

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Inspire Energy Holdings, LLC)
2021 Renewable Portfolio Standard Status)
Report)

Case No. 22-0301-EL-ACP

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 renewable energy compliance obligation for **2021** is 6%.

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 renewable energy portfolio status report analyzing all activities undertaken in the previous calendar year to demonstrate how the applicable renewable energy portfolio benchmarks have been met. Staff shall conduct annual compliance reviews with regard to the benchmarks under the renewable energy portfolio standard.

Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05(C), states:

Staff shall review each electric utility's or electric services company's renewable 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

Inspire Energy Holdings, LLC (IEH or Company) filed its RPS compliance status report for the 2021 compliance year on April 13, 2022. In its compliance filing, the Company proposed a baseline of 137,875 megawatt-hours (MWHs) which it indicated was the average of its Ohio retail electric sales for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Applying the statutory benchmark to its proposed baseline, the Company calculated its 2021 compliance obligation to be 8,273 renewable MWHs.

The Company indicated that it had obtained the necessary renewable energy credits (RECs) and/or solar RECs (S-RECs) to satisfy its 2021 compliance obligation. The Company further indicated that it had transferred RECs and/or S-RECs to its PJM EIS Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS) reserve subaccount for Ohio compliance purposes.

III. Filed Comments

No persons filed comments in this proceeding.

IV. Staff Findings

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) IEH was an electric services company in Ohio with retail electric sales in the state of Ohio during a portion of 2021, and therefore the Company had an RPS obligation for 2021.¹
- (2) The baseline proposed by the Company is reasonable, and given the proposed baseline and the 2021 statutory benchmark, IEH accurately calculated its RPS compliance obligation.

¹ IEH was certified to provide power marketer and retail electric generation services in Ohio during 2021; see PUCO Case No. 15-0540-EL-CRS.

- (3) The Company has transferred 8,273 RECs and/or S-RECs to its GATS reserve subaccount for 2021 Ohio compliance purposes.
- (4) Following a review of the Company's reserve subaccount data on GATS, Staff confirmed that the Company satisfied its renewable obligation for 2021. The RECs and/or S-RECs that the Company transferred to its GATS reserve subaccount were sourced from 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 IEH is found to have satisfied its 2021 RPS compliance obligation. Staff further recommends that this annual compliance status report be automatically approved consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-40-05(D).

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Kristin Clingan
on behalf of Staff.