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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**DOCKET NOs. 28320/34432/38703/41533/43404**

### **IN RE: ORDER EXTENDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This matter comes to the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") as a result of the Department of Human Services ("DHS") filing a letter that requests the extension of the current Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the GPSC and DHS.

#### **Background**

On August 17, 2011, the Commission and DHS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU provided for the transfer of funds from the Fresh Start Program to the Regulated Provider Program. The MOU also provided for a disbursement from the Universal Service Fund ("USF") to DHS in order to provide funding for the referral processing services for the Regulated Provider Program..

Paragraph 8 of the MOU provided that, "[i]f, by August 31, 2012, the full amount of this grant has not been used for the purposes of processing consumer applications for the Regulated Provider, then the amount left over shall be returned to the Commission to be deposited into the USF."

On February 7, 2014, DHS filed a letter with the Commission requesting an extension of the then current MOU through August 31, 2015. Additional funding was not being requested at that time. However, the extension of the MOU was necessary in order to avoid having to return the funds to the USF and to facilitate the processing of applications for the Regulated Provider Program. DHS has continued to file these extensions either yearly or bi-yearly without requesting

additional funding. DHS now requests another extension to the current MOU which ends on September 30, 2022.

### **Extension Request and Staff Review**

On June 17, 2022, DHS filed a letter requesting an extension of the current MOU through September 30, 2023 to continue providing referral services for the Regulated Provider Program. The extension of the MOU is also necessary in order to avoid DHS having to return the funds to the USF.

Commission Staff met with DHS and Scana Energy as the Regulated Provider multiple times via zoom and telephone conferences during this process. After careful consideration of the extension request, and the performance of Staff's due diligence, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the extension..

### **Commission Decision**

In order for DHS to continue to facilitate the processing of applications for the Regulated Provider Program, the Commission finds that it is in the public interest to grant DHS's request. If DHS does not have authority to perform this function, eligible consumers will be at risk of not being able to receive natural gas service from the Regulated Provider. Therefore, during its August 16, 2022 Administrative Session, the Commission voted to extend the term of the Memorandum of Understanding through September 30, 2023

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED**, that the Commission hereby approves the request for an extension to the current MOU between DHS and the Commission to be effective October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

**ORDERED FURTHER**, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or oral argument or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

**ORDERED FURTHER**, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 16th day of August 2022.



Sallie Tanner  
Executive Secretary

8/22/22  
Date



Tricia Pridemore  
Chairman

8/22/22  
Date