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May 27, 2014

CASE 14-M-0101 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard  
to Reforming the Energy Vision.

ELEANOR STEIN and JULIA SMEAD BIELAWSKI,  
Administrative Law Judges:

This ruling is intended to clarify the purpose and working schedule of the track 1 collaborative effort in this proceeding, and to provide a process and schedule for discussion of major policy issues.

As to the process employed by the working groups, given the large number of parties wishing to participate in the collaborative track, the working group co-convenors are taking necessary steps to give all participants a voice while also providing an effective means of accomplishing the valuable work that needs to be done. We are pleased by the large numbers of participants involved and understand that a collaborative effort cannot be truly successful without representation from all stakeholders. Accordingly, we commend the efforts to adapt made by the working groups thus far and, for the purpose of clarity for the Commission, establish some uniform ground rules and nomenclature.

If they have not done so, the co-convenors of the working groups and committees having more than 30 or otherwise an unworkable number of participants should establish a steering committee with at least one representative from each stakeholder sector involved. The more manageable size of the steering

committees will enable the group to accomplish tasks faster, consistent with the expeditious pace set for in this proceeding by the Commission in the Order instituting this proceeding.<sup>1</sup> The steering committee shall meet with the entire working group once prior to the July 10 technical conference in order to report back and receive input from the larger group. As necessary, these meetings may be held in person or by teleconference, with agendas established in advance. To the extent it is helpful, members of the steering committee should also periodically seek assistance from the working group membership in gathering data on specific issues.

This process is consistent with the purpose of the collaborative, which is not to arrive at a settlement or joint proposal, or even to achieve consensus, but to collect data relevant to the Commission's inquiry. All parties will have a full opportunity for written comments on the Staff straw proposal.

The Working Group process is not designed for stakeholder input on policy questions. Many parties have raised concerns about the means of stakeholder participation in the formation of the policy recommendations necessary for Staff to craft its straw proposal. To provide an opportunity for stakeholder input on these major policy issues, we will identify a list of policy questions and establish a comment schedule allowing parties ample time to respond. This added process should remove these policy discussions from the data-gathering Working Groups and Committees.

These comments will be preliminary in nature, as every party will still have the opportunity to file comments subsequent to the issuance of the Staff straw proposal. We anticipate that these comments will make an important contribution to the Staff effort. In particular, several broad policy areas will be subject to this comment process, including

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<sup>1</sup> Case 14-M-0101, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Reforming the Energy Vision (issued April 25, 2014)(the Instituting Order).

DER ownership, role of the DSPP (i.e., utility or independent), utility provision of enhanced and competitive services, data access, and a framework for benefit/cost valuation.

(SIGNED)

ELEANOR STEIN

(SIGNED)

JULIA SMEAD BIELAWSKI