

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

ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI, LLC
EC123008200

DOCKET NO. 2021-UA-81

IN RE: PETITION BY ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONTINUE TO MAKE RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO AND MODERNIZE ITS TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**ORDER APPROVING PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

THIS CAUSE came before the Mississippi Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) on the Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“Certificate” or “CCN”) (the “Petition”) filed by Entergy Mississippi, LLC (“Entergy Mississippi”, “EML”, or the “Company”), pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-1 *et. seq.*, as amended (the “Act”), and RP 7.102 of the Commission’s Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Procedural Rules”) seeking authorization from the Commission for Entergy Mississippi to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate and maintain its transmission facilities by expanding and upgrading EML’s Franklin 500 kilovolt (“kV”) Substation to a breaker-and-a-half bus scheme. This project is within the certificated public utility service area of the Company in Franklin County, Mississippi and is referred to in this Petition as the “Proposed Electrical Facilities.”¹ The Commission, having considered the Petition and all evidence submitted, including all testimony and documents filed with the Commission, and being fully advised in the premises,

¹ The term “Proposed Electrical Facilities” includes all project-related work identified in the Petition and supporting testimony, including the work identified in Paragraph 2 of this Order.

and upon the recommendation of the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (the “Staff”), finds as follows:

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. The Petition was filed on May 25, 2021. In support of the Petition, Entergy Mississippi filed as Attachments the pre-filed Direct Testimony of Chad A. Ladner and Milton T. Watts².

2. Entergy Mississippi requested in the Petition that the Commission grant Entergy Mississippi a CCN to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities, including the following:

- Acquire 10 acres to expand the Franklin 500 kV Substation;
- Expand 500 kV bus to the west as required;
- Install 500 kV low and high elevation bus, switch, arrestor, and Capacitive Coupling Voltage Transformer (“CCVT”) supports as required;
- Install one 500 kV line dead-end including foundations just outside Franklin 500 kV Substation;
- Install two 500 kV circuit breakers and associated devices and equipment;
- Relocate existing conductor to new McKnight 500 kV line bay;
- Replace breakers J2416 and J2412 and associated devices and equipment;
- Install all related switches, arrestors, CCVTs, Line traps, control panels; and
- Remove identified line panels and associated devices and equipment.

² Following Mr. Watts’ retirement in May 2021, Christopher Jones assumed Mr. Watts’ responsibilities regarding the Proposed Electrical Facilities. Accordingly, Mr. Jones adopted Mr. Watts’s testimony and corresponding exhibits in this proceeding.

3. The EML fiber-optic network will also be extended from the Franklin 500 kV Substation to Entergy Louisiana, LLC's ("Entergy Louisiana") McKnight 500 kV Substation in Louisiana. The upgrades at the Franklin substation will require upgrades to the relay protection and communication systems equipment located at the McKnight Substation in Louisiana. The McKnight substation is located at the remote end of the Franklin to McKnight 500 kV line and contains remote end relaying and protection equipment affecting the Franklin Substation. Entergy Louisiana will perform the upgrades at the McKnight substation that are needed to address the modeled North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") contingency scenario identified as the project driver.

4. Notice of the matter was given as required by law by publication in *The Clarion-Ledger*, being a newspaper of general circulation published in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 11, 2021 and November 13, 2021, Franklin Advocate, a newspaper published in Franklin County, Mississippi, on November 18, 2021, and by mailing notice to each "interested person" as defined in Procedural Rule 2.115 and to each public utility that may be affected by an order resulting from the Petition and hearing, said notice having been in strict compliance with the law and having been, in the judgment of the Commission, such reasonable notice to all persons interested therein as is necessary under the law and under the rules and regulations of the Commission.

5. The Staff propounded Data Requests to Entergy Mississippi on June 10, 2021, and the Company responded thereto.

6. No interventions were filed in this Docket.

7. On December 7, 2021, the Commission held a hearing ("Hearing"), during which Company witnesses Mr. Jones and Mr. Ladner testified and were available for questions. These witnesses testified consistent with the pre-filed testimony that Entergy Mississippi submitted in

support of the Petition.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8. Milton T. Watts, who is a Senior Manager in the Project Management and Construction Department for Entergy Services, LLC (“ESL”), testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that Entergy Mississippi is seeking authorization from the Commission for the Company to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate, and maintain its transmission facilities by expanding and upgrading EML’s Franklin 500 kV Substation to a breaker-and-a-half bus scheme.

9. Chad Ladner, who is Senior Engineer of Transmission Planning for ESL, testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony and at the Hearing that the Proposed Electrical Facilities are needed to continue providing reliable electrical service to meet the growing demand for power in Franklin County, Mississippi. Transmission studies have identified the potential for thermal overloads in the southwest area of EML’s service territory caused by the modeled internal Extra High Voltage (EHV) breaker fault at the Franklin switchyard that could result in the simultaneous loss of the Franklin-Bogalusa and Franklin-McKnight 500 kV transmission lines. The Proposed Electrical Facilities are needed to satisfy mandatory NERC Transmission Planning standards as applied to this potential occurrence. The Proposed Electrical Facilities were identified as a solution to the identified potential transmission system limitations in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”) Transmission Expansion Process (“MTEP”). The Proposed Electrical Facilities were included in Appendix ‘A’ of MTEP 19 and subsequently approved by the MISO Board of Directors in December 2019.

10. At the Hearing, Mr. Jones adopted Mr. Watts’s pre-filed Direct Testimony that the total estimated cost of the Proposed Electrical Facilities is \$13.8 million. According to Mr. Jones’ testimony, the project currently is planned with an in-service date of December 2022, subject to

the receipt of necessary permits and required approvals. Watts also testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that all labor, materials, property, and services to be rendered for the Proposed Electrical Facilities will be supplied at competitive and reasonable prices. The Commission finds that the estimated cost of \$13.8 million is reasonable and approves said cost estimate.

11. There are presently on file with this Commission the financial statements of the Company that indicate the Company is able financially to complete the construction described and set out in this Petition.

12. The Company is an electric public utility as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-3(d)(i) and is qualified as an entity to which the Legislature has granted the power of eminent domain pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 11-27-1, *et seq.*

13. The Company attached to, addressed in, or incorporated by reference into the Petition, all the information required by Appendix A, Schedule 3 of the Procedural Rules, with the exception of part of the requirements of Appendix A, Schedule 3, Item 7, for which the Company requested a Procedural Rule waiver. The Commission finds that good cause exists and has been shown for a temporary waiver of plans and specifications, but orders Entergy Mississippi to make a complete set of plans and specifications available, upon request, to the Staff when such plans and specifications are completed.

14. The Commission finds that Entergy Mississippi is ready, willing, and able to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate, and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities that are the subject of the Petition. The Commission finds that there is substantial evidence before it in this proceeding to find and determine that there is a need for Entergy Mississippi to construct and install the Proposed Electrical Facilities, as set out and described in this Order and the Petition and its supporting testimony. The public convenience and necessity require and will require the

acquisition, construction, expansion, ownership, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Electrical Facilities, and require the issuance by the Commission of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing such.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Commission that:

1. The Commission hereby does grant unto the Company permission for deviation from and does waive the Procedural Rule requirements referenced herein and in Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Petition, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 12 of this Order.

2. The Commission approves the cost estimate of the Proposed Electrical Facilities and hereby does grant the Company a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to, acquire, construct, expand, operate, own, and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities in Franklin County, within the State of Mississippi, and as particularly described and set out herein and in the Petition and Testimony filed by the Company. The Commission hereby approves the estimated costs of \$13.8 million for this project. The Company shall notify the Commission in writing if there is a material deviation from the approved cost estimate.

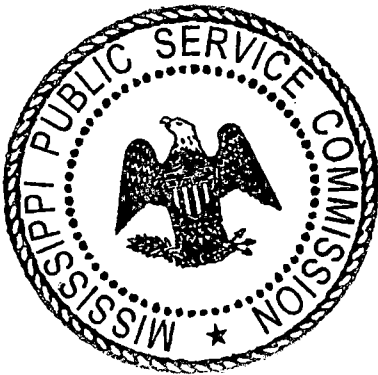
3. This Order shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its Entry and shall be deemed issued on the day it is served on the parties herein by the Executive Secretary of the Commission who shall note the service date in the file of this Docket.

COMMISSION VOTE

Chairman Dane Maxwell voted	Aye <u>X</u>	Nay _____
Commissioner Brent Bailey voted	Aye <u>X</u>	Nay _____
Commissioner Brandon Presley voted	Aye <u>X</u>	Nay _____

DATED this the 7th day of December, 2021.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Dane Maxwell
DANE MAXWELL, CHAIRMAN

Brent Bailey
BRENT BAILEY, COMMISSIONER

Brandon Presley
BRANDON PRESLEY, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Katherine Collier
KATHERINE COLLIER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Effective this the 7th day of December, 2021.