

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 January 23, 2019

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission selects EnerNex, LLC to assist the Commission with the facilitation of the Distribution System Planning Workgroup for the period of January 23, 2019, through January 23, 2020.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Ohio Power Company; Duke Energy of Ohio, Inc.; The Dayton Power and Light Company; The Toledo Edison Company; Ohio Edison Company; and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (collectively, the EDUs) are public utilities, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction and general supervision of the Commission, in accordance with R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 3} 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.

{¶ 4} 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.

{¶ 5} By Entry issued on October 24, 2018, the Commission established the 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 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 electric distribution utility; 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.

{¶ 6} By Entry dated November 28, 2018, the Commission directed Staff to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to acquire technical consulting services for the purposes of advising Commission Staff and facilitating the PWG. In the Entry, prospective bidders were directed by the Commission to submit proposals by December 28, 2018. Bidders were directed to demonstrate a clear understanding of the tasks to be completed, the experience

and qualifications of the personnel who will perform the work, and the anticipated breakdown of costs and timing.

{¶ 7} The proposals received in response to the RFP have been evaluated and, after consideration of those proposals, the Commission selects EnerNex, LLC (EnerNex). The Commission finds that EnerNex has the necessary experience to complete the required work.

{¶ 8} The EDUs shall enter into a contract with EnerNex by February 4, 2019, for the purpose of providing payment for its consulting services. The costs, including the invoices described in the RFP, shall be charged to and divided evenly among the EDUs. The Toledo Edison Company, Ohio Edison Company, and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company will be considered one entity for the purpose of dividing the charges evenly among the EDUs. The contract shall incorporate the terms and conditions of the RFP, the consultant's proposal, and relevant Commission entries in this case.

{¶ 9} The Commission shall solely direct the work of the consultant. Staff will review and approve payment invoices submitted by the consultant.

{¶ 10} EnerNex will execute its duties pursuant to the Commission's statutory authority to investigate and acquire records, contracts, reports, and other documentation under R.C. 4903.02, 4903.03, 4905.06, 4905.15, and 4905.16. EnerNex is subject to the Commission's statutory duty under R.C. 4901.16, which provides:

Except in his report to the public utilities commission or when called on to testify in any court or proceeding of the public utilities commission, no employee or agent referred to in section 4905.13 of the Revised Code shall divulge any information acquired by him in respect to the transaction, property, or business of any public utility, while acting or claiming to act as such employee or agent. Whoever violates this section shall be disqualified from acting as agent, or acting in any

other capacity under the appointment or employment of the commission.

{¶ 11} Upon request of EnerNex or Staff, the EDUs shall provide any and all documents or information requested. The EDUs may conspicuously mark such documents or information "confidential" if the Company believes the document should be deemed as such. In no event, however, shall the EDUs refuse or delay in providing such documents or information.

{¶ 12} Once disclosure is permitted by R.C. 4901.16, the following process applies to the release of any document or information marked as confidential. Three days' prior notice of intent to disclose shall be provided to the party claiming confidentiality. Three days after such notice, Staff or the consultant may disclose or otherwise make use of such documents or information for any lawful purpose, unless the Commission receives a request for a protective order pertaining to such documents or information within the three-day notice period. The three-day notice period will be computed according to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-07.

{¶ 13} EnerNex shall perform its review and investigation as an independent contractor. Any conclusions, results, or recommendations formulated by EnerNex may be examined by any participant to this proceeding. Further, it shall be understood that the Commission and/or its Staff shall not be liable for any acts committed by EnerNex or its agents in the preparation and presentation of the report.

III. ORDER

{¶ 14} It is, therefore,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That EnerNex be selected to perform the consulting activities set forth above and in the RFP. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That the EDUs and EnerNex observe the requirements set forth herein. It is, further,

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

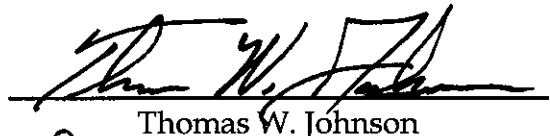
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



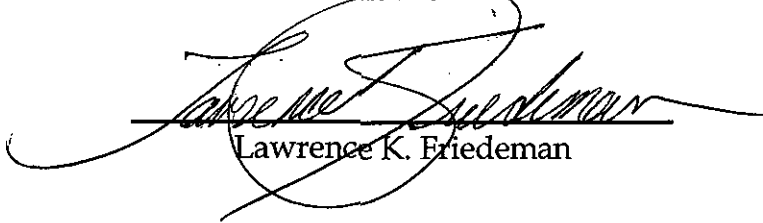
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



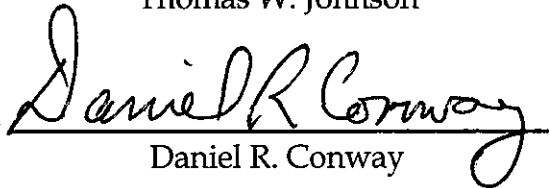
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



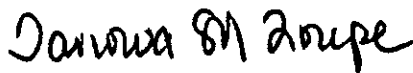
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