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**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Vectren Retail, LLC d/b/a) Case No. 02-1686GA-CRS
Vectren Source for Certification)
as a Retail Natural Gas Supplier.)

**MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER
AND
FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL**

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July 5, 2002

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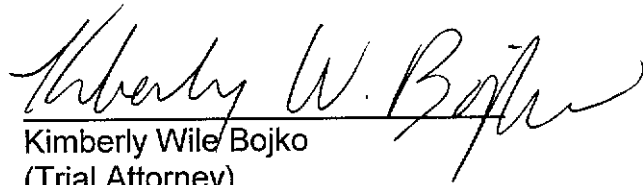
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Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 4901-1-24(D) of the Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C."), Vectren Retail, LLC d/b/a Vectren Source ("Vectren Source") respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") to issue a protective order to protect the confidentiality of and prohibit the disclosure of certain documents filed simultaneously with this motion in the above-captioned docket. The documents in Exhibits C-3 Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-3"), C-4 Financial Arrangements ("Exhibit C-4"), C-5 Forecasted Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-5"), and the Financial Services Agreement, which is supplemental information for Exhibit C-6 Credit Rating ("Exhibit C-6 Supplement") contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information comprising of trade secrets. These documents have been clearly marked as confidential and are hereby filed under seal, separate from the remainder of the materials that comprise Vectren Source's Application for Certification filed simultaneously with this Motion.

Additionally, Vectren Source respectfully requests expedited approval of its application for certification in this proceeding no later than July 11, 2002.

The grounds for the instant Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,



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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Contemporaneously with this Motion for Protective Order and Memorandum in Support, Vectren Source filed its Application for Certification to become a Retail Natural Gas Supplier. The Application contains all of the required information and materials in accordance with the Commission's Certification Application for Retail Natural Gas Suppliers instructions and Rule 4901-1-24, O.A.C. As part of the Application materials, the Commission requested information regarding Vectren Source's financial statements ("Exhibit C-3"), financial arrangements ("Exhibit C-4") forecasted financial statements ("Exhibit C-5"), and the Financial Services Agreement, which is supplemental information for Exhibit C-6 ("Exhibit C-6 Supplement"). Vectren Source has submitted the requested information under seal because the documents contain competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information, which require confidential treatment. Consequently, Vectren Source requests that the Commission maintain the confidential nature of these documents and the information contained therein, and protect the documents from public disclosure.

Rule 4901-1-24(D), O.A.C., provides for the issuance of an order that is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed at the Commission to the extent that state and federal law prohibit the release of such information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code ("R.C."). State law recognizes the need to protect information that is confidential in nature, as is the information contained in Exhibits C-3, C-4, C-5, and C-6 Supplement, as Section 4929.23(A), R.C., specifically permits the Commission to grant confidentiality to competitive information.¹ Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., facilitate the protection of trade secrets in the Commission's possession.² Sections 4901.12 and 4905.07, R.C., reference Section 149.43, R.C., and, therefore, incorporate the provision that excepts from the public record information and records of which the release is prohibited by law.³ State law prohibits the release of information meeting the definition of a trade secret. Additionally, non-disclosure of the information will not impair the purposes of Title 49 as the Commission

¹ Section 4929.23(A), R.C., provides: "A retail natural gas supplier or governmental aggregator subject to certification under section 4929.20 of the Revised Code shall provide the public utilities commission with such information, regarding a competitive retail natural gas service for which it is subject to certification, as the commission considers necessary to carry out sections 4929.20 to 4929.24 of the Revised Code. The commission shall take such measures as it considers necessary to protect the confidentiality of any such information."

² Section 4901.12, R.C., provides: "Except as otherwise provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all proceedings of the public utilities commission and all documents and records in its possession are public records."

Section 4905.07, R.C., provides: "Except as provided in section 149.43 of the Revised Code and as consistent with the purposes of Title XLIX [49] of the Revised Code, all facts and information in the possession of the public utilities commission shall be public, and all reports, records, files, books, accounts, papers, and memorandums of every nature in its possession shall be open to inspection by interested parties or their attorneys."

³ Section 149.43(A)(1)(v), R.C., provides in part: "'Public record' does not mean records the release of which is prohibited by state or federal law."

and its Staff will have full access to the requested information in order to complete their review process.

The documents and information contained in Exhibits C-3, C-4, C-5, and C-6 Supplement are comprised of competitively sensitive and highly proprietary business financial information falling within the statutory characterization of a trade secret as defined by Section 1333.61(D), R.C.. The definition of trade secret contained in Section 1333.61(D), R.C., is as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any business information or plans, **financial information**, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

Section 1333.61(D), R.C. (emphasis added).

Clearly, financial statements, financial arrangements, and forecasted financial statements contain proprietary data and are confidential. Public disclosure of this information would jeopardize Vectren Source's business position in negotiations with other parties and its ability to compete. Vectren Source asserts that this information is not generally known by the public and is held in confidence in the normal course of business. Therefore, Vectren Source reasonably requests that the financial information

contained in Exhibits C-3 Financial Statements, C-4 Financial Arrangements, C-5 Forecasted Financial Arrangements and C-6 Supplement be deemed to contain trade secrets, and thus, be treated as confidential by this Commission and its Staff.

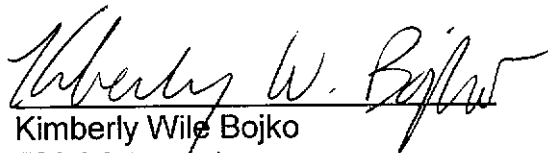
Additionally, Vectren Source hereby requests a waiver from Rule 4901-1-24(F), O.A.C., which causes any order prohibiting public disclosure of certain documents to automatically expire eighteen (18) months after the date the order was issued. Given the extremely sensitive nature of the requested documents, Vectren Source believes that a waiver of this rule is necessary. The information is proprietary now and will be in eighteen (18) months; the sensitive nature of this information will remain and the need to keep the information from public disclosure will not diminish. Thus, it is imperative to maintain the information as confidential and for the Commission to continue its protection from public disclosure. As such, Vectren Source respectfully requests that the Commission grant a waiver from Rule 4901-1-24(F), O.A.C., to prevent the information that has been filed under seal from being removed from protective status and placed into the public record of the proceeding.

Finally, Vectren Source requests expedited approval of its application for certification in this proceeding no later than July 11, 2002. On June 27, 2002, Vectren Source entered into an agreement with the New Power Company ("NewPower") to acquire NewPower's natural gas customers in the service territories of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. and Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. This agreement is subject to review and approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Atlanta, Georgia. A hearing for this purpose has been scheduled for July 12, 2002. Prior approval of the certification application will contribute to a positive outcome in the Bankruptcy Court and will benefit

customers by increasing the likelihood of an orderly and seamless transfer to a reliable natural gas supplier.

WHEREFORE, Vectren Source respectfully requests that this Motion for Protective Order and For Expedited Approval be granted for the reasons set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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