

**FILED**

NOV 15 2016

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION **MISS. PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION**

MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY  
EC-120-0097-00

DOCKET NO. 2009-UA-398

**IN RE: PETITION OF MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY FOR A  
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY  
AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND  
OPERATION OF ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE  
EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED FACILITIES**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION FOR FACILITY CERTIFICATE**

COMES NOW, Petitioner Mississippi Power Company ("MPC" or the "Company"), pursuant to the Mississippi Public Utility Act and the Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), and respectfully petitions the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") for a certificate that the present and future public convenience and necessity requires or will require the construction, acquisition, operation and maintenance of Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") equipment, technology and related facilities throughout the Company's service territory, as described herein, for use in connection with MPC's service to its customers in its certificated areas in the twenty-three (23) counties of southeastern Mississippi. In support of this petition, the Company would show as follows:

**OVERVIEW**

1. AMI is an infrastructure of hardware and software capable of capturing real-time or near real-time voltage, current, consumption, demand and other related information. On September 24, 2009, MPC submitted its initial Petition in this docket requesting authority to implement an AMI technology platform that would reduce MPC's meter-reading costs, improve customer satisfaction, enhance energy efficiency and demand-side capabilities, and provide safety benefits to MPC employees.

2. Since 2009, AMI technology and functionality has become even more advanced, and AMI now provides greater potential benefits for both our customers and our Company. Based on these developments, MPC has updated its request in this docket.

3. AMI integrates advanced metering, communications and informational technology to increase customer optionality, provide operational cost savings, and promote safety. For many of the same reasons discussed herein, AMI has become ubiquitous among utilities nationwide. AMI technology's ability to reduce site visits to customer premises will drive the technology's operational cost savings, and the ability to remotely read and interact with meters will provide a platform for new customer optionality.

#### **MPC'S PROPOSED AMI PROJECT**

4. In this Supplemental Petition, MPC is proposing a replacement of its current manual meter reading system, manual connection and disconnection process, and semi-manual outage notification system with a modern, mature Silver Spring technology that will automate these processes and provide long-term cost savings and operational efficiencies (the "Project").

5. Silver Spring was selected as the Project's technology vendor following a March 2016 Request for Pricing. Although MPC has actively monitored AMI technology development since even before this docket was created, over the past ten years, AMI technology has matured such that it was necessary for MPC to formally "check the market." Through the course of MPC's 2016 Request for Pricing, Silver Spring's technology was determined to provide the best opportunity for MPC to install a next generation AMI solution.

6. Upon Commission approval of this application, MPC will complete contract negotiations and secure purchase orders with the technology and installation vendor prior to actually replacing existing meters with new, AMI meters. MPC has assumed a twenty-four

month schedule for the Project, with a projected capital investment of approximately \$39 million incurred over the implementation period.

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION**

7. Schedule 3, Appendix "A" of the Commission's Rules establishes certain requirements applicable to facility certification petitions. The following information is being provided to meet the requirements of that Schedule.

8. A detailed description of the Project is provided in the attached pre-filed testimony of A. Nicole Faulk, Vice President of Mississippi Power Company's Customer Services Organization, and the attached pre-filed testimony of Ricky K. Follin, Metering Services Manager for Mississippi Power Company, both of which MPC will rely upon at the hearing of this matter.<sup>1</sup>

9. The estimated costs of the Project<sup>2</sup> is provided in the attached pre-filed testimony of Ms. Faulk, while the Project's implementation schedule is provided in the attached pre-filed testimony of Mr. Follin.<sup>3</sup>

10. An outline map of the utility's existing certificated area showing the locations of the proposed new facilities is not being provided herewith, because AMI meters will be installed at customer premises all across MPC's service territory.<sup>4</sup>

11. Approvals from health or pollution control authorities as are required in connection with the construction, acquisition, extension and operation of the facilities will be secured.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mississippi Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules), Schedule 3, Appendix "A", Item 4.

<sup>2</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix "A", Item 6.

<sup>3</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix "A," Item 10.

<sup>4</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix "A," Item 3.

<sup>5</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix "A," Item 5.

12. The estimated impact to rate base and rates of the proposed Project is discussed in the pre-filed direct testimony of Ms. Faulk.<sup>6</sup>

13. A list of “interested persons” as defined in Rule 2.115 is attached as Exhibit “A” hereto.<sup>7</sup>

14. MPC will acquire the materials and labor to construct these facilities in full conformity with the Mississippi Public Utility Act and the Rules of this Commission.

### **CONCLUSION**

15. The present and future public convenience and necessity requires or will require the construction, acquisition and operation of the equipment and facilities in such locations as described above and in the testimony accompanying this petition, all in connection with MPC’s service to its customers in southeast Mississippi.

16. The name, address and telephone number of the MPC employee from whom further information regarding these projects may be obtained is:

Mr. Billy F. Thornton  
Vice President, External Affairs  
Mississippi Power Company  
2992 West Beach Boulevard  
Post Office Box 4079  
Gulfport, MS 39502-4079  
Phone: (228) 865-5295

with copy to:

Ben H. Stone, Esq.  
Balch & Bingham LLP  
1310 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Post Office Box 130  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
Phone: (228) 214-0402  
[bstone@balch.com](mailto:bstone@balch.com)

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<sup>6</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix “A,” Item 8.

<sup>7</sup> Rules, Schedule 3, Appendix “A,” Item 9.

17. MPC has provided herewith all the information relevant to its petition and, therefore, requests a waiver of each and every other filing requirement that may be prescribed by the Commission's Rules.

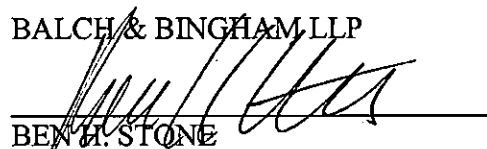
WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Mississippi Power Company requests that this petition be received and filed; that notice thereof be given by the Commission in the manner and form prescribed by law in all of the counties served by MPC, returnable to a date certain; that this Commission consider the same as soon after that date as reasonably possible; and that after having fully considered all the relevant evidence, this Commission enter an order granting Mississippi Power Company a certificate that the public convenience and necessity requires or will require the Company to construct, acquire, operate and maintain the facilities as stated above.

Respectfully submitted on this, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY

BY: BALCH & BINGHAM LLP

BY:

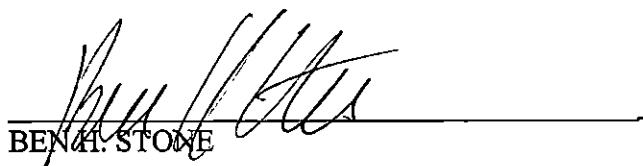
  
BEN H. STONE

BEN H. STONE  
Mississippi Bar No. 7934  
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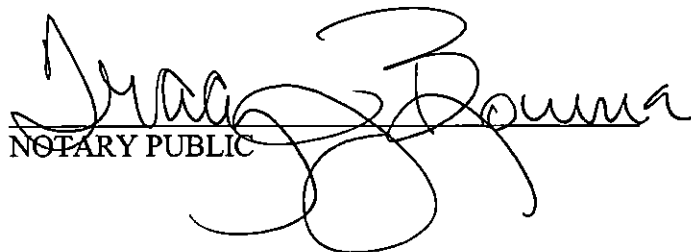
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF HARRISON

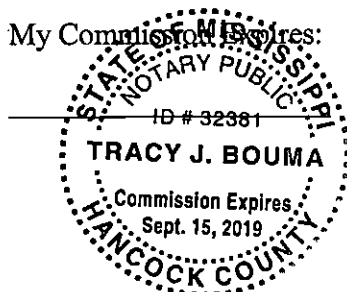
PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the said County and State, within my jurisdiction, the within named BEN H. STONE, who after being duly sworn on oath acknowledged that he is Attorney for MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY and that for and on behalf of the said MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY and as its act and deed, he signed and delivered the above and foregoing instrument of writing for the purposes mentioned on the day and year therein mentioned, after first having been duly authorized by said MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY so to do, and that the statements contained in the foregoing instrument are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

  
BEN H. STONE

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nov., 2016.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:



### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, BEN H. STONE, counsel for Mississippi Power Company in the Petition filed with the Mississippi Public Service Commission (the "Commission") of even date herewith do hereby certify that in compliance with Rule 6 of the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure (the "Rules"):

(1) An original and twelve (12) copies of the filing have been filed with the Commission by U.S. Mail to:

Katherine Collier, Esq.  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
501 North West Street, Suite 201A  
Jackson, MS 39201

(2) An electronic copy of the filing has been filed with the Commission via e-mail to the following address:

efile.psc@psc.state.ms.us

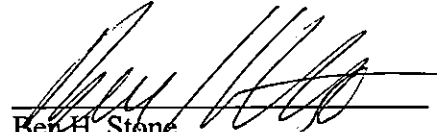
(3) A copy of the filing was served via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following parties of record:

Mr. Virden Jones  
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff  
501 North West Street, Suite 301B  
Jackson, MS 39201

(4) A copy of the Notice of Filing has been served upon each "interested person" listed in Exhibit B to this Petition via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

(5) MPC has complied with or requested a waiver of all other requirements of this Commission's Rules.

THIS, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

  
Ben H. Stone