

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. FOR
AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD
SERVICE OFFER PURSUANT TO R.C.
4928.143 IN THE FORM OF AN ELECTRIC
SECURITY PLAN.

CASE NO. 24-278-EL-SSO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. FOR
AUTHORITY TO AMEND TARIFFS,
INCLUDING ITS CERTIFIED SUPPLIER
TARIFF, P.U.C.O. NO. 20 AND TO
IMPLEMENT NEW TARIFFS.

CASE NO. 24-279-EL-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC. FOR
ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY, INCLUDING
ANY NECESSARY DEFERRALS.

CASE NO. 24-280-EL-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on February 19, 2025

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission finds that Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. has stated good cause and, therefore, the motion for interim relief to conduct the auctions should be granted in the manner proposed in the motion.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke) is an electric distribution utility, as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(6), and a public utility, as defined under R.C. 4905.02. As such, Duke is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4928.141 mandates that an electric distribution utility shall provide 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, to all consumers within its certified territory. 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.

{¶ 4} Most recently, in Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO, et al., the Commission approved, pursuant to a stipulation filed in that case, Duke's application for its fourth ESP (ESP IV) to commence on June 1, 2018, and to continue through May 31, 2025, pursuant to R.C. 4928.143. *In re Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 17-1263-EL-SSO, Opinion and Order (Dec. 19, 2018).

{¶ 5} On April 1, 2024, Duke filed an application that, if approved, would establish its fifth ESP for a period to commence on June 1, 2025, and continue through May 31, 2028.

{¶ 6} On November 27, 2024, Duke filed a stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation) purporting to resolve all issues in the proceedings. A majority of intervenors signed the Stipulation either as signatory or non-opposing parties, though several parties did not sign the Stipulation.

{¶ 7} An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding commenced on January 22, 2025, and concluded on January 23, 2025.

{¶ 8} On January 31, 2025, Duke filed a motion for interim relief to conduct SSO auctions and a request for expedited treatment. In its motion, Duke requests that the Commission authorize the Company to conduct two full requirements SSO auctions consistent with the competitive bidding process (CBP) approved in Duke's current ESP IV and as modified by the stipulating parties in the pending Stipulation. Duke notes that the modifications to the CBP process consist of minor modifications to the wording of Attachments C and H of the application in this proceeding. Duke seeks to procure supply for the 12-month period commencing June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026, as the PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) base residual auction (BRA) has occurred for the 2025/2026

delivery year. According to Duke, it is significant that PJM has already held the BRA for the 2025/2026 delivery year in that the Company will not need to include a capacity proxy price for this auction, which is a modification proposed by the Stipulation. Duke proposes the following auction/procurement schedule to meet its commitments: SSO Auction 1 – March 18, 2025; SSO Auction 2 – April 15, 2025; Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Auction – April 28, 2025; PIPP Supplemental Auction (if necessary) – May 12, 2025. Duke states that each SSO auction would procure 50 percent (or 50 tranches) of SSO load through a 12-month product for the period June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. Duke requests this relief since it believes a Commission decision on the Stipulation will likely not be final before Duke’s proposed auctions listed above and possibly not before May 31, 2025. Duke notes that an auction is necessary prior to June 1, 2025, since that would be the beginning of the first delivery period under Duke’s proposed fifth ESP, and this relief would provide certainty to suppliers participating in Duke’s SSO auctions, as well as would capture favorable market conditions potentially present this year. Further, according to Duke, the above auction timeline affords sufficient time to subsequently conduct the PIPP supply requests prior to the end of April 2025. Duke asserts that it cannot certify that no party objects to this motion but states that, at the time of filing, no party had yet indicated opposition to the motion.

{¶ 9} No memoranda contra were filed.

{¶ 10} Upon review of the motion, the Commission finds that Duke has stated good cause and, therefore, the motion for interim relief to conduct SSO auctions should be granted. We direct Duke to conduct the proposed full requirements SSO auctions and subsequent PIPP auction(s) in the manner proposed in the motion. We note, however, that our approval of Duke’s request to conduct SSO auctions should not be construed as pre-approval of the Stipulation. Further, nothing in this Entry should be construed as limiting or restricting the right of any party to these proceedings to oppose the Stipulation.

{¶ 11} As a final matter, the Commission notes that we reserve the right to review and modify any feature of the SSO auction process, as the Commission deems necessary

based upon our continuing oversight of the process, including any reports on the auctions provided to the Commission by the independent auction manager, Duke, Staff, or any consultant retained by the Commission.

III. ORDER

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That Duke's motion for interim relief to conduct SSO auctions should be granted, consistent with the modifications outlined in this Entry. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons and parties of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

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

MJS/dmh

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in

Case No(s). 24-0278-EL-SSO, 24-0279-EL-ATA, 24-0280-EL-AAM

Summary: Entry ordering that the Commission finds that Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. has stated good cause and, therefore, the motion for interim relief to conduct the auctions should be granted in the manner proposed in the motion electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M. Hunter on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.