

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE POWERFORWARD
COLLABORATIVE.

CASE NO. 18-1595-EL-GRD

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 14, 2018

{¶ 1} In this Entry, the attorney examiner solicits comments from interested parties on the proposed status report of each electric distribution utilities' grid architecture to be filed in this docket on or before December 4, 2018.

{¶ 2} In 2017, the Commission announced its intention to advance a comprehensive grid modernization endeavor entitled PowerForward. PowerForward is built upon the pairing of two pillars: (i) innovation, and the concept that this innovation should serve to (ii) enhance the customer electricity experience. PowerForward consisted of three open meeting phases: Phase 1: A Glimpse of the Future; Phase 2: Exploring Technologies; and Phase 3: Ratemaking and Regulation. Over the duration of these Phases, 127 industry experts provided approximately 100 hours of education to Commissioners and members of the Staff regarding a variety of grid modernization topics.

{¶ 3} On August 29, 2018, the Commission released *PowerForward: A Roadmap to Ohio's Electricity Future* (Roadmap). The Roadmap makes a number of recommendations about the future of the distribution grid, and further recommends the creation of a PowerForward Collaborative (Collaborative) along with two additional workgroups, the Distribution System Planning Workgroup (PWG) and the Data and Modern Grid Workgroup (DWG). The Collaborative, the PWG, and the DWG will not only serve to continue the robust discussion had during the three Phases, but they are also meant to address specific tasks articulated in the Roadmap and make recommendations to the Commission after deeper discussion between Staff and interested stakeholders.

{¶ 4} By Entry issued on October 24, 2018, the Commission established the PowerForward Collaborative (Collaborative). The Collaborative is meant to be a broader, more overarching group that is to be led by the Staff. The Collaborative is to function as an interactive forum tasked with monitoring, facilitating, and accommodating the evolution of a marketplace that promotes innovation and the delivery of products and services which enhance the customer experience in a manner consistent with the principles and objectives identified in the PowerForward Roadmap. The Collaborative shall remain flexible in approach and perspective to assure appropriate responsiveness to market dynamics and removal of barriers to that development. Additionally, the Collaborative shall discuss items as requested by the Commission from time to time. The Collaborative should work with interested parties to resolve concerns, and should refer these concerns to the Commission when appropriate. The Roadmap has identified some initial areas that the Collaborative should provide attention to on the topic of electric vehicles (EV), including, but not limited to: broadly monitoring EV manufacturing and the marketplace; studying impacts of EVs to the distribution system; rate design to incent EV charging during off-peak periods; EV corridor deployment; and the development of the marketplace for EV charging stations. Additionally, the Collaborative should determine a process whereby proposals for non-wire alternatives (NWA) can be submitted to the Commission and approved without unnecessary delay.

{¶ 5} Each electric distribution utility (EDU) has agreed in its most recently approved or currently pending electric security plan case to file grid modernization plans. Now that the Commission has a firm understanding of the essential architecture needed to advance the modern grid, the Commission recommends that each EDU should file its most recent update of where the utility stands with their grid architecture in a grid architecture status report. The Roadmap proposes that the grid architecture status report discuss field automation, substation automation, operational communications infrastructure, sensing and measurements, and operational analytics. Further, utilities should explore whether they can share among themselves some of the investments of the

cyber-physical platform, as doing so will promote certain PowerForward principles and objectives. Specific proposed requirements for the grid architecture status report are detailed in The Platform: Grid Architecture section within the Roadmap. *See* Roadmap at 15-16.

{¶ 6} At this time, the attorney examiner finds that it is appropriate and consistent with the Roadmap, to solicit comments on the proposed grid architecture status report discussing where each EDU stands in regards to the deployment of grid architecture, and the proposed filing date of April 1, 2019. Comments regarding the proposed grid architecture status report should be filed in this docket by December 4, 2018. Each EDU should file their respective proposed grid architecture status report in a new docket ending in the designation “EL-GRD.” *See* Roadmap at 16-17. Further, as set forth in the Roadmap, the attorney examiner proposes that any applications for future investment should include at the onset all infrastructure required to support anticipated future functionality (i.e., the investments should be reasonably scalable and interoperable to support future grid modernization applications).

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That comments be filed in this docket on or before December 4, 2018. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties listed in the Collaborative listserv and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Gregory Price

By: Gregory A. Price
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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Case No(s). 18-1595-EL-GRD

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry directing comments to be filed on or before 12/4/2018 - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Gregory Price, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio