

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 LONG-TERM  
FORECAST REPORT OF OHIO POWER  
COMPANY AND RELATED MATTERS.**

**CASE NO. 20-501-EL-FOR**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 LONG-TERM  
FORECAST REPORT OF AEP OHIO  
TRANSMISSION COMPANY, INC. AND  
RELATED MATTERS.**

**CASE NO. 20-1501-EL-FOR**

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 6, 2020

{¶ 1} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists. The Department of Health is making COVID-19 information, including information on preventative measures, available via the internet at [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov).

{¶ 2} Consistent with the Executive Order, on March 12, 2020, the Commission opened Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC and directed, among other things, that paper and facsimile filing of documents with the Commission's docketing division be suspended until further notice. Since March 12, 2020, the Commission has issued several Entries amending, clarifying, and expanding the directives of the Commission. On March 16, 2020, the attorney examiner specified that, although in-person filing of documents with the Commission's docketing division is suspended during the emergency, paper filings may be submitted by mail or facsimile; however, electronic filing is preferred.

{¶ 3} Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio (AEP Ohio) is an electric distribution utility, as defined in R.C. 4928.01(A)(6), and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 4} AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP Ohio Transco) is an electric light company, as defined in R.C. 4905.03, and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 5} R.C. 4935.04(C) requires certain electric transmission line owners to furnish to the Commission, on an annual basis, a long-term forecast report (LTFR), including, among other information, a year-by-year, ten-year forecast of annual energy demand, peak load, reserves, and a general description of the resource planning projections to meet demand. Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-3-01(A) and 4901:5-5-06(A), an electric transmission owner or electric utility is required to file its LTFR, including an integrated resource plan, by April 15 of each year.

{¶ 6} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-03(F) provides that, on the same date a LTFR is filed with the Commission, the reporting person shall deliver or mail a copy of the LTFR to the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC). Further, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-03(G) provides that, within three days of filing the LTFR with the Commission, a letter of notification shall be delivered or sent by first class mail by the reporting person to the main public library of each county in Ohio which the reporting person serves, as well as to the main public library of each county in which any portion of a major utility facility is to be located during the forecast period.

{¶ 7} Additionally, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-3-01(C) requires each electric transmission owner or electric utility to submit a certain specified number of copies of its LTFR to the Commission.

{¶ 8} On March 24, 2020, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco filed, in the above-captioned cases, respectively, a motion for waiver, with requests for expedited ruling. In their respective motions, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco request that the Commission waive certain provisions of the LTFR requirements in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-03(F) and (G), as well as Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-3-01(C), applicable to electric utilities and electric transmission owners.

{¶ 9} AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco state that, in response to the Executive Order, many businesses, including all Ohio public libraries, have closed. Accordingly, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco contend the letter of notification to the public libraries does not serve the public notice requirement while the libraries are closed. Further, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco note that the Executive Order makes clear that the COVID-19 virus can easily spread between individuals who are in close contact and may be spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it. For this reason, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco assert good cause exists to limit potential exposure to the virus for those persons delivering or receiving notices and paper copies and supports the requests to waive the mailing requirements in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-03(F) and (G). In addition, to the extent not already waived, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco request the physical copy requirements contained in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-3-01(C), to deliver paper copies of the LTFR, be waived for 2020. To ensure interested parties access to the LTFR, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco agree to post a copy of the LTFR on their respective websites, make paper copies available to the public upon request, and e-mail a copy of the filed LTFR to the counsel for OCC, as well as make a paper copy available to OCC upon request. AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco commit to make paper copies of the LTFR available to Commission Staff upon request after the declared state of emergency has ended and COVID 19-related contact restrictions are lifted. Accordingly, AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco request that the Commission grant their respective requests for waivers.

{¶ 10} No memoranda contra AEP Ohio's or AEP Ohio Transco's motions were filed.

{¶ 11} Given the directives in the Executive Order, AEP Ohio's and AEP Ohio Transco's motions for waiver are reasonable and should be granted, consistent with this Entry. The attorney examiner finds that AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco have proposed appropriate steps, as enumerated in their motions, to ensure that the LTFR is available to interested persons. Further, although AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco claim that the Commission has suspended paper filings, the attorney examiner notes that, while electronic filing is preferred, the Commission's docketing division continues to process filings by mail. *In the Matter of the Proper Procedures and Process for the Commission's Operations and Proceedings During the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC, Entry (Mar. 16, 2020) at ¶ 5. Accordingly, nothing precludes AEP Ohio or AEP Ohio Transco from mailing paper copies of the LTFR, if requested by the Commission or Staff at a later point in these proceedings. AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco may also be directed at a later date to provide the letter of notification required under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-03(G).

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That the motions for waivers of AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transco be granted, consistent with this Entry. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Greta See

By: Greta See  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/hac

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Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting motions for waivers electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission