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In re: FERC Order No. 1920

COMMISSION RESOLUTION REQUESTING RE-HEARING ON FERC ORDER NO. 1920

FERC Order No. 1920 promises to “ensur[e] a reliable grid- by requiring the nation’s transmission providers to plan for the transmission we know we will need in the future.”¹ FERC Chairman Phillips and Commissioner Clements maintain that Order No. 1920 will create a “forward-looking, comprehensive and holistic transmission and planning and cost allocation framework which provides transmission planners with the maximum flexibility we can legally allow in order to facilitate negotiated, regionally appropriate, solutions” giving states “unprecedented, expanded opportunities to work with transmission providers to shape the cost allocation approaches of their regions.”²

While these claims certainly sound positive and in line with this Commission’s interests of ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable energy for the people of Georgia, this Commission takes note of Commissioner Christie’s Dissenting Opinion in this matter and recognizes that the language espoused by the FERC Commissioner majority and the actual policy implications of this Order are divergent.

Chairman Christie states in his dissent that Order No. 1920 is:

¹ FERC, *Fact Sheet: Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation* (May 13, 2024), <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/fact-sheet-building-future-through-electric-regional-transmission-planning-and>

² Hunton Andrews Kurth, *Summary: Divided FERC Issues Order No. 1920*, <https://www.huntonak.com/insights/legal/summary-divided-ferc-issues-order-no-1920>

[A] pretext to enact, through administrative action, a sweeping legislative and policy agenda that Congress never passed. The final rule claims statutory authority the Commission does not have to issue an absurdly complex bureaucratic blizzard of mandates and micromanagement to be imposed on every transmission provider in the United States for the transparent goal of spending trillions of consumers' dollars on transmission *not* to serve consumers in accordance with the FPA, but instead to serve political, corporate, and other special-interest agendas that were never enacted into law. (Footnotes omitted).

Order No. 1920 will result in regional grid operators paying to develop transmission plans to meet state and corporate climate goals over the next 20 years and will do little to reign in ever increasing energy costs or secure our nation's already precarious power grid. According to the Wall Street Journal, this Rule "will free liberal state lawmakers from having to consider the effects of their climate policies on grid reliability" and will "effectively subsidize 'socially responsible' corporations...Google will no longer have to worry about how to move wind power in one area to support its data centers in another. That will be the job of grid operators."³

Additionally, Rule No. 1920 will displace the costs of certain states' political decisions to forgo more provably reliable sources of energy, such as fossil fuels, in favor of less-reliable and more expensive 'green-friendly' technologies, by forcing grid operators to socialize transmission costs across states in their region. "Under the FERC rule, all states will be considered beneficiaries from a new transmission line that increases renewable generation because this will supposedly reduce the likelihood of blackouts and electric prices—never mind that solar and wind must be backed up at exorbitant cost."⁴ This means that states utilizing more economic and efficient energy methods will in effect subsidize the political decisions and costs of other state's anti-fossil fuel policies, effectively shifting transmission costs from Democratic to Republican run states.

³ Wall Street Journal Editorial Board, *The Big Green Transmission Coup*, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/federal-energy-regulatory-commission-congress-chuck-schumer-permits-cb09fbc4?page=1>

⁴ *Id.*

Accordingly, this Commission resolves that it must join FERC Commissioner Christie in his opposition to FERC Order No. 1920 and requests a re-hearing as this Order will disproportionately affect the rate payers of the State of Georgia. The State of Georgia has elected to adopt an economical mixture of energy resources to ensure affordable and reliable power for its residents, and this Order will paradoxically increase the cost to rate-payers for making the smart, economical choice to maintain a reliable power grid.

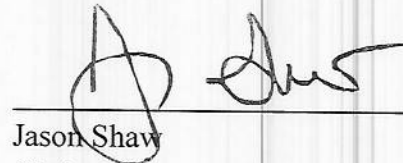
The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on June 6, 2024.



Reece McAlister
Assistant Executive Secretary

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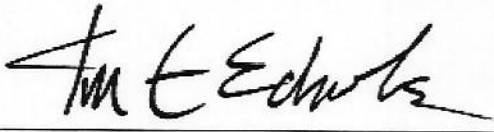
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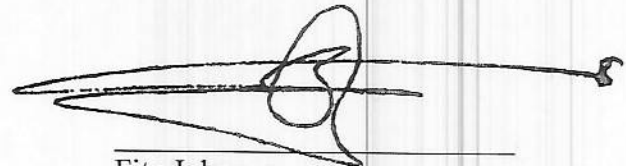
Jason Shaw
Chairman

6-7-24

Date



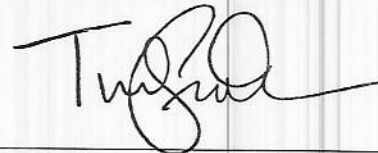
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