

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
Charlotte, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (the "Company"), which comprise the balance sheet — regulatory basis as of December 31, 2018, and the related statements of income — regulatory basis, retained earnings — regulatory basis, and cash flows — regulatory basis for the year then ended, included on pages 110 through 123 of the accompanying Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Form 1, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the regulatory-basis financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and proprietary capital of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. as of December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases.

### **Basis of Accounting**

As discussed in the opening paragraph in the notes to the financial statements, these financial statements were prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

**Restricted Use**

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the board of directors and management of the Company and for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

April 12, 2019