

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. '18-AD- 64

IN RE: ORDER ESTABLISHING DOCKET TO INVESTIGATE THE
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED
RESOURCE PLANNING RULE

ORDER ESTABLISHING DOCKET

The Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") hereby initiates this docket to investigate and consider the development and adoption of a rule defining an Integrated Resource Planning process for regulated electric utilities in Mississippi. Pursuant to its authority under Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-45, the Commission states:

I.

Integrated Resource Planning ("IRP") is a long-range planning process that requires a utility to forecast its future energy demand and evaluate how that demand can most efficiently and cost-effectively be met. Comprehensive IRP considers and incorporates a full range of resources, including supply-side resources, demand-side resources, and transmission, to determine which mix of resources most effectively minimizes future energy system costs while ensuring safe and reliable operation of the system for both the company and the rate-payers.

As of 2015, more than two-thirds of the States had implemented integrated resource or other long-term planning requirements to ensure the supply of least-cost

and stable electric service to customers over the long-term.¹ Such an approach is notably consistent with the policy declarations underlying the Mississippi Public Utility Act. As set forth in Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-2:

The Legislature hereby declares to be the policy of the State of Mississippi:

- (a) To provide fair regulation of public utilities in the interest of the public;
- ...
- (c) To promote adequate, reliable and economical service to all citizens and residents of the state;
- (d) To provide just and reasonable rates and charges for public utility services without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive competitive practices and consistent with the long-term management and conservation of energy resources by avoiding wasteful, uneconomic and inefficient uses of energy;
- ...
- (f) To foster the continued service of public utilities on a well-planned and coordinated basis that is consistent with the level of service needed for the protection of public health and safety and for the promotion of the general welfare....

II.

The Commission previously considered and rejected the adoption of a *federal* IRP standard in Docket No. 2008-AD-477. In doing so, however, the Commission noted that, “by declining to implement the[] federal standards, the Commission is not precluded from establishing its own standards at a later date in order to address the same issues.”² The Commission finds that the time is now right to reconsider the establishment of an IRP process to address the specific needs of Mississippi electric utilities and rate-payers.

¹ See U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Cutting Power Sector Carbon Pollution: State Policies and Programs,” at p. 48 (June 2016), available at www.epa.gov.

² See Dec. 15, 2009 Order, ¶ 6 (Docket No. 2008-AD-477)

The Commission understands that most electric utilities serving Mississippi customers already conduct internal, long-term resource planning. Nevertheless, one of the Commission's primary motivations for the development of a formal IRP rule is the desire for transparency. It is the goal of the Commission to create a framework for long-term utility planning that not only fits the specific needs of Mississippi customers, but also allows regulators to stay informed and engaged during the planning process.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All interested persons and all electric utilities over which this Commission has regulatory authority are invited to become parties and to submit written testimony or comments regarding the development and adoption of a rule defining an IRP process for regulated electric utilities in Mississippi, including whether such a Rule should be adopted or rejected;

(2) All parties desiring to submit testimony or comment shall do so within sixty (60) days of publication of notice of this proceeding in a newspaper of general circulation published in Jackson, Mississippi.

(3) The Executive Secretary of the Commission is hereby instructed to serve a copy of this Order on Entergy Mississippi, Inc., Mississippi Power Company and on all parties who intervened in the EISA standards docket (No. 2008-AD-477). The Executive Secretary of the Commission is further instructed to publish notice of this proceeding in a newspaper of general circulation published in Jackson, Mississippi.

(4) Following its receipt and review of written comments, the Commission will, if appropriate, prepare and publish for further comment a draft IRP Rule in accordance with the provisions of the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law, Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-43-1.101 *et seq.*

This Order shall be deemed issued on the day it is served upon the parties herein by the Executive Secretary of this Commission, who shall note the service date in the file of this Docket.

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

SO ORDERED, this the 9th day of May, 2018.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



[Signature]
BRANDON PRESLEY, CHAIRMAN

[Signature]
CECIL BROWN, VICE-CHAIRMAN

[Signature]
SAMUEL F. BRITTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: A True Copy

[Signature]
Katherine Collier,
Executive Secretary

Effective this the 9th day of May, 2018.