

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR AN
INCREASE IN ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION
RATES.

CASE NO. 20-585-EL-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR TARIFF
APPROVAL.

CASE NO. 20-586-EL-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
TO CHANGE ACCOUNTING METHODS.

CASE NO. 20-587-EL-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on December 1, 2020

{¶ 1} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio or the Company) is an electric light company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} In Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission modified and approved a stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) filed by AEP Ohio, Staff, and numerous other signatory parties, which authorized the Company to implement an electric security plan for the period of June 1, 2018, through May 31, 2024. Among the commitments in the Stipulation, AEP Ohio agreed to file a base distribution rate case by June 1, 2020. *In re Ohio Power Co.*, Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, et al., Opinion and Order (Apr. 25, 2018) at ¶ 45.

{¶ 3} On April 29, 2020, in the above-captioned cases, AEP Ohio filed a pre-filing notice of its intent to file an application for approval of an increase in its electric distribution rates, tariff modifications, and changes in accounting methods.

{¶ 4} On June 8, 2020, AEP Ohio filed its application to increase its rates pursuant to R.C. 4909.18.¹ AEP Ohio filed direct testimony in support of its application on June 15, 2020.

{¶ 5} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to the application. On November 18, 2020, as corrected on November 25, 2020, Staff filed a written report of its investigation (Staff Report).

{¶ 6} By Entry dated November 23, 2020, the attorney examiner established a procedural schedule.

{¶ 7} On November 25, 2020, an unopposed joint motion to extend certain filing dates in the procedural schedule by 30 days, along with a request for expedited treatment, was filed by AEP Ohio, Staff, Interstate Gas Supply, Inc., Ohio Energy Group, Ohio Manufacturers' Association Energy Group, The Kroger Co., Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Walmart Inc., Direct Energy Business, LLC, Direct Energy Services, LLC, Ohio Hospital Association, ChargePoint, Inc., Nationwide Energy Partners, LLC, Clean Fuels Ohio, and Ohio Environmental Council (collectively, Joint Movants). Specifically, Joint Movants propose that testimony supporting objections to the Staff Report be filed by January 18, 2021; motions to strike objections to the Staff Report be filed by January 28, 2021; memoranda contra motions to intervene and memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report be filed by February 4, 2021; the prehearing conference be held on February 11, 2021; and the evidentiary hearing commence on March 4, 2021. Joint Movants note that the joint motion does not affect discovery deadlines or filing dates established by statute. In support of the joint motion, Joint Movants assert that the requested

¹ Due to the closure of the Commission's offices from June 1, 2020, through June 5, 2020, the application for a rate increase, which was submitted by AEP Ohio on June 1, 2020, was accepted for filing on June 8, 2020, and deemed timely filed in accordance with R.C. 1.14 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-07 and 4901-1-13. *In re the Extension of Filing Dates for Pleadings and Other Papers Due to a Building Emergency*, Case No. 20-1132-AU-UNC, Entry (June 8, 2020).

extension will enable the parties to conduct multiple settlement conferences in early January, in advance of the revised testimony deadline. Joint Movants further assert that, if their settlement discussions culminate in a stipulation and recommendation, testimony in support of objections to the Staff Report and motions to strike objections may not be necessary, and the parties will instead file testimony supporting or opposing the stipulation and recommendation. Joint Movants also state that their requested extension is subject to AEP Ohio's reservation of its right to obtain a timely order under R.C. 4909.42. Finally, Joint Movants represent that no party objects to the requested extension or to an expedited ruling on the joint motion.

{¶ 8} Upon review of the unopposed joint motion, the attorney examiner finds that Joint Movants' requested extension is reasonable and should be granted to the extent set forth in this Entry. Accordingly, the following procedural schedule should be adopted:

- (a) Direct expert testimony supporting objections to the Staff Report should be filed by January 19, 2021;
- (b) Motions to strike objections to the Staff Report should be filed by January 28, 2021;
- (c) Memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report should be filed by February 4, 2021;
- (d) The prehearing conference and technology test session will be held on February 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., through Webex; and
- (e) The evidentiary hearing will commence on March 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., through Webex.

{¶ 9} All other deadlines set forth in the November 23, 2020 Entry remain unchanged.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the motion for extension filed by Joint Movants be granted to the extent set forth in this Entry. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the revised procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 8 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Sarah J. Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

GAP/mef

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Case No(s). 20-0585-EL-AIR, 20-0586-EL-ATA, 20-0587-EL-AAM

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting the motion for extension and revising the procedural schedule. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Sarah J. Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio