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SANTEE COOPER
PURPA PUBLIC HEARING

AUDIO RECORDING

MAY 9, 2023

In the Matter of the Consideration of the
Adoption of Certain Regulatory Standards Pursuant
to SEC 111 of the Public Utility Regulatory
Policies Act of 1978, as Amended by the
Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act of
2021 (IIJA)

TIME: 11 AM

LOCATION: Santee Cooper Moncks Corner
Headquarters, McCall Auditorium
Moncks Corner, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: RONDA K. BLANTON, RPR
CLARK BOLEN COURT REPORTING
CHARLESTON, SC 29422
843-762-6294
WWW.CLARKBOLEN.COM

1 Tuesday Morning Session

2 May 9, 2023

3 - - -

4 CHAIRPERSON: Good morning. I will
5 call this hearing to order and welcome everyone
6 in attendance.

7 This is the second day,
8 continuation of Santee Cooper's PURPA hearing.
9 The first hearing was held yesterday afternoon,
10 May 8, 2023, at Santee Cooper's Horry-Georgetown
11 office.

12 As I noted yesterday, this hearing
13 is being held pursuant to the requirements of the
14 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978,
15 also known as PURPA, and the amendments that were
16 made to that act under the Infrastructure
17 Investment and Jobs Act of 2021; and that is also
18 referred to as the IIJA.

19 So, on occasion, new PURPA
20 standards are proposed by Congress for
21 consideration and possible adoption. Utilities,
22 like Santee Cooper, must consider these
23 standards. The IIJA added new standards
24 involving electric vehicle charging programs,
25 demand-response practices, and ready recovery

1 demand-response programs.

2 Santee Cooper is considering these
3 new PURPA standards, and we requested public
4 participation as a part of that process. Santee
5 Cooper presented three witnesses yesterday.
6 These Santee Cooper employees testified regarding
7 Santee Cooper's electric vehicle program, demand-
8 response practices, and demand response cost
9 recovery.

10 We sought to encourage public
11 participation by holding this public hearing for
12 two days in two locations by presenting witnesses
13 to discuss the standards or practices at Santee
14 Cooper and by allowing the opportunity for public
15 comments during the hearing and an option for --
16 (Inaudible.) -- comments.

17 As I noted yesterday, the hearing
18 panel for this proceeding was appointed by Santee
19 Cooper's President and Chief Executive Officer
20 Jimmy Staton. The panel consists of Vicky
21 Budreau, Santee Cooper's Chief Customer Officer
22 to my left; Mr. Bryan Lewis, Santee Cooper's
23 Director of Customer Service Retail to my right;
24 and myself, Pamela Williams, Chief Public Affairs
25 Officer and General Counsel.

1 We, as the panelists, are here to
2 conduct the hearing, establish the record; and
3 after receipt of any public comment, we will
4 present a report of recommendations to the Santee
5 Cooper Board of Directors. And the Board will
6 make the ultimate decision about the standards
7 discussed.

8 Notice of the hearing was given to
9 the public via newspaper notice and Santee
10 Cooper's website. The notice set forth in detail
11 the standards that ought to be considered. The
12 notice is also to inform the public that if
13 anyone intended to make comments at the hearing,
14 they were to express interest in doing so by
15 May 1, 2023.

16 But I do not have any -- I've not
17 received any requests or notice that anyone would
18 be here, other than the witnesses presented by
19 Santee Cooper.

20 With that said, interested parties
21 have until June 8, 2023, to submit written
22 comments via email or mail.

23 And now I'll ask Megan Driggers,
24 in-house counsel for Santee Cooper, to present
25 any remaining witness and exhibits on behalf of

1 Santee Cooper.

2 MS. DRIGGERS: Thank you.

3 As you noted at the hearing
4 yesterday, the staff presented nine exhibits, the
5 board resolution, the panel appointment, three
6 affidavits of publication indicating hearing
7 notices were published in newspapers of general
8 circulation in the Charleston area, the
9 Georgetown area, and the Myrtle Beach area.

10 A copy of a screenshot of Santee
11 Cooper's public PURPA website and direct
12 testimony of Santee Cooper's staff was also
13 admitted. Yesterday we presented three witnesses
14 from Santee Cooper's staff who sponsored --
15 (Inaudible.) -- testimony. Steven Roys, a
16 financial analyst in the conservation and energy
17 efficiency department at Santee Cooper addressed
18 Santee Cooper's electric vehicle charging
19 programs. Steven recommended Santee Cooper adopt
20 the proposed policies set forth in PURPA Section
21 111(d)(2).

22 Miss Ashley Millwood's testimony
23 gave an overview of Santee Cooper's response
24 programs. Miss Millwood gave an overview of the
25 district energy efficiency program Santee Cooper

1 has implemented for residential and commercial
2 customers. Miss Millwood also discussed Santee
3 Cooper's -- (Inaudible.) -- SC program, which is
4 an energy efficiency program aimed at reducing
5 both electricity consumption and demand during
6 peak and off peak times.

7 (Inaudible.) -- of demand-response,
8 electric vehicle solar programs, and energy
9 efficiency programs from residential customers to
10 conserve energy at home were also presented.
11 Miss Millwood further discussed the technology in
12 place at Santee Cooper to reduce distribution
13 system peak demand and the launch of distributed
14 energy resources standards -- (Inaudible.) -- at
15 Santee Cooper.

16 Finally she discussed Santee
17 Cooper's demand-response programs smart rewards
18 available to single-family and now multi-family
19 residential customers and thereby reducing the
20 demands in peak times and sustain constraint,
21 managing electricity costs, and reducing carbon
22 emissions. Miss Millwood noted the communication
23 between Santee Cooper -- (Inaudible.) --
24 regarding energy efficiency programs and reducing
25 peak demands.

1 PURPA Section 111(d)(20) states
2 that each utility shall promote the use of
3 demand-response and demand flexible practices by
4 commercial, residential, and industrial customers
5 to reduce electricity consumption during periods
6 of unusually high demand. Miss Millwood's
7 testimony indicates Santee Cooper has a number of
8 programs in place for energy efficiency and
9 demand-response and to reduce overall consumption
10 during peak demand.

11 Based on the testimony and evidence
12 Santee Cooper already has programs in place; and,
13 thus, I recommend Santee Cooper adopt the
14 proposed policies set forth in PURPA
15 Section 111(d)(20).

16 Michael Smith's testimony -- he's
17 Santee Cooper's Director of Billing and
18 Pricing -- covered cost recovery and rate --
19 (Inaudible.) -- related to the main response as
20 discussed in PURPA Section 111(d)(20)(b).

21 Mr. Smith discussed how Santee
22 Cooper recovers the cost of demand-response
23 promotion through revenue requirements within
24 base rates. He further testified as to rates
25 available to residential customers based on time

1 of use pricing and commercial time of use rates
2 for commercial customers. As Mr. Smith noted,
3 industrial customers are offered a
4 demand-response buy-back rate.

5 Mr. Smith's testimony indicates
6 Santee Cooper has already established rate
7 mechanisms for time of intended recovery of the
8 cost of response-demand feasibility practices and
9 in accordance with PURPA Section 111(d)(20). For
10 this reason, the staff of Santee Cooper
11 recommends that Santee Cooper adopt the proposed
12 policies set forth in PURPA Section 111(d)(2).

13 Santee Cooper staff has no further
14 witnesses, no additional exhibits, and rested
15 yesterday afternoon. As noted, we recommend
16 Santee Cooper adopt all three standards as they
17 are in place at Santee Cooper now.

18 Nothing additional from the staff.

19 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you,
20 Miss Driggers. If there is nothing further, then
21 this concludes the hearing.

22 (End of recording.)

23 - - -

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
3 COUNTY OF HORRY

4 I, Ronda K. Blanton, a Registered
5 Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the
6 State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby
7 certify that the audio recording in the foregoing
8 transcript was recorded stenographically by me
9 and thereafter transcribed by computer-aided
10 transcription; that the foregoing is a full,
11 complete, and true record of the audio recording.
12 Due to the quality of the recorded media,
13 portions were unable to be transcribed. The
14 transcript may also include misinterpreted words.
15 The Court Reporter was not present at the time of
16 the recording; therefore, this transcript should
17 not be considered verbatim.

18 I further certify that I am neither related
19 to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending
20 or interested in the events thereof.

21 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my
22 official seal on May 22, 2023, at Myrtle Beach,
23 Horry County, South Carolina.

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