BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Alternative Energy) Portfolio Status Report for 2014 of) Case No. 15-776-EL-ACP Independence Energy Group, LLC.)

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) Independence Energy Group (IEG) 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. R.C. 4928.645 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).
- (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 the records of the applicable attribute tracking system to ensure that RECs were sourced from generating facilities certified by the Commission and were appropriately associated with electricity generated for the compliance period.

- (4) On April 17, 2015, IEG filed its 2014 AEPS report. IEG notes that it has ceased doing business in Ohio and has satisfied its 2014 compliance obligation by carrying over prior years' RECs and SRECs. IEG proposed a baseline of 946 MWHs, which, according to IEG, corresponded to its actual sales in 2014. IEG further reported that it satisfied its 2014 compliance obligations.
- Staff filed (5) March 15. 2016, Review and On its Recommendations for IEG's AEPS report. Staff reports that IEG was an electric services company in the state of Ohio, and thus had an AEPS obligation for 2014. Staff determined that IEG's proposed baseline is inaccurate, because during the course of Staff's review, IEG informed Staff that its 2014 sales should have been reported as 1,121 MWHs. Staff concludes that, by combining part of IEG's excess retirement from 2013 with its retirement for 2014, IEG has exceeded its 2014 compliance obligations. Further, Staff recommends that, for future compliance years, IEG initiate the transfer of the appropriate RECs and SRECs to its attribute tracking system reserve subaccount between March 1 and April 15 so as to precede the filing of its annual AEPS report with the Commission.
- (6) Upon review of IEG's 2014 AEPS report and the records of these proceedings, we adopt Staff's recommendations. We find that IEG's 2014 compliance baseline, as corrected by Staff, is reasonable, and that IEG has met its compliance obligations for 2014. Further, IEG is directed to comply with Staff's recommendations for future compliance years.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That IEG's 2014 AEPS report, including its compliance baseline as corrected by Staff, be accepted as filed, and that IEG has met its AEPS compliance obligation for 2014. It is, further,

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

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

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THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Andre T. Porter, Chairman Lynn Slaby

Asim Z. Haque

Beth Trombold

Thomas W. Johnson

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Entered in the Journal

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Barcy F. McNeal Secretary