

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
SMART CITY RIDER.

CASE NO. 20-252-EL-RDR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
SMART CITY RIDER.

CASE NO. 21-97-EL-RDR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY TO UPDATE ITS
SMART CITY RIDER.

CASE NO. 22-71-EL-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 28, 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 mandates that an electric distribution utility shall provide to all 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 service. 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} On April 25, 2018, the Commission issued an Opinion and Order in Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO (ESP IV) adopting AEP Ohio's proposed Smart City Rider (SCR). Among other things, the ESP IV decision approved the setup of a Microgrid Technology Demonstration project with a cap of \$10.5 million and an Electric Vehicle rebate program with a cap of \$10 million that allows for a 5 percent administration fee. These expenses are collected over the program's four-year life and expired April 28, 2022, except for any remaining true-ups and corrections that remain after the sunset period. The ESP IV decision requires quarterly filings to collect unrecovered program balances and states that these

filings are automatically approved 30 days after filing unless otherwise determined by the Commission.

{¶ 4} On January 29, 2020, the Company filed, in Case No. 20-252-EL-RDR, an application to update its SCR. This filing contained the Company's fourth quarter 2019 update to the SCR. The rates listed in the filing superseded the rates that became effective in the previous quarterly update and became effective with the first billing cycle of March 2020. As this quarterly update included actual expenses through December 2019, Staff used this application to conduct its annual audit to review all expenses charged to the SCR in 2019.

{¶ 5} On July 8, 2020, Staff filed its review and recommendation of the application filed in Case No. 20-252-EL-RDR. Staff states that it examined the as-filed schedules for consistency with the ESP IV order and to ensure proper accounting and regulatory treatment was applied. Staff conducted its review through a combination of document review, interviews, interrogatories, and on-site physical inspections. Based upon its review, Staff found that the expenses included in the SCR through December of 2019 were prudent and appropriate for recovery.

{¶ 6} On January 29, 2021, the Company filed, in Case No. 21-97-EL-RDR, an application to update its SCR. This filing contained the Company's fourth quarter 2020 update to the SCR. The rates listed in the filing superseded the rates that became effective in the previous quarterly update and became effective on the first billing cycle of March 2021. As this quarterly update included actual expenses through December 2020, Staff used this application to conduct its annual audit to review all expenses charged to the SCR in 2020.

{¶ 7} On November 8, 2021, Staff filed its review and recommendation of the application filed in Case No. 21-97-EL-RDR. Staff states that it examined the as-filed schedules for consistency with the ESP IV order and to ensure proper accounting and regulatory treatment was applied. Staff conducted its review through a combination of

document review, interviews, interrogatories, and on-site physical inspections. Based upon its review, Staff found that the expenses included in the SCR through December of 2020 were prudent and appropriate for recovery.

{¶ 8} On January 28, 2022, AEP Ohio filed, in Case No. 22-71-EL-RDR, an application to update its SCR. This filing contained the Company's fourth quarter 2021 update to the SCR. The rates listed in the filing superseded the rates that became effective in the previous quarterly update and became effective on the first billing cycle of March 2022. As this quarterly update included actual expenses through December 2021, Staff used this application to conduct its annual audit to review all expenses charged to the SCR in 2021.

{¶ 9} On December 27, 2022, Staff filed its review and recommendation of the application filed in Case No. 22-71-EL-RDR. Staff states that it examined the as-filed schedules for consistency with the ESP IV decision and to ensure proper accounting and regulatory treatment was applied. Staff conducted its review through a combination of document review, interviews, interrogatories, and on-site physical inspections. Based upon its review, Staff found that the expenses included in the SCR through December of 2021 were prudent and appropriate for recovery.

{¶ 10} At this time, the attorney examiner directs that any motions to intervene in any of the above-captioned cases should be filed by May 19, 2023. Any party wishing to file comments concerning the applications and/or staff reviews and recommendations in these case dockets should do so by May 19, 2023. Any reply comments must be filed by May 26, 2023. The attorney examiner also advises that parties should clearly delineate which case number(s) specific comments apply to if the comments are not applicable to all of the above-captioned cases.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 10 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/ David M. Hicks

By: David M. Hicks
Attorney Examiner

JSA/dmh

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in

Case No(s). 20-0252-EL-RDR, 21-0097-EL-RDR, 22-0071-EL-RDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that motions to intervene in any of the above-captioned cases should be filed by May 19, 2023; comments on applications and/or staff reviews and recommendations in these case dockets should be filed by May 19, 2023; reply comments must be filed by May 26, 2023; parties should clearly delineate which case number(s) specific comments apply to if the comments are not applicable to all of the above-captioned cases electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M. Hunter on behalf of David M. Hicks, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.