

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Procurement of )  
Standard Service Offer Generation as )  
Part of the Third Electric Security Plan )  
for Customers of Ohio Edison Company, ) Case No. 12-2742-EL-UNC  
The Cleveland Electric Illuminating )  
Company, and The Toledo Edison )  
Company. )

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and The Toledo Edison Company (FirstEnergy) are electric utilities as defined by R.C. 4928.01.
- (2) R.C. 4928.141 provides that electric utilities shall provide consumers a standard service offer (SSO) of all competitive retail electric services in accordance with R.C. 4928.142 or 4928.143.
- (3) On August 25, 2010, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in FirstEnergy's second electric security plan (ESP) in *In re FirstEnergy*, Case No. 10-388-EL-SSO (ESP 2), approving the stipulations filed by various parties. Additionally, on July 18, 2012, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in FirstEnergy's third ESP in *In re FirstEnergy*, Case No. 12-1230-EL-SSO (ESP 3), approving a stipulation filed by various parties extending, with modifications, the ESP 2. The ESP 3 provides that, for the period between June 1, 2013, and May 31, 2016, retail generation rates will be determined by a descending-clock format competitive bid process (CBP).

- (4) In the CBP, FirstEnergy agreed to procure, on a slice of system basis, 100 percent of its aggregate, wholesale full requirements SSO supply. Further, the stipulation provided that the CBP would be conducted by an independent bid manager, CRA International (CRA). Although the stipulation provided that CRA was to select the winning bidder(s), the stipulation also provided that the Commission may reject the results within 48 hours of the auction conclusion.
- (5) Pursuant to the Commission's decision in *ESP 3*, a CBP auction was held on October 14, 2014. On October 15, 2014, CRA and Boston Pacific Company, Inc. (Boston Pacific), a consultant retained by the Commission to monitor the CBP auction, filed reports regarding the conduct of the auction. These reports consisted of confidential versions, filed under seal, and a redacted version of the report filed by CRA, which is publically available in this docket.
- (6) According to the reports filed by CRA and Boston Pacific, the auction procured 16 tranches of a one-year product with a clearing price of \$73.82 per MWh for the June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016 delivery period. CRA and Boston Pacific each recommended that the Commission find that the CBP auction, within the limits of its structures, had sufficient competitive attributes and resulted in winning prices that are reasonable.
- (7) The Commission finds that the reports filed by CRA and Boston Pacific do not contain any recommendation or evidence that the auction violated the CBP rules in such a manner as to invalidate the auction. Accordingly, the Commission will not reject the results of the CBP auction.
- (8) In addition, the Commission notes that the reports filed by CRA and Boston Pacific also contain sensitive information which should be deemed confidential and remain under seal. Therefore, the Commission finds

that the following information will be protected from public release indefinitely: the names of unsuccessful bidders; price information, including starting price methodologies and round prices/quantities for individual bidders; all information contained in Part I and Part II bidder applications; and indicative pre-auction offers.

- (9) However, the Commission finds that certain information regarding the CBP auction contained in the reports submitted by CRA should be released to the public after a brief period of time to allow the winning bidders to procure any additional necessary capacity to serve the SSO load. Therefore, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the following information will be subject to public release 21 days after the issuance of this finding and order: the names of bidders who won tranches in the CBP auction; the number of tranches won by each bidder; the first round ratio of tranches supplied compared to tranches needed; and the redacted report filed by CRA detailing the CBP auction proceedings, subject only to redaction of any confidential information enumerated in Finding (8).
- (10) Finally, the Commission notes that, pursuant to *ESP 2*, Opinion and Order (August 25, 2010) at 34, all bidders are required to immediately disclose to the Commission and Staff all prices, terms and conditions for any post-auction assignments of tranches obtained through the CBP, subject to appropriate protections for confidential or proprietary information.

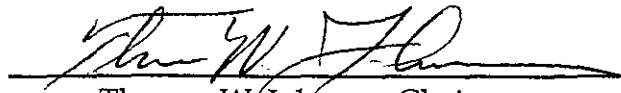
It is, therefore,


ORDERED, That the information set forth in Finding (8) be deemed confidential and remain under seal indefinitely. It is, further,

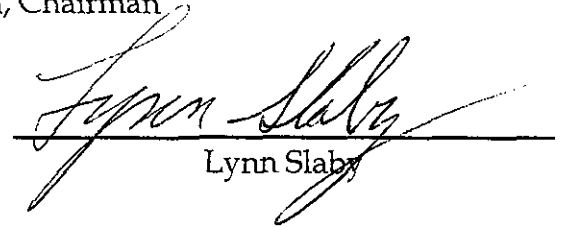
ORDERED, That, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the information set forth in Finding (9) be subject to public release 21 days after the issuance of this Finding and Order. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

  
Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman

  
Steven D. Lesser

  
Lynn Slaby

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M. Beth Trombold

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Asim Z. Haque

MWC/sc

Entered in the Journal

**OCT 15 2014**

  
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Barcy F. McNeal  
Secretary