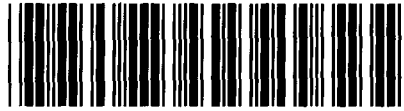




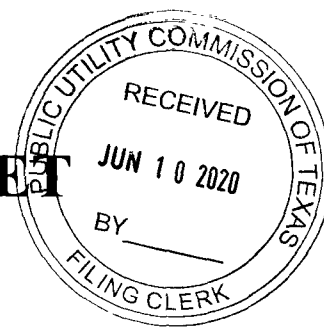
Control Number: 50664



Item Number: 197

Addendum StartPage: 0

OPEN MEETING COVER SHEET



MEETING DATE: June 12, 2020

DATE DELIVERED: June 10, 2020

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 22

CAPTION: Project no. 50664 – *Issues Related to the State of Disaster for the Coronavirus Disease 2019*

DESCRIPTION: Memorandum

Distribution List:

- Commissioners' Offices (6)
- Central Records (Open Meeting Notebook)
- Robles, Rachelle (5)
- Journey, Stephen
- Agenda
- Burch, Chris
- Zerwas, Rebecca
- Benter, Tammy (4)

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

To: Chairman DeAnn T. Walker
Commissioner Arthur C. D'Andrea
Commissioner Shelly Botkin

From: Rebecca Zerwas, Division Director, Market Analysis
Connie Corona, Chief Program Officer

Date: June 10, 2020

Re: Project No. 50664, *Issues Related to the State of Disaster for the Coronavirus Disease 2019*
Project No. 50703, *Reports of Transmission and Distribution Utilities on the COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program*

At the March 26, 2020 open meeting, the Commission issued an order establishing the COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program (Program or ERP), as well as Project No. 50703, *Reports on the COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program*.

The order adopting the Program states: “The COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program, including the suspension of disconnections for non-payment and addition of eligible residential customers to the COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program, will end on July 17, 2020, unless extended by the Commission. The COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program may be extended for an additional period if, after a reassessment of the COVID-19 Electricity Relief Program, the Commission determines that the need for the program continues to exist.”

As the Commission undertakes the reassessment contemplated by the order, Staff recommends the Commission consider the following issues. Staff plans to convene a virtual work session on this topic on Tuesday June 16.

Program End Date

The end of enrollment and the end of the benefits should be separate dates to allow all eligible customers a meaningful opportunity to benefit from the program.

- On stated program end date of July 17, only customers who had self-enrolled with Solix by July 8 are protected from disconnection. This is because, as of July 17, the most recent enrollment update to REPs will have been July 10. The July 10 enrollment update from Solix to REPs will include those customers who enrolled through July 8.
- For customers enrolled via HHSC matching (SNAP, Medicaid), the most recent opportunity to become eligible will have occurred during the month of June. This is

because the most recent HHSC data is provided to Solix monthly, on or about the 23rd of each month.

Proposed Timeline

The following timeline would allow all eligible customers a minimum one month benefit from the Program.

- July 17 – self-enrollment via Solix using unemployment benefits ends
- July 24 – final self-enrollment list provided to REPs
- July 30 – final HHSC-based enrollment list sent to REPs
- August 31 – last day of disconnection protection, last invoice date eligible for financial assistance (including delivery charge suppression), last date for satisfactory credit deposit protection
- September 1 – DNP's may resume for customers to whom notice has been provided at least 10, but no more than 30, days in advance.
- September 26 – deadline for TDUs to reimburse ERCOT for its initial contribution
- October 15 – last day for a REP to request delivery charge suppression and reimbursement of energy charges (90 days from the end of ERP enrollment)

Questions for Discussion

- Each TDU will continue the ERP rider until such time as it determines that it has received the total needed for all reimbursements. What is the method for notifying the Commission of this end date?
- What should be included in the final ERP program report by TDUs to the Commission? What is the appropriate timing for this report?
- What reporting, if any, should be required of REPs?