

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 87-223-E - ORDER NO. 98-502

JULY 2, 1998

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IN RE: Least-Cost Planning Procedures for Electric ) ORDER MODIFYING  
Utilities Under the Jurisdiction of the Public ) REPORTING  
Service Commission. ) REQUIREMENTS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the February 3, 1998 Petition filed by Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) which requested modification of this Commission's Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Order by replacing Order No. 91-1002 and the Appendix A attached thereto with modified reporting requirements. Carolina Power & Light (CP&L) and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) filed documents supporting Duke's proposal. Comments from the parties were then solicited.

On April 16, 1998, the South Carolina State Energy Office released a report performed by Slater & Associates regarding the adequacy of the Commission's existing IRP rules. Basically, the Slater Report recommends that the Commission's existing rules be amended to require electric utilities to file additional information, provide additional demand-side management programs, and require the Commission to formally approve a utility's triennial integrated resource plan. The Commission then requested comments from the parties in this Docket on the Slater Report. Some of the comments received fully supported the recommendations in the report, while others urged this Commission to

reject the recommendations. The issue of confidentiality of certain materials comprising the reporting requirements was also raised.

We have examined the original Petition by Duke, the supporting Petitions, the Slater Report itself, and the comments of all the parties in this Docket, and have reached a number of conclusions, which we hold are applicable to all investor owned electric utilities. First, with regard to the confidentiality requirements question, we hold that electric utilities may request that information deemed confidential or proprietary be held in confidentiality by this Commission. The Commission may then make a decision on whether or not to grant a request for confidentiality, however, such a decision regarding confidentiality is subject to challenge by the utilities and interested parties through established legal channels.

We have also determined, after studying the materials in this Docket, that we do believe that IRP filings should be modified from the present requirements. IRP filings shall contain the following information, and the Commission shall provide further information to interested parties, which the Commission deems, after notice and opportunity to respond, necessary for interested parties to reasonably understand the following information:

1. The demand and energy forecast for at least a 15-year period.
2. The supplier's or producer's program for meeting the requirements shown in its forecast in an economic and reliable manner, including both demand-side and supply-side options.

3. A brief description and summary of cost-benefit analysis, if available, of each option, which was considered, including those not selected.

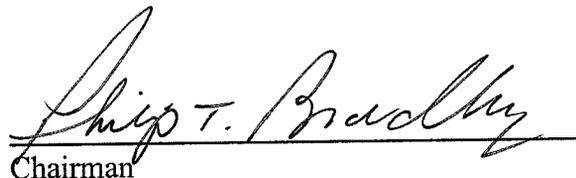
4. The supplier's and producer's assumptions and conclusions with respect to the effect of the plan on the cost and reliability of energy service, and a description of the external, environmental and economic consequences of the plan to the extent practicable.

The IRP filing shall also contain any other information as determined appropriate from time to time by the Commission.

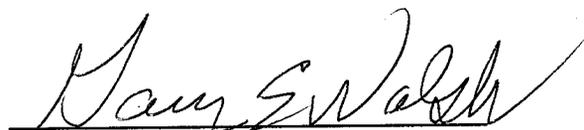
We believe that this required information is a good balance between the present IRP requirements and the information recommended by the Slater Report in today's regulatory environment, and will furnish helpful information, while minimizing the reporting burden on the investor owned electric utilities.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Acting Executive Director

(SEAL)