

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the MidAmerican)	
Energy Services, LLC 2018 Renewable)	Case No. 19-0851-EL-ACP
Portfolio 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 **2018** are as follows:

- Renewable Energy Resources = **4.50%** (includes solar requirement)
- Solar Energy Resources = **0.18%**

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

MidAmerican Energy Services, LLC (MES or Company) filed its RPS compliance status report for the 2018 compliance year on April 10, 2019. In its compliance filing, MES proposed a baseline of 2,000,732 megawatt-hours (MWHs) which it indicated was an average of its Ohio retail electric sales for 2015, 2016, and 2017.¹ Applying the statutory benchmarks to its proposed baseline, MES calculated its 2018 compliance obligations to be as follows:

- 3,601 Solar MWHs
- 86,432 Non-Solar² MWHs

The Company indicated that it had obtained the necessary renewable energy credits (RECs) and solar RECs (S-RECs) to satisfy its 2018 compliance obligations. The Company further indicated that it had transferred RECs and S-RECs to both its PJM EIS Generation Attributes Tracking System (GATS) reserve subaccount and Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) account for Ohio compliance purposes.

III. Filed Comments

No persons filed comments in this proceeding.

IV. Staff Findings

¹ The 2015 annual sales are attributed to the MidAmerican Energy Company, a predecessor to MES which is no longer an active CRES provider in Ohio. Effective January 1, 2016, MidAmerican Energy Company transferred its existing customers to its affiliate, MES. See PUCO Case No. 16-0538-EL-ACP.

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.

Following its review of the Company's annual status report, other relevant compliance materials, and any timely comments submitted in this proceeding, Staff makes the following findings:

- (1) MES was an electric services company in Ohio with retail electric sales in the state of Ohio during 2018, and therefore the Company had an RPS obligation for 2018.³
- (2) The baseline proposed by the Company is reasonable, and given the proposed baseline and the 2018 statutory benchmarks, MES accurately calculated its RPS compliance obligations.
- (3) The Company has transferred 2,051 S-RECs and 64,792 RECs to its GATS reserve subaccount for 2018 Ohio compliance purposes. In addition, the Company retired 1,550 S-RECs and 21,640 RECs via M-RETS, for a total retirement of 3,601 S-RECs and 86,432 RECs.
- (4) Following a review of the Company's reserve subaccount data on GATS and M-RETS, Staff confirmed that the Company satisfied its non-solar obligation for 2018. The RECs that the Company transferred to its GATS and M-RETS reserve subaccounts were sourced from generating facilities certified by the Commission and were of appropriate vintages.
- (5) Following a review of the Company's reserve subaccount data on GATS and M-RETS, Staff confirmed that the Company satisfied its solar obligation for 2018. The S-RECs that the Company transferred to its GATS and M-RETS reserve subaccounts were sourced from solar generating facilities certified by the Commission and were of appropriate vintages.

V. Staff Recommendations

Following its review of the information submitted in this proceeding and other relevant data, Staff recommends that MES be found to have satisfied its 2018 RPS compliance obligations.

³ MES was certified to provide retail generation and power marketer services in Ohio during 2018; see PUCO Case No. 15-1299-EL-CRS.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/21/2019 8:39:16 AM

in

Case No(s). 19-0851-EL-ACP

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