

ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF ACT 1556 OF 1999, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "ELECTRIC CONSUMER CHOICE
ACT OF 1999"**

DOCKET NO. 99-117-A

ORDER NO. ____1____

ORDER

Act 1556 of 1999, otherwise known as the "Electric Consumer Choice Act of 1999," provides for the comprehensive restructuring of the electric utility industry in Arkansas for the purpose of initiating competition in the retail electric generation market by January 1, 2002, but no later than June 30, 2003. Act 1556 details many substantive projects that must be undertaken and successfully accomplished by the Arkansas Public Service Commission (the "Commission"), the electric utility industry and other interested parties prior to the introduction of retail open access.

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of Act 1556 the above-styled administrative docket is hereby established. In accordance with the exclusively administrative character of this docket neither intervention requests or controversial issues will be accepted or considered herein.

In order for the transition to a competitive electric market to proceed as smoothly and efficiently as possible, the Commission believes that a comprehensive Act 1556 timeline should be prepared and filed herein. Such timeline should reflect all tasks that must be accomplished by the Commission and appropriate dates for the initiation and conclusion of each detailed task. It is the Commission's intent that such timeline will operate as a clear "road map" to competition upon which the Commission and all interested parties can rely.

Further, all formal docketed proceedings which should be initiated by the Commission in 1999 in furtherance of Act 1556 should be clearly identified by docket style, docket designation, and purpose and scope. A procedural schedule for each such docket should be proposed.

For the above stated purposes, the Commission hereby directs the Executive Director of the General Staff of the Commission to initiate and coordinate an informal collaborative process for the purpose of developing and filing a proposed Act 1556 timeline including the identification of necessary docketed proceedings as above described. The requested timeline and identification of necessary proceedings shall be filed in this docket by the Executive Director within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. To the greatest extent possible such filing(s) should reflect the consensus of the public utility electric companies now operating in

Arkansas, the Arkansas Electric Energy Consumers, the General Staff of the Commission, and the Attorney General of Arkansas.

All persons who desire to be informed of the collaborative process contemplated by this order should make that desire known via a letter addressed and delivered to the Secretary of the Arkansas Public Service Commission, 1000 Center Street, P. O. Box 400, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203-0400. Such letters should reference Docket No. 99-117-A and clearly identify by name, address, telephone and facsimile number, the individual to be notified by the Executive Director. Upon receipt, the Secretary of the Commission shall stamp each such letter "Received" and place same in the official file of this proceeding.

The Secretary of the Commission is further directed to serve a copy of this order on all jurisdictional electric companies, the Arkansas Electric Energy Consumers, and the Attorney General of Arkansas.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This _____ day of May, 1999.



Jim von Grep, Chairman



Sam I. Bratton, Jr., Commissioner



Betty C. Dickey, Commissioner

Jan Sanders

Secretary of the Commission