

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

**In the Matter of the Annual Alternative)
Energy Status Report of Ohio Edison)
Company, The Cleveland Electric)
Illuminating Company and The Toledo)
Edison Company)**

Case No. 14-0628-EL-ACP

Findings and Recommendations of the PUCO Staff

I. Statutory Background

Senate Bill 221, with an effective date of July 31, 2008, established Ohio's alternative energy portfolio standard (AEPS) applicable to electric distribution utilities and electric service companies. The AEPS is addressed principally in sections 4928.64 and 4928.65, Ohio Revised Code (ORC), with relevant resource definitions contained within 4928.01(A), ORC.

According to 4928.64(B)(2), ORC, the specific compliance obligations for **2013** are as follows:

- Renewable Energy Resources = **2.00%** (includes solar requirement)
- Solar Energy Resources = **0.09%**

In addition, there is a requirement that at least half of the renewable energy resources, including the solar energy resources, shall be met through facilities located in this state.

The PUCO further developed rules to implement the Ohio AEPS, with those rules contained within Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4901:1-40.

4901:1-40-05(A), OAC:

Unless otherwise ordered by the commission, each electric utility and electric services company shall file by April fifteenth of each year, on such forms as may be published by the commission, an annual alternative energy portfolio status report analyzing all activities undertaken in the previous calendar year to demonstrate how the applicable alternative energy portfolio benchmarks and planning requirements have or will be met.

Staff shall conduct annual compliance reviews with regard to the benchmarks under the alternative energy portfolio standard.

4901:1-40-05(C), OAC:

Staff shall review each electric utility's or electric services company's alternative energy portfolio status report and any timely filed comments, and file its findings and recommendations and any proposed modifications thereto.

The findings and recommendations in this document pertain to the company's compliance status. This document does not address such matters as cost recovery or status relative to the statutory 3% cost provision.

II. Company Filing Summarized

Ohio Edison Company, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and the Toledo Edison Company (the Companies) filed their annual alternative energy status report for 2013 on April 15, 2014. In their status report, the Companies proposed an aggregate baseline of 14,856,902 megawatt-hours (MWHs), which they indicated is the average of their Ohio standard service offer sales for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 calendar years.¹ With their proposed baseline and the 2013 statutory benchmarks, the Companies computed their aggregate 2013 compliance obligations to be the following:

- 6,687 Ohio Solar MWHs
- 6,685 Other Solar MWHs
- 141,883 Ohio Non-Solar² Renewable MWHs
- 141,883 Other Non-Solar Renewable MWHs³

The Companies asserted in their annual compliance status report that they fully satisfied their 2013 compliance requirements with the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs) and solar RECs (S-RECs) through requests for proposals and their Residential REC Program.⁴

¹ Annual compliance status report, p. 3

² Staff uses "non-solar" in this context to refer to the total renewable requirement net of the specific solar carve-out. Staff acknowledges that there is not a specific "non-solar" requirement in the applicable statute.

³ Annual compliance status report; Exhibit A, page 4 of 4

⁴ Annual compliance status report, p. 4

III. Filed Comments

No persons filed comments in this proceeding.

IV. Staff Findings

Following its review of the annual status report and any timely comments submitted in this proceeding, Staff makes the following findings:

- (1) That the Companies are electric distribution utilities in Ohio with retail electric sales in the state of Ohio, and therefore the Companies had AEPS compliance obligations for 2013.
- (2) That the Companies submitted their annual compliance status report for 2013 AEPS compliance activities on April 15, 2014.
- (3) That the Companies' proposed baseline is reasonable.
- (4) That the Companies accurately computed their aggregate 2013 compliance obligations.
- (5) That the Companies' reserve subaccount data on the PJM EIS Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS) showed the following having been retired for the 2013 compliance year:
 - 6,919 Ohio S-RECs
 - 6,453 Other S-RECs
 - 141,883 Ohio Non-solar RECs
 - 141,883 Other Non-solar RECs
- (6) That following a review of the Companies' reserve subaccount data on GATS, Staff confirmed that the Companies satisfied their total non-solar obligation, as well as the specific minimum in-state non-solar requirement, for 2013. The RECs that the Companies transferred to their GATS reserve subaccount were sourced from generating facilities certified by the Commission and were appropriately associated with electricity generated between August 1, 2008, and December 31, 2013.
- (7) That following a review of the Companies' reserve subaccount data on GATS, Staff confirmed that the Companies satisfied their total solar obligation, while exceeding the specific minimum in-state solar requirement, for 2013. The S-RECs that the Companies transferred to their GATS reserve subaccount were sourced

from generating facilities certified by the Commission and were appropriately associated with electricity generated between August 1, 2008, and December 31, 2013.

V. Staff Recommendations

Following its review of the information submitted in this proceeding and other relevant data, Staff recommends the following:

- (1) That the Companies be found to have satisfied their 2013 AEPS compliance obligations.
- (2) That for future compliance years in which the Companies are utilizing GATS to demonstrate their Ohio compliance efforts, the Companies initiate the transfer of the appropriate RECs and S-RECs to their GATS reserve subaccount between March 1st and April 15th so as to precede the filing of their Ohio annual compliance status report with the Commission.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Mr. Stuart M Siegfried on behalf of PUCO Staff