

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2015-004

SUPPORTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED, INNOVATIVE ELECTRIC  
TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY.

WHEREAS, a secure, reliable, and resilient power grid integrating  
generation resources in Arkansas serves as a foundation of a growing economy  
and is critical to the state's energy security; and

WHEREAS, regulators, policy-makers, and consumers expect generating  
resources and the grid to perform extremely reliably in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the state's transmission facilities  
are aged and will require a replacement strategy; and

WHEREAS, environmental regulations, state and federal tax policies,  
other economic factors, and technology developments are causing some electric  
generation resources to retire, while replacement generation, some of it  
fueled by intermittent resources, is being sited at other locations on the  
electric grid; and

WHEREAS, new, innovative and cost-effective transmission technologies,  
including without limitation high-capacity/high-efficiency conductors, and  
compact transmission towers, that are commercially available may increase  
grid capacity, improve energy transfers, promote greater stability and  
resiliency, make more efficient use of rights-of-way, reduce transmission  
line losses, and help to streamline siting and construction activities; and

WHEREAS, new and advanced replacement transmission facilities may be  
designed to enable a wide variety of new generating resources and may address  
technical, environmental, and aesthetic issues that might impede or limit the  
development and operation of these resources; and

WHEREAS, crowded utility corridors often allow little room for  
expansion; and

1           WHEREAS, some states have established policies that encourage the use  
2 of advanced transmission line technologies; and

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4           WHEREAS, the policies of the National Association of Regulatory Utility  
5 Commissioners, the Southern Legislative Conference, and the Southern States  
6 Energy Board recognize the benefits of these technologies to modernize the  
7 grid and to improve generating resource integration and encourage electric  
8 utilities, grid operators, and state public service commissions to consider  
9 the cost-effective use of these technologies,

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11 NOW THEREFORE

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY OF THE NINETIETH  
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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15           THAT the Joint Committee on Energy of the Ninetieth General Assembly  
16 encourages the Arkansas Public Service Commission to support utility efforts  
17 to:

- 18                   (1) Investigate and consider cost-effective new and advanced
- 19 transmission technologies when replacing aged transmission infrastructure;
- 20                   (2) Evaluate new transmission technologies to determine whether
- 21 they can cost-effectively ensure the continued reliable delivery of
- 22 electricity while providing greater capacity and enhanced efficiency;
- 23                   (3) Consider the ability of these technologies to cost-
- 24 effectively reduce environmental and visual impacts to communities; and
- 25                   (4) Consider the ability of these and other technologies to
- 26 cost-effectively reduce the overall cost of energy delivery.

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Joint Committee on Energy of the  
29 Ninetieth General Assembly encourages the Arkansas Public Service Commission  
30 to work with regional transmission organizations and other planning  
31 authorities as needed to support and encourage consideration of those cost-  
32 effective advanced electric transmission infrastructure options that can  
33 increase grid capacity, reduce transmission line losses, improve energy  
34 transfers, make efficient use of rights-of-way, improve

1 energy efficiency, and help to streamline siting and construction activities  
2 in their planning, evaluation, and oversight of transmission grid  
3 development, especially by utilizing existing transmission corridors.  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Joint Committee on Energy of the  
6 Ninetieth General Assembly encourages the Arkansas Public Service Commission  
7 to include in the commission's oversight of transmission facilities  
8 consideration of the cost-effective and appropriate use of advanced electric  
9 transmission technologies in support of the commission's interest in the  
10 continued provision of affordable, reliable electricity to consumers.  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the staff  
13 of the Bureau of Legislative Research shall transmit a copy to the Governor,  
14 the Lieutenant Governor, and applicable state and regional regulators,  
15 including without limitation public service commissioners, energy department  
16 directors, and regional transmission operators.  
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18 Respectfully submitted,  
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22 Joint Interim Committee on Energy  
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25 By: MGF/JLC  
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