

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Vectren Retail, LLC d/b/a)
Vectren Source for Certification)
as a Retail Natural Gas Supplier.) Case No. 02-1668-GA-CRS

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

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May 4, 2006

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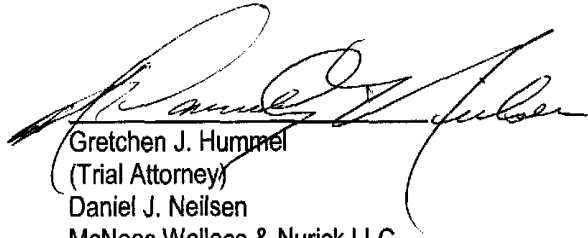
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MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

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"), and C-5 Forecasted Financial Statements ("Exhibit C-5"), 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 Renewal Certification Application filed simultaneously with this Motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretchen J. Hummel", is written over the printed name and title.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Contemporaneously with this Motion for Protective Order and Memorandum in Support, Vectren Source filed its Renewal Certification Application for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Suppliers ("CRNGS"). The Application contains all of the required information and materials in accordance with the Commission's Certification Application for Retail Natural Gas Suppliers Renewal 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"), and forecasted financial statements ("Exhibit C-5"). 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, and C-5, 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. Further, protecting the information contained in these exhibits, at least to the extent the information was protected in Vectren Source's 2004 Renewal Certification Application, would be consistent with the Commission's previous actions inasmuch as these exhibits contain the same types of financial data that the Commission protected in Vectren Source's two previous Applications for certification as a CRNGS.⁴

The documents and information contained in Exhibits C-3, C-4, and C-5 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).

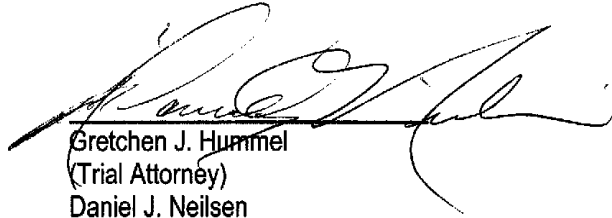
⁴ See *In the Matter of the Applications of the Following Entities for a Certificate to Provide Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service in Ohio*, PUCO Case Nos. 02-1654-GA-CRS, *et al.*, AE Entry at 3 (July 14, 2003). See also *In the Matter of the Applications of Vectren Retail, LLC, d/b/a as Vectren Source, et al., for Certification as Retail Natural Gas Suppliers in the State of Ohio*, PUCO Case Nos. 02-1668-GA-CRS, *et al.*, AE Entry at 3 (August 11, 2004).

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, and C-5 Forecasted Financial Arrangements 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

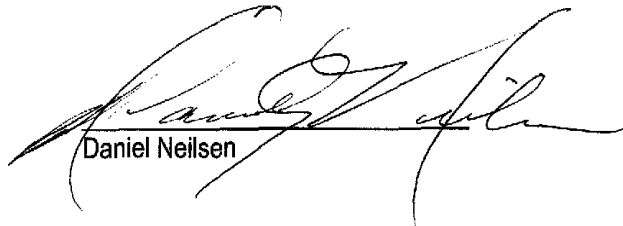
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing *Motion for Protective Order* of Vectren Retail, LLC, filed in Case No. 02-1668-GA-CRS, was served upon the following party of record this 4th day of May 2006, via electronic transmission, hand delivery, or ordinary U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.



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