

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE POWERFORWARD
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING
WORKGROUP.

CASE NO. 18-1596-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 current-state assessment report of the electric distribution utilities' distribution systems 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 Distribution System Planning Workgroup (PWG) to identify issues that currently exist, or that may arise in the integrated distribution planning process. The PWG is to be led by Staff or a facilitator of Staff's choice. The PWG may develop recommendations to the Commission on the following: future scenarios for customer distributed energy resources adoption in Ohio, and how these scenarios should be incorporated into electric distribution utility (EDU) forecasting and planning processes; modifications to interconnection standards, including defining required functions and settings for advanced inverters; development of non-wire alternatives (NWA) suitability criteria, processes and timeline for implementing NWA opportunities; evaluation of options for procuring NWAs; defining hosting capacity analyses (HCA) use cases; identifying an appropriate HCA methodology and associated tools and data requirements to satisfy use cases; a timeline for initial HCA analysis and publication of results for each EDU; and development of portals for sharing information on peak load forecasts, capital plans, hosting capacity maps, heat maps reflecting locational value, and other key data. Further, the Commission encourages the PWG to determine a process for identifying where it would be beneficial to deploy storage solutions.

{¶ 5} The Commission proposes, as set forth in the Roadmap, that an essential first step in the distribution system planning process would be for each EDU to conduct a current-state assessment of their respective distribution system's present capability to integrate and accommodate the broad array of EDU and non-EDU initiatives which are likely to occur. The goal of the current-state assessment is to identify areas of strength and weakness, highlighting those areas in which the distribution system is lacking the necessary infrastructure to assure the provision of adequate and reliable service in a more decentralized environment characterized by a proliferation of DERs, as well as how much visibility the EDUs have into their own distribution systems. Specifically, the Roadmap proposes that the current-state assessment include an evaluation of an EDU's current system characteristics, overview of the distribution planning process and projects

resulting from the planning process, as well as the software tools used for planning. Further, the Roadmap suggests that the current-state assessment include an overview of distributed generation interconnection processes, the organization structure for planning and interconnection, and any relevant planned technology investments and how they will be used to support or improve distribution planning.

{¶ 6} At this time, the attorney examiner finds that it is appropriate and consistent with the Roadmap, to solicit comments on the proposed current-state assessment of the EDU's respective distribution systems' present capability to integrate and accommodate the broad array of EDU and non-EDU initiatives, and the proposed filing date of April 1, 2019. Comments regarding the proposed current-state assessment should be filed in this docket by December 4, 2018. The proposed current-state assessment report should also be filed in this docket. Specific proposed requirements for the current-state assessment are detailed in The Platform: Distribution System Planning section within the Roadmap. *See* Roadmap at 18-19.

{¶ 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 PWG 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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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