



HENRY McMASTER  
GOVERNOR

February 19, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire  
Executive Director  
Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 850  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Director Edwards:

South Carolinians have watched with great concern as millions of our fellow Americans have faced, and many continue to face, widespread power outages as a result of a rare winter storm. According to recent reports, customers in some areas have been forced to endure dangerous weather conditions without electricity for over a week, while others have simultaneously experienced not only the loss of power but also the disruption of water and other critical utility services.

We know from experience that South Carolina is prepared for, and stands ready to respond to, hurricanes and other forms of severe weather that occasionally impact our State. However, these recent events serve as a reminder that dangerous ice storms and severe winter weather can significantly affect those areas typically unaccustomed to such conditions, and when they do, they often have disastrous consequences. Accordingly, please allow this letter to serve as a formal request that the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") undertake a comprehensive review of our State's public and private power grid to evaluate its ability to withstand potential ice storms and other dangerous winter weather conditions. Upon completion of your review, please prepare a summary of your findings and any recommendations and provide copies of the same to me and to legislative leadership.

It is my understanding that you have already begun contacting stakeholders about these issues and that ORS may submit a request to the Public Service Commission ("PSC") to open a docket or proceeding regarding the same. Although I recognize that ORS does not have regulatory authority over the South Carolina Public Service Authority ("Santee Cooper") and certain other utilities, I would nevertheless ask ORS to include Santee Cooper and all relevant entities in its review. By copy of this letter, I am informing Santee Cooper and representatives of the State's electric cooperatives of the present request and calling on them to assist ORS in this important

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effort. Should ORS request that the PSC commence appropriate proceedings, I would encourage Santee Cooper, the electric cooperatives, and any other utilities not currently subject to the jurisdiction of ORS and the PSC, as well as any additional interested parties, to intervene in the matter to facilitate a comprehensive and collaborative review. Please keep me informed of your progress and any issues or obstacles that you may encounter during the process.

As always, thank you for your continued service to the State of South Carolina. Of course, if I can be of any assistance regarding this matter or otherwise, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

HM/tl

cc: The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.  
President of the Senate

The Honorable James H. Lucas  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Dan J. Ray  
Acting Chairman, Santee Cooper

Mr. Mark B. Bonsall  
President & CEO, Santee Cooper

Michael N. Couick, Esquire  
President & CEO, Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc.

Mr. Rob Hochstetler  
President & CEO, Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.