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INTERIM RESOLUTION 2015-004

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2
3 SUPPORTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED, INNOVATIVE ELECTRIC
4 TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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