STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 173

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Petition for Investigation Regarding the)	ORDER HOLDING DOCKET
Reliability and Integrity of the Electric Grid in)	IN ABEYANCE
North Carolina)	

BY THE CHAIR: On May 18, 2021, the Public Staff filed a petition in the above-captioned docket requesting that the Commission open an investigation into the reliability and integrity of the systems of electric utilities in North Carolina during extreme weather events in light of the outages and rolling blackouts experienced in Texas in February of this year as a result of Winter Storm Uri.

The Commission notes that a similar event affecting customers in Texas and the Southwest region of the United States occurred due to severe cold weather in February 2011. Subsequent to that event, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued a joint report and recommendations regarding the outages and curtailments affecting electric and natural gas customers in that region. After reviewing the joint report, the Commission opened Docket No. M-100, Sub 135 and issued an order on December 7, 2011, seeking comments as to whether the Commission should initiate a rulemaking, an investigation, or any other kind of proceeding to implement any of the report's recommendations here in North Carolina.

FERC and NERC have announced that they will undertake a similar joint inquiry into the operations of the bulk power system during the extreme winter weather conditions in February, noting that the severe cold weather "has contributed to power outages affecting millions of electricity customers throughout the region."

The Chair appreciates the Public Staff raising this issue and finds good cause to hold this docket in abeyance awaiting the results from FERC and NERC's joint inquiry into the February event in Texas, including any recommendations for further action, and to

¹ Press Release, Fed. Energy Regulatory Comm'n, FERC, NERC to Open Joint Inquiry into 2021 Cold Weather Grid Operations (Feb. 16, 2021), https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-nerc-open-joint-inquiry-2021-cold-weather-grid-operations.

consider at that time whether such recommendations may be applicable to the provision of reliable electric service in this State.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 21st day of May, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk

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