

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

DOCKET NO. '17-AD- 001

IN RE:

**PROCEEDING TO INVESTIGATE AND REVIEW FOR INFORMATIONAL
PURPOSES A REDUCTION OF UTILITY RATES FOR THE FAMILIES OF
DEPLOYED SERVICEMEN**

COMES NOW the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") and issues this Order opening a proceeding to investigate and review, for informational purposes, a possible reduced rate structure for the families of deployed military servicemen in Mississippi.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-45, the Commission is authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to prescribe "such reasonable rules and regulations as may be reasonably necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of" the Public Utility Act ("the Act"). The Legislature has declared that one policy purpose underlying the Act is, "[t]o encourage the continued study and research for new and innovative rate-making procedures which will protect the state, the public, the ratepayers and the utilities...."¹

According to recent data provided by the Adjutant General's office, roughly 12,000 Mississippians are military servicemen available for deployment or currently deployed.² In light of both present and potential future economic conditions, the

¹ Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-2(g).

² Approximately 115 servicemen are currently on active deployment. This number reportedly changes weekly.

Commission desires to open a proceeding to investigate and review whether, and the extent to which, the families of such deployed servicemen may be entitled to receive reduced or modified utility rates during the period of active deployment.

The Commission requests that the Public Utilities Staff ("Staff") assist the Commission staff in this investigation and review. The Commission's intent of this investigation and review is for informational purposes only. The evaluation of any proposals would take place in the context of separate proceedings.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the Commission hereby opens this proceeding to investigate and review whether the adoption of a reduced rate structure for the families of deployed military servicemen is permissible, appropriate, and in the public interest.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Staff shall assist the Commission staff in this investigation and review.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall serve a copy of this Order and give notice as required by law.

This Order is effective immediately.

Chairman Brandon Presley voted yes; Vice Chairman Cecil Brown voted yes; Commissioner Samuel F. Britton voted yes.

THIS, the 6th day of December, 2016.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



BRANDON PRESLEY, CHAIRMAN

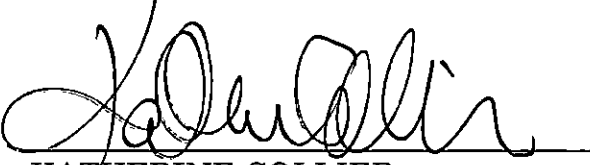


CECIL BROWN, VICE CHAIRMAN



SAMUEL F. BRITTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY



KATHERINE COLLIER
Executive Secretary

Effective this, the 5th day of January 2017, ~~December, 2016~~.