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BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:	)	
	)	
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR	)	
REGULATED PROVIDER OF	)	**DOCKET NO. 55356**
NATURAL GAS SERVICE 2024-2026	)	
	)	
	)	

ORDER SELECTING THE 2024-2026 REGULATED PROVIDER OF NATURAL GAS SERVICE

This matter comes before the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") as a result of the Commission's October 17, 2023, Request for Proposal ("RFP") for the Regulated Provider of Natural gas service for the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026. At its April 2, 2024, Administrative Session, the Commission voted to select SCANA Energy Marketing, Inc. ("SCANA Energy") as the Regulated Provider for 2024-2026.

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-4-166(f), the Commission shall utilize an RFP process for selecting a Regulated Provider of natural gas service for Group 1 and Group 2 customers. To be eligible for Group 1 service, a customer must meet the definition of a "low-income consumer" set forth in the Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act. O.C.G.A. § 46-4-166(a)(1). Group 2 customers include firm natural gas customers who have been unable to obtain or maintain natural gas commodity service or whose payment

history was cited by the Regulated Provider as a reason to transfer from Group 1 to Group 2. O.C.G.A. § 46-4-166(a)(2).

The term of the current Regulated Provider expires on August 31, 2024. Therefore, on October 17, 2023, the Commission issued an RFP to all certificated marketers. SCANA Energy filed a bid on December 4, 2023. No other certificated marketer responded to the RFP.

II. THE BID

SCANA Energy filed with the Commission a bid under Trade Secret protection that in general terms included, but are not limited to:

- Proposed deposits, price structure, customer service charge and cost recovery for Group 1 and Group 2;
- Proposed terms and conditions of service to Group 1 and Group 2 customers, as well as for transfers of consumers from Group 1 to Group 2 and from Group 2 to Group 1;
- Processes related to the relationship between SCANA Energy and the Department of Human Services ("DHS") in qualifying customers that may be eligible for service from the Regulated Provider;
- Four proposed Universal Service Fund ("USF") recovery options for Group 1 customers' bad debt;
- Two years of pro forma financial statements to include income statements, balance sheets, statements of cash flows, and customer projections broken down between Group 1 and Group 2, including assumptions, data, computations and electronic spreadsheets with formulas intact.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff performed their due diligence and thoroughly reviewed, analyzed and carefully considered the options offered in the bid package.

The information that Staff reviewed included, but was not limited to, proposed rates for Group 1 and Group 2 customers, terms and conditions, senior citizen options, deposits, customer service fees, and other ancillary services offered by SCANA Energy.

Staff carefully considered the four options for USF recovery of Group 1 bad debt offered by SCANA Energy.

After submitting questions to seek clarification and reviewing Scana Energy's responses; based on the review of the bid package received and the performance of SCANA Energy as the current Regulated Provider, Staff recommended that the Commission accept the bid and select SCANA Energy as the Regulated Provider for the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026. Staff also recommended the Commission select the Group 1 bad debt recovery option of $57 per year and the "basic" rate plan for Group 2 customers. Staff further recommended that the Commission require

that SCANA Energy and Staff negotiate in good faith to prepare and file, a proposed Consent Agreement that details the terms and conditions under which SCANA Energy shall serve as the 2024-2026 Regulated Provider by July 15, 2024.

IV. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Commission finds and concludes that:

1. The selection of Scana Energy as the Regulated Provider for the 2024-2026 term is in the public interest.
2. The Group 1 bad debt recovery methodology including the reimbursement amount of $57 per year and the "basic" rate plan for Group 2 shall be adopted for the 2024-2026 Regulated Provider term.
3. Staff and SCANA Energy shall negotiate in good faith to prepare and file for Commission approval, a proposed consent agreement pursuant to the SCANA Energy bid, that details the terms and conditions under which SCANA Energy shall serve as the 2024-2026 Regulated Provider.
4. Such proposed consent agreement shall be filed by no later than July 15, 2024.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that all findings of fact and conclusions of law contained within the preceding sections of this Order are hereby adopted as the findings and conclusions of this Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Commission approve the bid and select SCANA Energy, as the Regulated Provider for the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or oral argument or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of the 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 2nd day of April, 2024.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

4-4-24
Date

Jason Shaw
Chairman

4-4-24
Date