

## ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

### IN THE MATTER OF A GENERIC PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM POLICIES AND GUIDELINES TO FUNCTIONALLY UNBUNDLE ELECTRIC UTILITY RATES

DOCKET NO. 99-152-R

ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

#### ORDER

Docket No. 99-117-A was established by the Commission on May 11, 1999, as an administrative docket to facilitate the orderly implementation of Act 1556 of 1999, otherwise known as the "Electric Consumer Choice Act of 1999" (the "Act").

Order No. 1 of Docket No. 99-117-A instructed the Executive Director ("Director") of the General Staff of the Arkansas Public Service Commission ("Staff") to initiate and coordinate an informal collaborative process for the purpose of developing and filing: 1) a proposed Act 1556 timeline reflecting all tasks that must be accomplished by the Commission and appropriate dates for the initiation and conclusion of each detailed task, and 2) the identification of all formal docketed proceedings which should be initiated by the Commission in 1999, identified by docket style, docket designation, and purpose and scope, along with a procedural schedule for each docket.

Accordingly, the Director invited and Staff met with representatives of all of the jurisdictional electric companies, the Arkansas Electric Energy Consumers ("AEEC") and the Attorney General of the State of Arkansas ("AG") to discuss the information requested by the Commission. Based on research by the Staff and information provided by the participants to the discussions, the Staff compiled the information requested by the Commission which, to the extent possible, incorporates information offered by the participants. Staff's *First Report and Proposed Act 1556 Timeline* ("Report") was then filed in Docket No. 99-117-A on June 10, 1999.

Section 23-19-205(a) of the Act provides as follows:

On or before January 1, 2000, as ordered by the commission, each electric utility shall file rates and tariffs supported by a current cost of service study that unbundle its then-effective rates into the minimum functional components of generation, transmission, distribution and customer service operations, except for electric utilities having a majority of their retail customers in another state which has not mandated such unbundling by January 1, 2000, in which case the utility shall file unbundled rates and tariffs with the commission no later

than July 1, 2000. Any utility may, at its discretion, seek commission approval to further unbundle any of the above categories.

In furtherance of Section 23-19-205(a), Staff recommended that the above-styled generic proceeding be established for the purpose of addressing general unbundling issues and establishing appropriate filing requirements to define the information which will be required to unbundle the rates and tariffs of electric utilities. Accordingly, this proceeding is hereby established for such purposes.

Further, for purposes of this generic proceeding, the following procedural schedule is established.

1. Staff shall file Proposed Unbundling Guidelines ("PUGs") by June 15, 1999.
2. Initial Comments on Staff's PUGs shall be filed by 2:00 p.m., June 29, 1999.
3. Reply Comments shall be filed by 2:00 p.m., July 13, 1999.
4. A public hearing to consider Staff's PUGs will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, in Commission Hearing Room No. 1, Arkansas Public Service Commission Building, 1000 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.
5. All jurisdictional electric public utilities, Staff, AEEC and the AG are hereby granted full party status in this proceeding. All other entities desiring full party status to this proceeding shall file a Petition to Intervene pursuant to Rule 3.04 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* no later than 2:00 p.m., June 23, 1999.
6. All parties filing Initial or Reply Comments in this proceeding shall be represented by legal counsel and have a sponsoring witness available for appropriate questioning during the public hearing to begin on July 27, 1999.
7. As requested by Staff in its Report, the Commission will endeavor to issue its final ruling in this matter on/or before August 17, 1999.
8. The Secretary of the Commission shall forthwith cause an appropriate notice of this proceeding to be published in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Said notice shall be published on two (2) consecutive days prior to June 23, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This \_\_\_\_ day of June, 1999.



Jim von Gremp, Chairman



Sam I. Bratton, Jr., Commissioner



Betty C. Dickey, Commissioner

Jan Sanders

Secretary of the Commission