FILED
May 19, 2023
INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

#### STATE OF INDIANA

#### INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

VERIFIED PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER ) COMPANY (I&M) FOR APPROVAL OF (1) ISSUANCE TO I&M OF CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-8.5-2 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PURCHASE SALE AGREEMENTS (PSA) OF TWO SOLAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES TO BE KNOWN AS LAKE TROUT, AND **MAYAPPLE** (CLEAN **ENERGY** PROJECTS); (2) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER PURSUANT TO IND. CODE § 8-1-2.5-5 DECLINING TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION UNDER. IND. CODE § 8-1-8.5-5(e) (3) APPROVAL OF EACH PSA PROJECT AS A CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-8.8-11; (4) APPROVAL OF TWO SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR PROJECTS TO BE KNOWN AS ELKHART COUNTY AND SCULPIN (CLEAN ENERGY PPA PROJECTS) AS CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-8.8-11; (5) ASSOCIATED TIMELY COST RECOVERY UNDER IND. CODE § 8-1-8.8-11 FOR ALL PSA AND PPA PROJECTS; AND (6) OTHER ACCOUNTING AND RATEMAKING AUTHORITY. )

**CAUSE NO. 45868** 

#### INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. 3

TESTIMONY OF OUCC WITNESS BRIAN R. LATHAM

MAY 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

T. Jason Haas

Attorney No. 34983-29 Deputy Consumer Counselor

# TESTIMONY OF OUCC WITNESS BRIAN R. LATHAM CAUSE NO. 45868

#### INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY

#### I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

1	Q:	Please state your name and business address.
2	A:	My name is Brian R. Latham, and my business address is 115 West Washington
3		Street, Suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
4	Q:	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
5	A:	I am employed as a Utility Analyst in the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer
6		Counselor's ("OUCC") Electric Division. A summary of my educational
7		background and experience is included in Appendix A attached to my testimony.
8	Q:	Have you previously testified before the Commission?
9	A:	Yes.
10	Q:	What is the purpose of your testimony?
11	A:	I discuss Indiana Michigan Power Company's ("I&M" or "Petitioner") proposed tax
12		treatment for its two planned purchase sale agreement projects ("Clean Energy
13		PSA projects"), the Lake Trout and Mayapple projects. My testimony is in
14		response to portions of I&M witnesses Williamson and Hodgson testimonies.
15 16	Q:	To the extent you do not address a specific item or adjustment, should that be construed to mean you agree with Petitioner's proposal?
17	A:	No. The absence from my testimony of a reference to any specific item or
18		adjustment proposed by I&M does not indicate my approval of that item or
19		adjustment. Furthermore, I am offering no opinion on the validity of the
20		underlying data I&M offered, or the propriety of I&M's proposed methodologies.

#### II. RELIEF REQUESTED

1	Q:	What tax treatment is I&M requesting in this cause?
2	A:	I&M plans to utilize production tax credits ("PTC") rather than investment tax
3		credits ("ITC") for its Clean Energy PSA projects. PTC benefits are generally
4		available for a ten-year period beginning when the asset is placed in service.
5		Petitioner is requesting to amortize its PTC benefits over twenty years.
6	Q:	What are the differences between the PTC and the ITC?
7	A:	The ITC is a one-time credit based on a percentage of the project's capital cost
8		whereas the PTC is a credit spread over ten years and is based on electricity
9		generated. In the case of I&M, the ITC credit benefit must be normalized over the
10		regulatory life of the project. Normalization spreads the ratepayer benefits over
11		the depreciable life of the project. PTC is not subject to normalization rules that
12		govern the ITC, hence the ten-year PTC recovery period.
13	Q:	What are the benefits to ratepayers if I&M uses the PTC instead of the ITC?
14	A:	The net present value ("NPV") of the expected PTC is \$87 million greater than
15		NPV of the expected ITC. Both PSA projects (Lake Trout and Mayapple)
16		individually have PTC NPVs that are \$42 million higher than their respective ITC
17		NPVs.1 This result is consistent with other comparable analyses performed by
18		other utilities.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Direct Testimony of Andrew Williamson, p. 10, Figure AJW-2.

1	Q:	What is the PTC credit amount?
2	A:	The PTC credit is \$0.0275 per kilowatt hour. <sup>2</sup> The PTC offers 10% bonus credits
3		for projects that meet energy community requirements and domestic content
4		requirements, respectively. If I&M meets these requirements, I&M would be
5		allowed to earn PTC at 120 percent or $\$0.033$ per kilowatt hour $(1.2 * \$0.0275)$ .
6 7	Q:	Does I&M anticipate meeting the requirements to earn the PTC bonus credits?
8	A:	I&M anticipates meeting the requirements to earn PTC at the 100 percent level but
9		is unable to determine if it will be able to meet the requirements necessary for
10		either bonus PTC. <sup>3</sup>
11	Q:	Are there any limitations using PTC credits?
12	A:	Yes. PTCs are a component of General Business Credits which are limited to 75
13		percent of the taxpayer's tax liability prior to applying any credits. These credits
14		may be carried forward for up to twenty years or back one year to offset tax
15		liabilities.
16	Q:	How are carried forward PTC credits recognized for accounting purposes?
17	A:	Carried forward PTC credits are recognized as a deferred tax asset on the balance
18		sheet. Deferred tax assets are considered accumulated deferred federal income

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  United States, Internal Revenue Service. "Credit for Renewable Electricity Production and Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factors and Reference Prices for Calendar Year 2022; Correction. 87 Fed. Reg. 2704 (May 6, 2022).
<sup>3</sup> Direct Testimony of David Hodgson p. 8, ll. 14-20.

taxes which will be included in the Company's weighted average cost of capital in
 future base cases, as cost-free capital.<sup>4</sup>

#### Q: Are PTCs transferrable to third parties?

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A:

4 A: Yes. PTCs are transferrable with the qualification that any amount paid by a taxpayer as consideration for a credit must be in cash.<sup>5</sup>

### Q: How is Petitioner proposing to utilize PTCs for the benefit of I&M's customers?

Petitioner proposes to utilize deferral accounting to extend PTCs over twenty years. I&M states that this proposal will provide greater rate equity among customers over the life of the resource. I&M also states that spreading the PTC provisions over 20 years increases its cash flows and reduces risk that its credit risk will raise increasing its cost of debt.<sup>6</sup>

As PTCs are earned I&M will defer the difference between the produced PTC value and the annual amortized PTC expense as a regulatory liability. The regulatory liability would reduce I&M's rate base and provide ratepayers a return based on Petitioner's weighted average cost of capital. PTCs generated will be either utilized to offset a tax liability or monetized through a third-party sale. The difference in the face value of the credit and the net proceeds of any PTC transfers will reduce the net realized value of the PTC and therefore the regulatory liability.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Hodgson Direct, p. 9, 11. 20-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Hodgson Direct, p. 11, ll. 3-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Direct Testimony of Andrew Williamson, p. 12, ll. 1-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Williamson Direct, p. 11, ll. 8-10.

#### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1 2	Q:	Does the OUCC recommend the Commission accept I&M's proposal regarding its PTC treatment?
3	A:	No. The OUCC recommends several changes regarding how Petitioner plans to

4 treat PTC, as identified below.

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A:

Does the OUCC accept Petitioner's plan to estimate the PTC and return the credit to rate payers over twenty years.

No. Ratepayers deserve the credit in a timely manner. Spreading the PTC over 20 years is arbitrary and only serves to delay ratepayers their reduced rate. The OUCC recommends eleven years instead of twenty. Eleven years gives Petitioner one year past its ten-year PTC recovery period to return the credit to ratepayers. A twelfth year could be added if a true-up is necessary.

Cash flow from I&M's parent company's ("AEP") perspective is likely immaterial. AEP increased its dividend from \$0.70 per quarter in August 2020 to \$0.83 per quarter in November 2022, 8 an increase of 18.6 percent. AEP's dividend yield (as of February 8, 2023, its last ex-dividend date), was 3.45 percent. 9 The sector average dividend yield was 2.93 percent. 10 Cash flow does not appear to be an issue to I&M or AEP. Even if cash flow is an issue to I&M or AEP, the PTC credit belongs to ratepayers and should be returned to ratepayers in an expeditious manner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.tipranks.com/stocks/aep/dividends, April 19, 2023, included as Attachment BL-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id*.

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  *Id*.

1 Q: Does the OUCC have any recommendations regarding how Petitioner accounts for the PTC return to ratepayers?

Yes. The OUCC recommends that both I&M and AEP's taxable income should be considered when valuing PTC amounts. If either I&M or AEP has taxable income at a level that allows full recovery of the PTCs, ratepayers should receive the full value of the PTCs. This eliminates the possibility that Indiana ratepayers do not receive full credit because operations outside Indiana are not profitable for AEP.

The OUCC also recommends that the estimated PTC be returned to ratepayers each year with any over or under recovery netted against the following year's estimated recovery. This treatment encourages Petitioner to monetize any PTCs that are not used to offset I&M's or AEP's taxes (hypothetical taxes in the case of I&M) in the twelve months following year end. Year eleven would be the final reconciling year that would ensure that ratepayers recover the full amount of the PTC benefit. If year ten PTC was monetized due to a sale in year eleven, a twelfth year could be added if the reconciliation is material.

#### Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

17 A: Yes.

A:

#### **APPENDIX A**

#### **QUALIFICATIONS OF BRIAN R. LATHAM**

Q: Please describe your educational background and experience.

A: I graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, with a bachelor's degree in accounting. I then attended Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, and obtained a master's degree in accounting. In addition, I have participated in various continuing education programs sponsored by my current and former employers.

I began my employment in 1992 as a Staff Accountant with OSI Industries (Aurora, Illinois). In 1995, I was hired as a cost accountant at Rexnord in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1998, I was hired as a cost accounting manager at Morton Metalcraft (Morton, Illinois) eventually promoted to a Controller role at Illinois Machine and Tool Works. In 2001, was hired at Hamernik Associates, where I was a work-out and bankruptcy consultant. I was an independent financial recruiter in 2007 and 2008. In March 2008, I was hired as Vice President of Finance for Junior Achievement of Central Indiana. In 2009, I was hired as a Utility Analyst for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, where I worked as a member of the Water Division Staff, reviewing water and wastewater utility filings and making recommendations based on witness' testimony and Indiana law. In 2018, I was hired as Controller for Aqua Indiana, where I was responsible for Aqua Indiana's financial operations, and my roles included the oversight and accountability of the monthly, quarterly, and annual financial closings and

reporting, SOX and audit compliance, budget, forecasting, and five-year planning, regulatory petitions, acquisitions, and other strategic projects. After a short stint as Controller at Senior Home Companions, I was hired at the OUCC as a Utility Analyst in October 2022.

At the OUCC I have provided written testimony ranging from rate cases to clean energy generation facilities and regional transmission organization adjustments. I have worked on demand supply management relationships and commission investigation teams. I attended the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Accounting and Finance Spring Conference in early April 2023.

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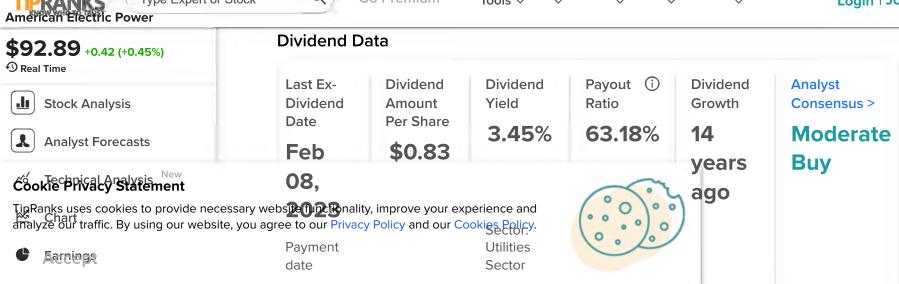
### **American Electric Power** (AEP) Dividend Date &



Tesla Re Sto by Today – Will it Beat Earnings Again?

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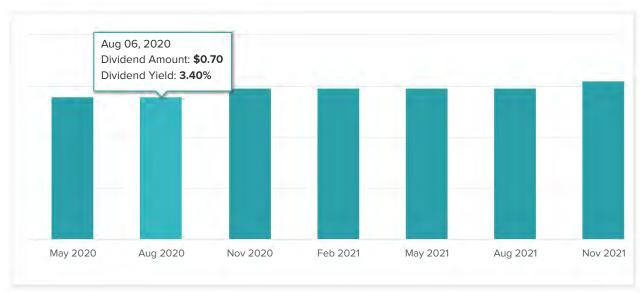






Open AEP in Dividend Calculator >

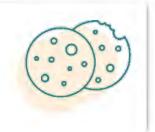
#### **Dividend Amount Per Share**

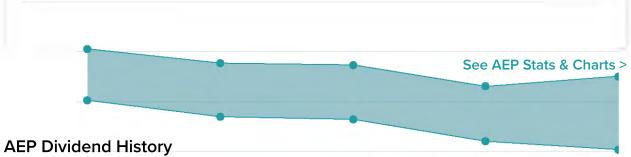


Daily Dividend Calendar >

#### **AEP Dividend Yield Range**

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Ex-Date	Amount	Frequency	Declaration Date	Record Date	Payment D
2016		2017	2018	2019	20
Feb 08, 2023	\$0.83	Quarterly	_	Feb 09, 2023	Mar 09, 20
Nov 08, 2022	\$0.83	Quarterly	Oct 24, 2022	Nov 09, 2022	Dec 08, 20
Aug 08, 2022	\$0.78	Quarterly	Jul 18, 2022	Aug 09, 2022	Sep 08, 20
May 08, 2022	\$0.78	Quarterly	Apr 25, 2022	May 09, 2022	Jun 09, 20
Feb 08, 2022	\$0.78	Quarterly	Jan 17, 2022	Feb 09, 2022	Mar 09, 20
Nov 08, 2021	\$0.78	Quarterly	Oct 18, 2021	Nov 09, 2021	Dec 09, 20
Aug 08, 2021	\$0.74	Quarterly	Jul 19, 2021	Aug 09, 2021	Sep 09, 20

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Feb 08, 2021 \$0.74 Quarterly



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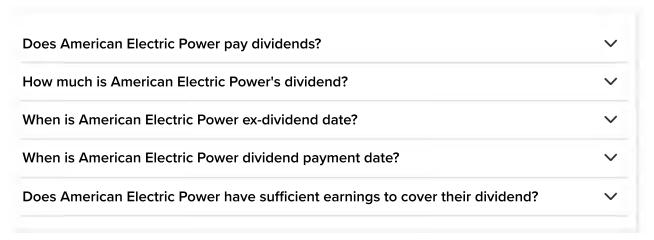
Feb 09, 2021 Mar 09, 20

**OUCC Attachment BRL-1** 

Nov 08, 2020 \$0.74 Quarterly Oct 17, 2020 Nov 09, 2020 Dec 09, 20

The table shows American Electric Power's dividend history, including amount per share, payout frequency, declaration, record, and payment dates.

#### **FAQ**



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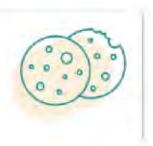


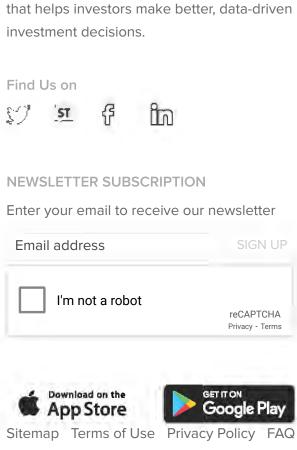
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#### **AFFIRMATION**

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true.

Brian R. Latham Utility Analyst

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

Cause No. 45868

Indiana Michigan Power Co.

BZA

May 19, 2023

Date

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a copy of the *OUCC's Testimony Public's Exhibit No. 3* has been served upon the following parties of record in the captioned proceeding by electronic service on May 19, 2023.

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