Report of support for Duke's continuation of shareholder funding for the weatherization program for low-income customers should be corrected. Today, as a result of the increasingly difficult economic circumstances faced customers, PWC assists more low-income customers, especially elderly low-income customers, in Duke's service territory. The need for PWC's services is ever-expanding, thus, it is essential that these weatherization programs continue to be

funded and enhanced in order reduce any negative rate impact on low-income customers.

Should Staff modify its position on any of the matters addressed in the Staff Report, or should there be any issue newly raised by Staff or any other party to the case as the case proceeds from this filing of objections through closing of the record in this case, PWC reserves the right to file testimony, cross-examine witnesses, and address such other issues as if they were raised in the Staff Report.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik* \_\_\_\_\_

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced in the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to these cases. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing document is also being served upon the persons below via electronic mail this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik

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AAM**

Summary: Objection - OBJECTION TO THE STAFF REPORT electronically filed by  
Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of People Working Cooperatively, Inc.