

PUC PROJECT NO. 20899

1999 & 2000 ELECTRIC SYSTEM	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SERVICE QUALITY REPORT	§	
PURSUANT TO SUBST. R. 25.81	§	OF TEXAS
[formerly Subst. R. 23.11(i)]	§	

ORDER GRANTING GOOD CAUSE EXCEPTION

Given the circumstances discussed below, the Commission concludes that good cause exists to grant an exception to the filing requirement of Substantive Rule § 25.81, and that it is not necessary for electric utilities to file an Electric System Service Quality Report on December 15, 1999.

I. Background

In July 1997, the Commission adopted the Electric System Service Quality Report for utilities to comply with Substantive Rule § 23.11(i) (subsequently changed to § 25.81). This rule, as currently written, requires electric utilities to file service quality reports semi-annually. The next report is due December 15, 1999 for the six-month period ending October 30, 1999.

In Commission Project 21076 - Rulemaking on Electric Reliability Standards, amendments are being considered to the Commission's Substantive Rules § 25.52 related to Reliability Standards and § 25.81 related to the Service Quality Report. The amended rules in this project are scheduled to be considered for adoption by the Commission in the Open Meeting on December 1, 1999. The proposed amendment to § 25.81 would change the filing requirement from semi-annual service quality reports to annual reports. The amendment specifies that the report will be filed on February 14 of each year, and the initial filing under the amended rule will be due February 14, 2000.

II. Discussion

Three utilities made filings requesting that good cause be recognized for an exception to the December 15, 1999 filing requirement of Substantive Rule § 25.81¹. Each of the three utilities state that filing a report in December and again in February 2000 would be redundant and would require an unnecessary expense. Texas-New Mexico Power Company added that this situation would result in "a waste of both the parties' and the PUC's resources."

Project 21076 Coordinator, Mel Eckhoff², agrees that the December filing is not necessary. Further, Mr. Eckhoff notes that the six-month period due to be reported in December 1999 will be included in the filing on February 14, 2000³.

The Commission wishes to assure that valuable information on reliability is not sacrificed if the requested filing delay is granted; therefore, the Commission directs that it will waive the December, 1999 filing requirement but in return expects to get more detailed information from the utilities in their February filing. Specifically, the Commission requires electric utilities to file the following information in February, 2000:

- Annual reliability index values for a utility's total system, and for each feeder, for calendar year 1999; and
- A restatement of the system-wide index values on a month-by-month basis for 1998 and 1999.

Finally, the Commission emphasizes that this good cause exception only applies to the filing requirement of Substantive Rule § 25.81, and not to any similar filing requirement resulting from a Commission Order.

¹ Central and South West Corporation filed a letter in Project 20899 and Project 21076 on behalf of its Texas electric utility operating companies; Central Power and Light Company, Southwestern Electric Power Company, and West Texas Utilities Company (Oct. 28, 1999). Texas-New Mexico Power Company filed in Project 21076 (Oct. 29, 1999), and TxU Electric Company filed in Project 20899 (Nov. 3, 1999).

² Engineering Specialist, Electric Industry Analysis Division, Office of Regulatory Affairs.

³ The filing due December 15, 1999 covers the six-month period May 1, 1999 through October 30, 1999; and the February 14, 2000 will cover the 1999 calendar year.

Order

For the reasons set out above, the Commission grants an exception to the filing requirement of Substantive Rule § 25.81, and electric utilities need not file an Electric System Service Quality Report on December 15, 1999. However, the utilities are put on notice that their filing requirements for early 2000 have been expanded as discussed previously in this order.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the 23rd day of November 1999.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

PAT WOOD, III, CHAIRMAN

JUDY WALSH, COMMISSIONER

BRETT A. PERLMAN, COMMISSIONER