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DOCKET# 56008
DOCUMENT# 222110

FINAL ORDER ADOPTING RULE

TO: (a) Legislative Counsel – State of Georgia
(b) All Commission Staff
(c) All Parties on the Commission's Agenda List

FROM: Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

IN RE: **Docket No. 56008: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Existing Commission Rule 515-2-1-.04(4): Applications, Petitions, Complaints and Filings. Procedural Requirements Relating Thereto.**

All interested parties are hereby notified pursuant to Ga. Laws 1964, pp. 338, 342, as amended (Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A.") § 50-13-4) that the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") has considered and adopted amendments to a rule regarding applications, petitions, complaints and filings. The rule, as amended, that was adopted at the Commission's January 21, 2025, Administrative Session shall become effective as provided by law twenty days after the rule is filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

BY THE COMMISSION:

Whereas, during its regularly scheduled January 21, 2025, Administrative Session, the Commission approved the adoption amendments to Commission Utility Rule 515-2-1-.04(4).

Whereas, copies of written notices of the proposed rule previously were emailed to all interested persons on the agenda list of the Commission pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(1); and

Whereas, a copy of said notice was furnished to the Legislative Counsel of the State of Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(e); and

Whereas, the Commission provided parties with the opportunity to provide written comments and to request a hearing to present oral comments on the proposed amendments to the rule;

WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED, that Commission Utility Rule 515-2-1-.04(4), as amended, is hereby approved and adopted as shown below:

RULES OF GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Chapter 515-2 Practice and Procedure
515-2-1 General Applicability
RULE 515-2-1-.04(4)

Applications, Petitions, Complaints and Filings.

Procedural Requirements Related Thereto

(4) All filings at the Commission shall be made utilizing the electronic filing portal or through mail, courier or in-person. The procedures below outline the requirements for making filings at the Commission based on the manner utilized to submit the filing.

(a) Electronic Filing Portal. All filings made through the electronic filing portal shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions contained on the Commission's website https://psc.ga.gov/. All filings submitted through the electronic filing portal will be deemed as filed once the party filing the document receives an email confirmation from the Commission affirming that the filing has been accepted. All electronic filings submitted through the electronic filing portal shall be made using the type of format specified by the Commission in its Official Filing Schedule. If a filing is made utilizing the electronic filing portal no paper copy of the filing will be required except by order of the Commission or by request of a staff member of the Commission. If paper copies are directed in a Commission order or are requested by a staff member, the exact number of copies that a party must file shall be determined as specified in the Official Filing Schedule adopted by the Commission, outlined in a Commission order or communicated from a staff member. Once adopted, this Official Filing Schedule may be modified from time to time by order of the Commission.

(b) Filings made through mail, courier or in-person. In addition to any other requirement set forth in Rule 515-2-1-.04, a party shall file an original of its filing along with a complete electronic version of its filing. If, for reasons beyond a party's

control, any portion of a document cannot be filed electronically, the party making the filing shall include in the place of the unavailable item in its electronic filing a statement that the item in question is not available electronically and the reason(s) for its unavailability. All electronic filings shall be made using the type of software specified by the Commission in its Official Filing Schedule. In the event that a textual, substantive or other type of discrepancy exists between the original hard copy of the document and the electronic version filed, the contents of the original hard copy of the filing shall control.

1. Any party to a contested matter that lacks the technical ability to make an electronic filing with the Commission as required by (4)(b) of this rule may file a petition seeking an exemption from meeting this requirement. Any such petition that may be made pursuant to this rule shall conform with all of the filing requirements of this rule, except that it need not be accompanied by an electronic version of the petition filed. The decision whether to grant such a petition shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the Chairman of the Commission in accordance with Rule 515-1-1-.01.

2. Any filing made pursuant to Rule 515-2-1-.04 must be received by the Commission's Executive Secretary Office no later than 4:00 p.m. if it is to be date stamped as having been received that calendar day. Limited exceptions to the 4:00 p.m. filing deadline requirement may be made by the Executive Secretary's Office for good cause shown. Nothing set forth in this rule shall prevent a party from petitioning the Commission to obtain an exception to the filing deadline in the event that the Executive Secretary does not grant a request that a late filing be accepted nor shall this rule be interpreted to contradict the express provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-23.

(c) All filings with the Commission shall include a valid mailing address, telephone number, and email address. In addition to any other applicable service requirements, all filings made at the Commission shall be sent electronically to all parties who have previously provided a valid email address in the Docket at issue (e.g., through requests for Intervention or other filings).

1. Inability of a party to serve documents electronically for lack of a valid email address as required by Section (c) shall not be construed as a violation of this Rule section.

2. If, for reasons beyond a party's control, any portion of a document cannot be served electronically, the serving party shall include in the place of the

unavailable item in its electronic service documentation a statement that the item in question is not available electronically.

3. In the event that a party is unable to serve another party because either the party to be served does not have or has not provided notice of a valid email address or the document or any portion thereof cannot be served electronically, the serving party shall affect service via the US mail or other acceptable means allowed by the Administrative Procedure Act.

4. Nothing in subsection (c) of this Rule shall supersede Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11: Trade Secrets.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 46-2-30 and Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 125; 1907, pp. 72-81; 1922, pp. 42-147; 1950, p. 311; 1956, p. 104, 105; 1954, pp. 338-356; 1965, p. 283; 1970, p. 104; 1972, pp. 138, 439-446; 1973, pp. 200-220, 664, 677, 678; 1975, pp. 404-412; 1976, p. 419; 1979, p. 1084 (Ga. Code Ann. Sec. 93-307). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Applications, Petitions and Complaints," was filed on December 29, 1975; effective January 1, 1976, as specified by Ga. L. 1975, p. 411. **Amended:** Filed July 26, 1979; effective August 15, 1979. **Amended:** Filed November 17, 1980; effective December 7, 1980. **Amended:** Filed January 21, 1981; effective February 10, 1981. **Amended:** Filed September 23, 1983; effective October 13, 1983. **Amended:** Filed October 7, 1986; effective October 27, 1986. **Amended:** F. Nov. 9, 1995; eff. Nov. 29, 1995.

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WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED,, that the Commission hereby adopts Utility Rule 515-2-1-.04(4) as amended.

ORDERED FURTHER, that said adopted rule having been published as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-3(b) shall be filed with the Administrative Procedure Act Division of the Secretary of State as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-6(b).

ORDERED FURTHER, that any motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or oral argument or any other relief 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 21st day of January 2025.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

3-31-25
Date

Jason Shaw
Chairman

3-31-25
Date