

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COOPERATIVE ENERGY
EA-123-0750-00

DOCKET NUMBER: 2017-UA-167

SOUTHWEST ELECTRIC
EA-020-0046-00

IN RE: JOINT PETITION OF COOPERATIVE ENERGY AND SOUTHWEST
MISSISSIPPI ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION FOR
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
AUTHORIZING THEM TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, OWN AND
OPERATE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE, SWITCHING
STATION AND SUBSTATION FACILITIES IN ADAMS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI (CLOVERDALE)

**RECOMMENDED ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard before the Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission”) upon the Joint Petition (“Joint Petition”) of Cooperative Energy and Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association (“SWEPA”) for a Certificate Of Public Convenience And Necessity authorizing Petitioners to acquire the necessary sites and rights-of-way, for Cooperative Energy to construct, maintain and operate a 115 kV electric transmission line and switching station in Adams County, Mississippi, and for SWEPA to construct, maintain and operate a 115:12.47 kV substation facility in Adams County, Mississippi, as set forth herein, together with all necessary switches, buses and related equipment and facilities. The Commission having heard and considered the Joint Petition and the proof offered thereon, being fully advised in the premises and upon recommendation of the Public Utilities Staff, does hereby find and order as follows:

1. The Joint Petition was filed with the Commission on September 28, 2017, and said cause was returnable to the next regular meeting of the Commission, which was held on November 7, 2017. Notice of the matter was given as required by law by publication on October 7, 2017, in The Clarion Ledger, being a newspaper of statewide circulation in Mississippi; and by mailing such notices to each “interested person” as defined in RP 2.115 of the Mississippi Public Service Commission Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Procedural Rules”) to each public utility that may be affected by an Order resulting from the Petition and hearing, said notice having been in strict compliance with the law and having been, in the judgment of the Commission, such reasonable notice of such hearing to all persons interested therein as is necessary under the law and under the rules and regulations of the Commission.

2. No objections or protests to the granting of a Certificate to the Petitioners have been filed, no protestants appeared at the hearing on said cause and no objections have been made to the granting and issuance of this Order. This matter is uncontested; thus, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-13(8), a hearing is not required.

3. Petitioners are electric power associations, duly chartered, organized, existing and operating under and pursuant to the Electric Power Association Law, § 77-5-201, *et. seq.*, of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, and are public utilities under the terms and provisions of Chapter 372, Mississippi Code of 1956 (§ 77-3-1), *et. seq.*, Volume 17, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, hereinafter sometimes called the “Act”, and are generally subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission as in the Act set forth and provided.

4. Petitioner Cooperative Energy is a public utility as defined in the Act and is engaged in the generation and transmission of electric energy to serve its eleven member electric

power associations operating in 55 counties in Mississippi, i.e., Southern Pine Electric Power Association, Coast Electric Power Association, Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association, Dixie Electric Power Association, Magnolia Electric Power Association, Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association, Singing River Electric Power Association, Twin County Electric Power Association, Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association, Delta Electric Power Association, and Coahoma Electric Power Association. Petitioner SWEPA is a public utility as defined in the Act and is engaged in the distribution of electric energy to serve its members located in Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Hinds, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi.

5. In order for Petitioners to improve reliability and quality of power in the areas hereinafter referred to, and to enable them to maintain adequate voltage levels and increased demand capabilities on SWEPA's entire electric distribution system so that it may be able to render an adequate and reliable supply of energy to all of its members, it is necessary that Petitioners acquire the necessary sites and rights-of-way, through appropriate means, including, if necessary, eminent domain, and to construct, own, operate and maintain the electric transmission line, switching station and substation facilities all as hereinafter more specifically described.

6. Petitioner Cooperative Energy seeks authority to acquire, construct, own, operate and maintain a 115 kV electric transmission line and switching station as an addition to the Cooperative's present system in Adams County, Mississippi. Petitioner SWEPA seeks authority to acquire, construct, own, operate and maintain a 115:12.47 kV substation as an addition to SWEPA's present system in Adams County, Mississippi.

7. The facilities for which Petitioners seek a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to acquire, construct, own, operate and maintain in Adams County, Mississippi, are more particularly described as follows:

a. COOPERATIVE ENERGY 115 KV SWITCHING STATION (CLOVERDALE 115 KV SWITCHING STATION): A 115 kV switching station with four (4) line terminations; estimated cost: \$500,000. This proposed switching station will be located at a point adjacent to EMI's existing 115 kV transmission line West of Lower Woodville Road and North of St. Catherine's Creek in Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, Adams County, Mississippi. The switching station will be a lattice steel structure and have three (3) motor-operated, remotely controlled 115 kV switches.

b. COOPERATIVE ENERGY 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE (CLOVERDALE 115 KV TAP): Approximately 0.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line will be required between the proposed Cooperative Energy's Cloverdale 115 kV Switching Station and SWEPA's proposed Cloverdale Substation. The estimate cost of the 115kV transmission line is \$300,000.

Said facilities are to be constructed of three (3) 336.4 kcmil ACSR conductors per circuit with 3/8" high strength steel overhead shield wire, utilizing wood, concrete, or steel pole construction on a right-of-way one hundred (100) feet in width, together with the right to remove all danger trees on lands adjacent to said one hundred (100) foot wide right-of-way, any part of which would, in falling toward said electric transmission line strike any structure, or any conductor of said line, or come within five (5) feet of any conductor or

structure thereof: together with the right to construct any necessary switches, buses, and related equipment and facilities on the existing or proposed transmission right-of-way.

c. SWEPA CLOVERDALE SUBSTATION: The Cloverdale Substation will be a 115:12.47 kV substation designed to utilize two power transformers. Initially one (1) 15/20/25 MVA transformer will be installed. The substation will be a beam and tubular steel construction with tubular aluminum bus on the high-side and low-side. The proposed substation will be built on an approximately 2.9 acre site. The site is located on the west side of Lower Woodville Road approximately 0.2 miles south of St. Catherine's Creek in the East side of Section 10 and West side of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, Adams County, MS. The estimated cost of the Cloverdale Substation is \$1,750,000.

The design of said facilities described in Paragraphs a., b. and c. above shall commence immediately, and it is anticipated that construction shall commence within four (4) months from the date of granting of a Certificate by the Commission for said purpose.

8. The purpose of the above described electric transmission line, switching station and substation facilities is to provide sufficient capacity and improve reliability and quality of service in Cloverdale and Lower Woodville Road areas of Adams County. This area, which includes the Natchez Adams County Port Industrial Park, is projected to see an increase in growth. The proposed station will provide the capacity to accommodate the projected growth while maintaining reliability and quality of service to existing commercial, industrial and residential members in the area.

9. Pursuant to RP 1.102, Petitioners request the Commission to waive the requirement of Appendix "A," Schedule 3, Item 7, of the Procedural Rules, and allow Petitioners not to file a

complete set of engineering plans and specifications for the proposed transmission facilities with their Joint Petition. The Commission finds that good cause exists and has been shown for a temporary waiver of plans and specifications, but orders each utility to file a complete set of engineering plans and specifications with the Public Utilities Staff once complete, and prior to commencing construction on their respective portions of this project.

10. Petitioners aver that the transmission line, switching station and substation facilities above described are needed and required in order for SWEPA to have the required supply of power to serve the present and immediately foreseeable requirements of its members within its certificated area in Adams County and for Cooperative Energy to provide a reliable source of power from its transmission system to the new SWEPA delivery point. That in order for the Petitioners to be able to adequately serve the electric requirements of its members, it is necessary and urgent that Petitioners be granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity, authorizing them to acquire the electric transmission line, switching station and substation facilities sites including any necessary rights of way, to construct, own, operate and maintain the electrical transmission line, switching station and substation facilities, and appurtenant equipment, all as hereinabove more specifically described, all of the same being necessary in order that Petitioners shall be able to provide efficient and reliable electric service to its members.

11. The public convenience and necessity requires and will require that the Commission grant and issue unto Petitioners a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing them to do and perform the things hereinabove fully set forth, because of the need of Petitioner's members of a more substantial, reliable and adequate supply of power.

12. None of the facilities for the construction and operation of which a certificate is sought herein will duplicate any similar facilities of any other public utility. Nor will the operation thereof duplicate or interfere with the operation or services of any other public utility.

13. Petitioners are ready, willing and able to own, construct, install, operate, and maintain the electric transmission line, switching station and substation facilities that are the subject of the Joint Petition. The public convenience and necessity require and will require the issuance by the Commission of a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the acquisition of the necessary sites and rights-of-way for the ownership, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of said electric transmission line, switching station and substation facilities all as fully set out in the Joint Petition.

14. The Commission determines and finds that public convenience and necessity require and will require the awarding of this certificate and orders that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in this proceeding be and the same is hereby granted to Petitioners to acquire the necessary sites and rights-of-way and for Cooperative Energy to construct, maintain and operate a 115 kV electric transmission line and switching station in Adams County, Mississippi, and for SWEPA to construct, maintain and operate a 115:12.47 kV substation facility in Adams County, Mississippi, as set forth in the Joint Petition and herein, together with all necessary switches, buses and related equipment and facilities.

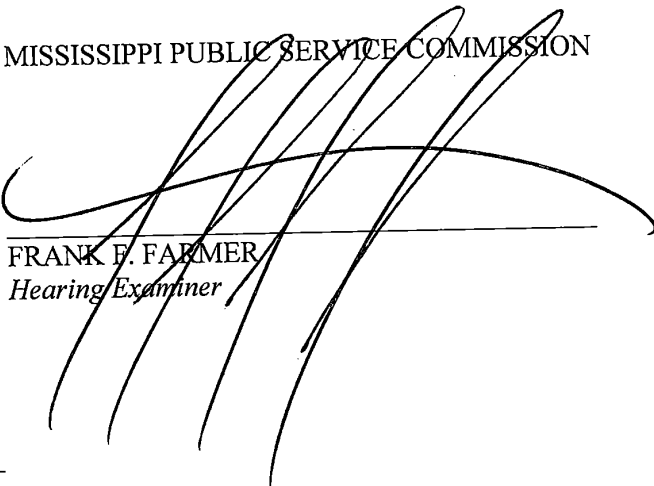
15. Exceptions to this Recommended Order may be filed with the Commission within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this Order, in accordance with the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-40. If exceptions are not timely filed, this Recommended Order shall then become the Order of the Commission.

16. This Order shall be deemed issued on the day it is served upon the parties herein by the Executive Secretary of this Commission who shall note the service date in the file of this Docket.

SO ORDERED, this the 20th day of February, 2018.




MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



FRANK F. FARMER
Hearing Examiner

ATTEST: A True Copy



KATHERINE COLLIER
Executive Secretary

Effective this, the 20th day of February, 2018.