

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Alternative Energy)
Portfolio Status Report and Compliance) Case No. 14-623-EL-ACP
Plan for 2013 of North American Power) Case No. 14-624-EL-ACP
and Gas, LLC.)

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) North American Power and Gas, LLC (NAPG or the Company) is an electric services company as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(9) and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (2) R.C. 4928.64(B)(2) establishes benchmarks for electric services companies to acquire a portion of their electricity supply for retail customers in Ohio from renewable energy resources. Half of the renewable benchmark must be met with resources located within Ohio (in-state renewable benchmark), including a portion from solar energy resources (solar benchmark), half of which must be met with resources located within Ohio (in-state solar benchmark).¹ The specific renewable compliance obligations for 2013 are 2.00 percent (which includes the solar requirement) and 0.09 percent for solar. R.C. 4928.645 (formerly R.C. 4928.65 prior to the enactment of 2014 Sub.S.B. No. 310), provides that an electric utility or electric services company may use renewable energy credits (RECs) and solar energy credits (SRECs) to meet its respective renewable energy and solar benchmarks. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-01(BB) defines a REC as the environmental attributes associated with one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity generated by a renewable energy resource, except for electricity generated by facilities as described in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-04(E).

¹ The Commission notes that, for future reports, Sub.S.B. No. 310 of the 130th General Assembly, which became effective September 12, 2014, has amended R.C. 4928.64 and 4928.65 to, inter alia, eliminate the in-state renewable benchmarks and advanced energy component, freeze renewable energy benchmarks for 2015 and 2016, and allow an alternative sales baseline calculation for determining compliance.

- (3) Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05(A) requires each electric services company to annually file by April 15 an alternative energy portfolio status report (AEPS report), unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. The AEPS report must analyze all activities the company undertook in the previous year in order to demonstrate how pertinent alternative energy portfolio benchmarks have been met. Staff then conducts an annual compliance review of the company's filing and records on the PJM EIS Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS) to ensure that RECs were sourced from generating facilities certified by the Commission and appropriately associated with electricity generated between August 1, 2008, and December 31, 2013.
- (4) On April 15, 2014, NAPG filed its 2013 AEPS report and compliance plan in which it states that, as the Company had no electric sales in Ohio during 2010 and 2011, NAPG proposes to use its 2012 actual jurisdictional sales of 29,395 MWh to determine its baseline. In addition, NAPG filed a motion for protective order pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-24, regarding its ten-year renewable energy forecast and the details of its GATS transactions to meet AEPS compliance obligations. NAPG asserts that this data is proprietary information, the public disclosure of which would jeopardize the Company's ability to compete in Ohio's retail energy market.
- (5) Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-24 allows the Commission to issue an order to protect the confidentiality of information to the extent that state or federal law prohibits release of the information, including where the information is deemed to constitute a trade secret as defined by R.C. 1333.61(D). R.C. 4905.07 provides that all facts and information in the possession of the Commission shall be public, except as provided in R.C. 149.43, and as consistent with the purposes of R.C. Title 49. With respect to AEPS reports, the Commission has held that motions for protective orders should be granted for future projected data, but denied for any current or historical data that has been publicly disclosed, such as a company's historical intrastate sales or REC requirements that are a mathematical function of

publicly-reported sales. *See, e.g., Public Power, LLC*, Case No. 13-884-EL-ACP, Finding and Order (Dec. 18, 2013) at 3-5, *Commerce Energy of Ohio, Inc., dba Just Energy*, Case No. 13-928-EL-ACP, Finding and Order (Dec. 18, 2013) at 2-4, and *Direct Energy Services, LLC*, Case No. 12-1233-EL-ACP, Finding and Order (Dec. 11, 2013) at 5-6.

- (6) With respect to the instant case, NAPG's motion should be granted, and this information should remain under seal in the Commission's Docketing Division for a 24-month period from the date of this Order. NAPG should note that, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-24(F), any motion to extend such period of confidential treatment should be filed at least 45 days in advance of the expiration date, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-24(F), or this information may be released without further notice. In addition, the Company should note that, for future AEPS reporting, Staff does not require detailed GATS information to be docketed for its review.
- (7) On October 3, 2014, Staff filed its review and recommendations of the Company's AEPS report in Case No. 14-623-EL-ACP. Staff reports that NAPG is an electric services company in the state of Ohio, and thus had an AEPS obligation for 2013. Staff reviewed the Company's filing and GATS records to verify compliance, and determined that, the Company has satisfied its 2013 AEPS compliance obligations. Further, Staff recommends that, for future compliance years, NAPG transfer the appropriate RECs and SRECs to its GATS reserve subaccount between March 1 and April 15 so as to precede the filing of its annual AEPS report with the Commission.
- (8) Upon review of NAPG's AEPS report and the record in this proceeding, we adopt Staff's recommendations and find that the Company has met its compliance obligations for 2013. Further, NAPG is directed to comply with Staff's recommendations for future compliance years.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That NAPG's 2013 AEPS report be accepted as the Company has met its 2013 AEPS compliance obligations. It is, further,

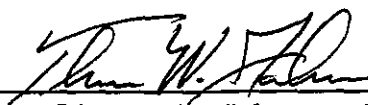
ORDERED, That NAPG's motion for protective order filed in Case No. 14-623-EL-ACP be granted, and that such information remain under seal in the Docketing Division for a 24-month period. It is, further,

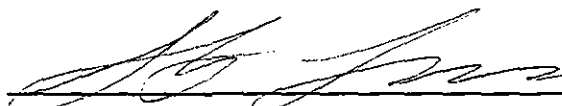
ORDERED, That NAPG comply with Staff's recommendations adopted herein. It is, further,

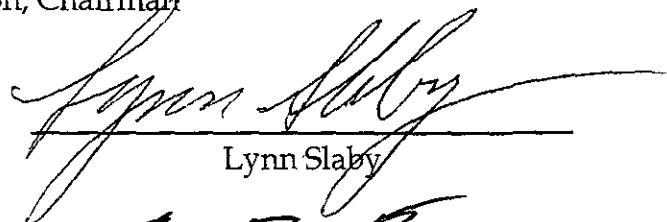
ORDERED, That the record of Case No. 14-623-EL-ACP be closed. It is, further,


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


M. Beth Trombold


Asim Z. Haque

RMB/dah

Entered in the Journal

APR 02 2015


Barcy F. McNeal

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Secretary