

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

In recent months the Commission has noted an increasing national emphasis toward restructuring in the electric utility industry. Although Alabama currently enjoys some of the most efficient and reasonably-priced electric utility services in the nation, the Commission has determined that it would be prudent to assess the present and future status of Alabama's electric utility industry in the event that electric restructuring is at some point mandated from the federal level or is otherwise determined to be in the public interest.

The objective of the Commission's assessment of the electric industry is to obtain as much information and insight as possible from as many interested parties as possible. Although the Commission has broad regulatory authority over electric utility matters, many of the electric industry participants in Alabama are exempt from that jurisdiction. In order to render an informed decision regarding electric restructuring in this State, the Commission seeks input from all factions of the electric industry, both regulated and non-regulated, as well as from any other interested parties.

With this Order, we establish an investigation into restructuring in the electric industry as it relates to Alabama. It is our intention to conduct this proceeding in various phases. Future procedural orders will establish, in detail, the procedure to be followed by the Commission. However, interested parties who desire to participate in this process of review are encouraged to notify the Commission of their desire and intention to participate. All such notices of intervention in this proceeding should be sent to Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary of the Alabama Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 991, Montgomery, Alabama 36101.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION, That with this Order, a proceeding is hereby instituted to investigate restructuring in the electric utility industry.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION, That the Commission will establish a procedural schedule to be followed in this investigation in future orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION, That all parties interested in actively participating in this investigation should notify the Secretary of the Commission of their

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intention to participate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That this Order shall be effective as of the date hereof.

DONE at Montgomery, Alabama, this 7th day of April, 1998.

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Jim Sullivan, President

Jan Cook, Commissioner

Charles B. Martin, Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary