

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Alpha Gas and)	
Electric, LLC 2014 Renewable Portfolio)	Case No. 15-0672-EL-ACP
Standard Status Report)	

Staff Findings and Recommendations

I. Statutory Background

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 221, of the 127th General Assembly (2008 Ohio Laws S221, effective July 31, 2008), established Ohio's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) applicable to electric distribution utilities and electric service companies. The RPS is addressed principally in Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4928.64, with relevant resource definitions also contained within R.C. 4928.01(A).

According to R.C. 4928.64(B)(2), the compliance obligations for **2014** are as follows:

- Renewable Energy Resources = **2.50%** (includes solar requirement)
- Solar Energy Resources = **0.12%**

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO or Commission) further developed rules to implement the Ohio RPS contained within Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Adm.Code) 4901:1-40.

Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05(A), states:

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.

Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05(C), states:

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

Alpha Gas and Electric, LLC (Alpha or Company) filed its RPS compliance status report for the 2014 compliance year on April 14, 2015. In its filing, Alpha proposed a baseline of 2 megawatt-hours (MWHs) which it asserted corresponded to its actual sales in 2014. Applying the statutory benchmarks to its proposed baseline, Alpha calculated its 2014 compliance obligations to be zero.

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) Alpha was an electric services company in Ohio with retail electric sales in the state of Ohio during 2014, and therefore the Company had an RPS obligation for 2014.¹
- (2) The baseline proposed by Alpha is reasonable. The Company asserted that it used its compliance year sales to determine its baseline, which is an option available to companies beginning with the 2014 compliance year pursuant to R.C. 4928.643(B).
- (3) Given its proposed baseline and the 2014 statutory benchmarks, Alpha accurately calculated its RPS compliance obligations. Because the Company's

¹ Alpha was certified to provide power marketer services in Ohio during 2014; See PUCO Case No. 13-1205-EL-CRS.

baseline is so small, it translates to compliance obligations which Staff would round to zero.²

- (4) The Company has not transferred any renewable energy credits or solar renewable energy credits to its GATS reserve subaccount for 2014 Ohio compliance purposes.

V. Staff Recommendations

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

- (1) Alpha is found to have satisfied its 2014 RPS compliance obligations.
- (2) For future compliance years in which the Company is utilizing GATS to demonstrate its Ohio compliance efforts, the Company initiates the transfer of the appropriate RECs and S-RECs to its 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.

² 2 MWHs * 2.38% = 0.05 non-solar MWHs; 2 MWHs * 0.12% = 0.002 solar MWHs

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