

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OPTICS CONSULTING, LLC FOR
CERTIFICATION AS A COMPETITIVE
RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER IN
OHIO.

CASE NO. 23-467-EL-AGG

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OPTICS CONSULTING, LLC FOR
CERTIFICATION AS A COMPETITIVE
RETAIL NATURAL GAS SERVICE
PROVIDER IN OHIO.

CASE NO. 23-471-GA-AGG

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on August 23, 2023

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves Optics Consulting, LLC's applications for certification as both a competitive retail electric service provider and a competitive retail natural gas service provider in Ohio.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

{¶ 2} R.C. 4928.08 provides that retail electric service suppliers that provide competitive retail electric service (CRES) must be certified by the Commission prior to providing CRES. The Commission reviews applications for certification to determine if the applicant has the managerial, technical, and financial capability to provide CRES and whether there are reasonable financial assurances sufficient to protect customers and electric companies from default. Pursuant to R.C. 4928.08 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-24-10, the application for certification shall be deemed approved 30 days after the filing of the application, unless the Commission suspends such approval.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4929.20 provides that retail natural gas suppliers that provide competitive retail natural gas service (CRNGS) must be certified by the Commission prior

to providing CRNGS. The Commission reviews applications for certification to determine if the applicant has the managerial, technical, and financial capability to provide CRNGS and whether there are reasonable financial assurances sufficient to protect customers and natural gas companies from default. Pursuant to R.C. 4929.20 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-27-10, the application for certification shall be deemed approved 30 days after the filing of the application, unless the Commission suspends such approval.

{¶ 4} On April 25, 2023, Optics Consulting, LLC (Optics Consulting or Applicant) filed an application for certification as a CRES power broker in Case No. 23-467-EL-AGG. In support of its application, Applicant provided information regarding its managerial, financial, and technical ability to provide CRES.

{¶ 5} On April 27, 2023, Optics Consulting filed an application for certification as a CRNGS aggregator in Case No. 23-471-GA-AGG. Applicant filed information regarding its managerial, financial, and technical ability to provide CRNGS in Ohio.

{¶ 6} In an Entry dated May 24, 2023, filed in both case numbers, the attorney examiner suspended the 30-day automatic approval process for Optics Consulting's applications in order to afford the Commission and Staff additional time to review the applications.

{¶ 7} On July 24, 2023, Staff filed a review and recommendation in both Case No. 23-467-EL-AGG and Case No. 23-471-GA-AGG. Staff notes that, in addition to the original submissions, Optics Consulting filed revisions to the financial sections of both applications on May 9, 2023. Staff states that, while reviewing the applications, questions arose regarding any relationship existed between Optics Consulting and another company, SOBE Thermal Energy Systems, LLC (SOBE). Subsequently, on July 14, 2023, Applicant filed correspondence to both dockets explaining that Optics Consulting is a privately owned company with no financial ties or lines of credit associated with any other company; furthermore, Applicant and SOBE are not shareholders of one another and have separate

bookkeeping and accounts. In sum, Staff states that its evaluation of the applications and all additional information provided lead to the conclusion that Optics Consulting's applications are in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code. Therefore, Staff recommends that the applications be approved.

{¶ 8} Upon review of the record in both cases, including the applications and Staff's recommendations, the Commission finds that Applicant appears managerially, financially, and technically fit and capable of performing as both a CRES power broker and CRNGS aggregator in compliance with all applicable regulations adopted pursuant to R.C. Chapters 4929 and 4928. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Optics Consulting's applications for certification as both a CRNGS and CRES provider should be approved for a period of two years.

III. ORDER

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Optics Consulting, LLC's application for certification as a CRES provider in Ohio be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That, Optics Consulting, LLC's application for certification as a CRNGS provider in Ohio be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair
Daniel R. Conway
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis P. Deters
John D. Williams

PAS/mef

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Case No(s). 23-0467-EL-AGG, 23-0471-GA-AGG

Summary: Finding & Order approving Optics Consulting, LLC's applications for certification as both a competitive retail electric service provider and a competitive retail natural gas service provider in Ohio. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E. Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.