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**MISS. PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI, LLC
EC123008200

DOCKET NO. 2019-UA-176

IN RE: PETITION BY ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO MAKE RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS
TO ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IN DESOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF HEARING EXAMINER

THIS CAUSE came before the Mississippi Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) on the Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“Certificate” or “CCN”) (the “Petition”) filed by Entergy Mississippi, LLC (“Entergy Mississippi”, “EML”, or the “Company”), pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-1 *et. seq.* (Revised 2018), as amended (the “Act”), and RP 7.102 of the Commission’s Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Procedural Rules”) seeking authorization from the Commission for Entergy Mississippi to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate and maintain a new 230 kilovolt (“kV”) substation near Lewisburg, Mississippi, a new line bay and associated upgrades at its existing Getwell Substation in Hernando, Mississippi, and a new transmission line built to 230 kV specifications between the existing Getwell Substation and the new Byhalia Substation of approximately 5.7 miles in length along the soon to be completed Interstate 69 (“I-69”) corridor. This project is within the certificated public utility service area of the Company in DeSoto County, Mississippi, and is referred to in this Petition as the “Proposed Electrical Facilities.”¹ The Commission, having considered the Petition and all evidence submitted, including all testimony

¹ The term “Proposed Electrical Facilities” includes all project-related work identified in the Petition and supporting testimony, including the work identified in Paragraphs 2 and 6 of this Order.

and documents filed with the Commission, and being fully advised in the premises, and upon the recommendation of the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (the “Staff”), finds as follows:

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. The Petition was filed on October 8, 2019. In support of the Petition, Entergy Mississippi filed as Attachments the pre-filed Direct Testimony of Milton T. Watts and Anastacia Santos.

2. Entergy Mississippi requested in the Petition that the Commission grant Entergy Mississippi a CCN to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities, including the following:

Constructing New 230 kV Byhalia Substation

- Construct a new 230 kV Substation at the already acquired Byhalia site;
- Install one 40 mega volt-ampere (“MVA”) 230/13.86 kV load tap changing (“LTC”) transformer;
- Install one 3,000 ampere main breaker;
- Build 12.47 kV low-side operating and transfer buses;
- Install one 2,000 ampere operating bus-tie breaker and bay, which will include eight feeder bays, with overhead exits;
- Install four 1,200 ampere feeder breakers, which will serve feeders. All low side bus, switches, and breaker bays will be constructed at this time with plans of adding a second 40 MVA power transformer and three additional feeders in 2025.

Constructing Distribution from New Byhalia Substation

- Configure two of the new 1200 ampere feeder breakers to tie into existing feeder 1E07 and split the load between the two new circuits;
- Configure two of the new 1200 ampere feeder breakers to be used to serve two brand new circuits, which will require construction of 1.25 miles of 3-795 All Aluminum Conductor (“AAC”) primary distribution line (East) and 3.28 miles of 3-795 AAC primary distribution line (West) with 0.32 miles of 3-477 Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced primary distribution line;
- Install three 333 kilovolt-ampere (“kVA”) regulators.

Expanding Existing 230 kV Getwell Substation

- Add new Byhalia line bay and breaker.

Constructing New Transmission Line

- Construct a new, approximately 5.7 mile radial 230 kV transmission line from the existing Getwell Substation to the new Byhalia Substation, primarily along the new I-69 corridor.

3. Notice of the matter was given as required by law by publication in *The Clarion-Ledger*, being a newspaper of general circulation published in Jackson, Mississippi, on October 13, 2019, *DeSoto Times-Tribune*, a newspaper published in DeSoto County, Mississippi, on October 24, 2019, and by mailing notice to each “interested person” as defined in Procedural Rule 2.115 and 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 to all persons interested therein as is necessary under the law and under the rules and regulations of the Commission.

4. The Staff propounded Data Requests to Entergy Mississippi on October 17, 2019,

and the Company responded thereto.

5. No interventions were filed in this Docket.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6. Mr. Watts, who is a Manager in the Project Management and Construction Department for Entergy Services, LLC (“ESL”), testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that Entergy Mississippi is seeking authorization from the Commission for the Company to acquire, construct, expand, own, operate, and maintain a new 230 kilovolt (“kV”) substation near Lewisburg, Mississippi (the “Byhalia Substation”), a new line bay and associated upgrades at its existing Getwell Substation in Hernando, Mississippi, and a new transmission line built to 230 kV specifications between the existing Getwell Substation and the new Byhalia Substation of approximately 5.7 miles in length along the soon to be completed Interstate 69 (“I-69”) corridor in DeSoto County, within the certificated area of the Company.

7. Mr. Watts testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that the Proposed Electrical Facilities are needed to continue providing reliable electrical service to meet the growing demand for power in DeSoto County, Mississippi, and in particular, the Lewisburg area of DeSoto County. In recent years, the Lewisburg area of DeSoto County in EML’s service territory has experienced residential and commercial growth that has resulted in increased demand for electric service in that area. Going forward, the completion of I-69 through Desoto County is expected to lead to further residential and commercial development, and with it, further increases to electric demand in the area. The electric demand in the Lewisburg area has grown by approximately four percent over the last three years, and the Company’s projections indicate that the demand in the area will continue to grow at an even greater rate with the completion of the I-69 corridor in DeSoto County. To accommodate this existing and projected load growth, Entergy Mississippi is proposing to build

the Proposed Electrical Facilities, which will reduce the likelihood of customer interruptions during unplanned outage events and provide greater operational flexibility and increased reliability for the distribution facilities in the DeSoto County area. The Commission finds that the Proposed Electrical Facilities will provide voltage support and improve distribution reliability in the Lewisburg, Mississippi, and surrounding DeSoto county area by reducing the load on the existing 12.47 kV lines out of the Getwell Substation and by providing another transmission source into the area, thereby mitigating risk for nearly 700 customers in the event of a power outage.

8. Anastacia Santos, who is employed by POWER Engineers, Inc. (“POWER”) as Project Manager II, offered pre-filed Direct Testimony in support of the document entitled *Getwell to Byhalia 230 kV Transmission Line-Environmental Assessment and Alternative Route Analysis* (“Alternative Route Analysis”). The Alternative Route Analysis, which was attached to the Direct Testimony of Ms. Santos as EXHIBIT AS-2, supports the proposed 230 kV radial transmission line that will be constructed from the existing Getwell Substation in Hernando, Mississippi, to a proposed new Byhalia Substation to be constructed near Lewisburg, Mississippi. Based on the criteria evaluated in POWER’s analysis, POWER recommended Alternative Route 12 for the Proposed Electrical Facilities. It was the consensus of the group of POWER evaluators that the number of habitable structures located within 300 feet of the proposed right-of-way centerline (existing and newly affected), overall length of the route, and route lengths paralleling of existing linear features would be the key evaluation criteria in their selection of the recommended route and ranking of the remaining alternative routes. The best-balanced route selected as a result of this consensus process that would have the least land use and potential environmental impacts was Alternative Route 12. EML accepted the recommendation and proposed Alternative Route 12 for the new transmission line proposed in the Petition and its supporting testimony and attachments.

The Commission finds that the proposed transmission route is reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

9. Mr. Watts testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that the total estimated cost of the Proposed Electrical Facilities is \$18.5 million. According to Mr. Watts's pre-filed Direct Testimony, the project currently is planned with an in-service date of June 2021, subject to the receipt of necessary permits and required approvals. Mr. Watts also testified in his pre-filed Direct Testimony that all labor, materials, property, and services to be rendered for the Proposed Electrical Facilities will be supplied at competitive and reasonable prices. The Commission finds that the estimated cost of \$18.5 million is reasonable and approves said cost estimate.

10. There are presently on file with this Commission the financial statements of the Company that indicate the Company is able financially to complete the construction described and set out in this Petition.

11. The Company is an electric public utility as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-3(d)(i) and is qualified as an entity to which the Legislature has granted the power of eminent domain pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 11-27-1, *et seq.*

12. The Company attached to, addressed in, or incorporated by reference into the Petition, all the information required by Appendix A, Schedule 3 of the Procedural Rules, with the exception of part of the requirements of Appendix A, Schedule 3, Item 7, for which the Company requested a Procedural Rule waiver. The Commission finds that good cause exists and has been shown for a temporary waiver of plans and specifications, but orders Entergy Mississippi to submit to the Staff a complete set of engineering plans and specifications once completed, but before construction on the Proposed Electrical Facilities begins.

13. The Commission finds that Entergy Mississippi is ready, willing, and able to

acquire, construct, expand, own, operate, and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities that are the subject of the Petition. The Commission finds that there is substantial evidence before it in this proceeding to find and determine that there is a need for Entergy Mississippi to construct and install the Proposed Electrical Facilities, as set out and described in this Order and the Petition and its supporting testimony. The public convenience and necessity require and will require the acquisition, construction, expansion, ownership, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Electrical Facilities, and require the issuance by the Commission of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing such.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Commission that:

1. The Commission hereby does grant unto the Company permission for deviation from and does waive the Procedural Rule requirements referenced herein and in Paragraphs 11 and 13 of the Petition, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 13 of this Order.

2. The Commission approves the cost estimate of the Proposed Electrical Facilities and hereby does grant the Company a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to, acquire, construct, expand, operate, own, and maintain the Proposed Electrical Facilities in Desoto County, within the State of Mississippi, and as particularly described and set out herein and in the Petition and Testimony filed by the Company. The Commission hereby approves the estimated costs of \$18.5 million for this project. The Company shall notify the Commission in writing if there is a material deviation from the approved cost estimate.

3. Exceptions to this Recommended Order may be filed the with 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 become the Order of the Commission.

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 19th day of March, 2020.



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Presley".

BRANDON PRESLEY, HEARING EXAMINER

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Collier".

KATHERINE COLLIER, Executive Secretary

Effective this the 19th day of March, 2020.