

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 1, 2024

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, *ex rel.*

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STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUR-2022-00073

Ex Parte: In the matter considering utility
distributed energy resource interconnection-related
issues and questions

ORDER GRANTING MOTION

As part of its Final Order in Case No. PUR-2021-00127, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") found that it would, by separate order, open a docket to explore interconnection issues related to utility distributed energy resources ("DER") in a comprehensive manner.¹ In accordance with that finding, the Commission established the present proceeding. On August 7, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Directing Evidentiary Proceeding, Pilot and Improvements to the Interconnection Process ("Order"). On August 26, 2024, Virginia's Electric Cooperatives and the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (collectively, the "Cooperatives") filed a motion for relief related to the Order ("Motion").²

As part of the August 7, 2024 Order, the Commission directed that, to the extent it is not already available, each investor-owned electric utility and electric cooperative regulated by the

¹ See *Petition of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia*, Case No. PUR-2021-00127, 2022 S.C.C. Ann. Rept. 271, Final Order (Jan. 7, 2022).

² Virginia's twelve rate-regulated distribution electric cooperatives include A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, and Southside Electric Cooperative. See Motion at 1 n.1.

Commission must include the following information on its website within six (6) months of the date of the Order:

- A copy of all application forms, including application checklists, utility contact information, a list of frequently asked questions, and any other necessary information related to the application forms, which shall be updated on a timely basis whenever necessary;
- A DER interconnection queue, which shall be updated on a quarterly basis; and
- A unit cost guide, which shall be updated on an annual basis.³

In its Motion, the Cooperatives seek additional time – until February 6, 2026 – to compile this information.⁴ The Cooperatives assert that additional time is needed given limited staff resources and budgetary constraints.⁵ They also maintain that the additional time would not adversely impact any party as there are few, if any, projects in any of the Cooperatives' respective queues.⁶ Further, the Cooperatives state that though they are requesting until February 6, 2026, to complete the directives:

our commitment is and will always remain to complete the task as quickly as possible. This request for a total of eighteen months to fully comply is made out of an abundance of caution to ensure that the Cooperatives have adequate time to integrate the practices, IT systems, and IT system contractors of all of the Cooperatives (including the smallest), as well as to address any unforeseen challenges. The Cooperatives will make every effort to finish ahead of the requested extension period. . . .⁷

³ Order at 10-11.

⁴ See Motion at 2-7, 9.

⁵ *Id.* at 5-6.

⁶ *Id.* at 6. The Cooperatives claim that even where queues have projects in them, those projects and parties would not be disadvantaged because the Cooperatives would be able to dedicate more time to the proposed projects in the queues as opposed to that time being repurposed to implement the Order. *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at 6-7.

The Cooperatives also seek to comply with the Order either by each cooperative acting on its own or through some sort of collective action involving either all Cooperatives or a subset of the Cooperatives.⁸ According to the Cooperatives, a collective approach may, among other things, be easier to administer, to keep updated, and to protect the interests of both the Cooperatives and the solar community by simplifying information sharing.⁹

No responses to the Motion were filed.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered this matter, is of the opinion and finds that the Motion should be granted as provided herein. The Cooperatives (i) are granted additional time – until February 6, 2026 – to comply with the Order, and (ii) are permitted to comply with the Order either by each Cooperative acting on its own or through collective action involving all of the Cooperatives or a subset thereof. Granting this Motion, however, in no way alters the obligation for the information required by the Order to be accurate as to each Cooperative, updated regularly as directed in the Order, and easily located by interested persons.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- (2) This matter is continued.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.

⁸ *Id.* at 7-9. The Cooperatives noted that such a group effort or undertaking could take many different forms. Examples of some potential forms were described in its Motion. *See id.* at 7-8.

⁹ *Id.* at 8.