SUMMARY OF MISSISSIPPI’S APPROVED QUICK START ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

January 2015
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About This Document

The Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) created this overview document to serve as a quick reference guide of the rules, requirements and utility filings for the Mississippi’s Commission-approved, Quick Start energy efficiency programs. The intended audience for this document is the Mississippi Public Service Commission, Commission staff, utilities and other interested parties. For additional information please contact Ashley Fournier, Project Manager, at 404-602-9648 and afournier@seealliance.org.

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I. Executive Summary

In the past several years there have been significant advancements related to energy efficiency in the Southeast. Mississippi has emerged as a leader in the region by acknowledging the importance of energy efficiency through initiatives such as Governor Bryant’s Energy Works: Mississippi’s Energy Roadmap and the adoption of Rule 29: Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs, which establishes Mississippi’s first, state-wide utility energy efficiency programs. The rule allows utilities to tailor energy efficiency programs to the individual needs of each customer class, and will lead to a number of important benefits, including helping to improve grid reliability to meeting energy demands, while lowering energy bills, and opening the door to new economic and workforce development opportunities.

The rule outlines a two-phased approach: an approximately three-year Quick Start phase to encourage early implementation of programs, followed by a Comprehensive Portfolio phase of long-term energy efficiency programs, as follows:

- **Quick Start Phase**
  - **Quick Start Portfolio**: A portfolio of programs selected from programs currently ongoing in other jurisdictions that can provide ratepayer benefits to a majority of utility customers. Quick Start programs are defined as those which encourage early implementation and provide experience on which utilities and the Commission can build Comprehensive Portfolios.
  
  - All gas and electric utilities with 25,000 or more meters were required to submit Quick Start plans on or by January 11, 2014.
  
  - Participating utilities include Entergy Mississippi, Mississippi Power Company, CenterPoint Energy, Atmos Energy, and the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, including applicable Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Local Power Companies (LPCs).
  
  - **Examples of Quick Start Programs include:** customer education; energy audits; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) inspection, tune ups and retrofits; lighting and appliance rebates; weatherization; new homes program; prescriptive and custom incentive programs; and retro-commissioning.
  
  - It has been estimated that approved Quick Start programs will save more than 120,000 MWh of electricity and 125,000 Mcf of natural gas over the three-year Quick Start phase.
  
  - More than $26 million has been allocated to the implementation of Quick Start programs over the three-year Quick Start phase.
Comprehensive Phase

**Comprehensive Portfolio**: A portfolio of long-term programs that collectively provide appropriate resources including budget allocations, training and education, marketing and evaluation to achieve widespread implementation of all types of significant cost-effective energy efficiency improvements for all customers.

- All utilities in Mississippi will be required to submit plans for the Comprehensive phase, including those with fewer than 25,000 meters.
- The Comprehensive phase begins 36 months (3 years) after Quick Start approval, or 9 months after PSC approval of energy savings targets.
- The Commission will adopt an efficiency target as a part of the Comprehensive Portfolio phase.

**Energy Efficiency Program Impacts**

In 2012, Mississippi ranked last place in ACEEE’s annual *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, which ranks states according to their efforts to save energy. In 2013, thanks in part of the passage of the strong energy efficiency rules, Mississippi catapulted in the rankings to become one of the most improved states in the nation.

Through the commitment and dedication of the utilities and the Mississippi Public Service Commission, Mississippi is poised to continue its ascent in the ranks among energy efficiency leaders. These Quick Start programs, which are covered in more detail throughout this document, will facilitate continued economic development, in-state job creation, and an increased quality of life for Mississippians.

II. Mississippi Quick Start Energy Efficiency Programs Overview

**A. Overview of Process and Timeline**

On January 15, 2010, the Mississippi Public Service Commission established Docket No. 2010-AD-2 with the purpose of investigating the development and implementation of energy efficiency programs and standards. Through a three-year collaborative process, the Commission engaged with a diverse group of stakeholders through public hearings, comments and interventions. This process allowed the Commission to gain valuable insight on effective ways to develop energy efficiency standards. On July 11, 2013, the Commission issued a Final Order adopting Rule 29, Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs.

These rules required all gas and electric utilities with 25,000 meters or more to submit Quick Start plans within 6 months of the rule being adopted. Quick Start programs and portfolios are characterized as energy efficiency programs that have been widely implemented in other jurisdictions and can provide aggregate ratepayer benefits to a majority of utility customers. These programs can be implemented more quickly due to their proven success in other areas and hence require fewer showings to the commission.
Following the roughly three-year Quick Start phase will be the Comprehensive Portfolio phase of long-term energy efficiency programs.

**Quick Start Portfolio Phase**

By January 11, 2014, all applicable electric and gas utilities had submitted Quick Start program filings; they are listed as follows:

- Entergy Mississippi
- Mississippi Power Company
- Atmos Energy
- CenterPoint Energy
- The South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA) filed Quick Start plans on behalf of nine of its distribution co-operative members. All SMEPA members filed Quick Start plans, even those with fewer than 25,000 meters (noted with an * below).
  - Coahoma Electric Power Association*
  - Delta Electric Power Association*
  - Dixie Electric Power Association
  - Magnolia Electric Power Association
  - Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association
  - Southern Pine Electric Power Association
  - Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association
  - Twin County Electric Power Association*
  - Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association*
- Singing River Electric Power Association and Coast Electric Power Association, both SMEPA members, filed separately from the rest of the SMEPA distribution co-operative members.
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA) through their distributors (Local Power Companies (LPCs)):
  - Four-County Electric Power Association
  - Central Electric Power Association
  - East Mississippi Electric Power Association
  - NorthCentral Mississippi Electric Power Association
  - Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association
  - Tombigee Electric Power Association

From January 2014 through June 2014, the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) reviewed and assessed the submitted Quick Start Plans. By September 2014, all submitted Quick Start Portfolios filed in accordance with Rule 29 received approval from the Commission.

The approval of the Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Riders was handled separately from the Quick Start plans. Each utility had 30 days after adoption of the approval order to submit a re-determined EECR to the Public Utilities Staff. Only incremental program costs and lost contributions to fixed costs will be considered for approval per the provisions set out in the Orders; performance
incentives will not be offered during the Quick Start phase. After 2014, each utility will then be able to submit a re-determined EECR that includes a true-up adjustment reflecting any over- or under-recovery of the EECR recoverable costs for the prior 12-months. All investor-owned utilities required to submit Quick Start plans also filed EECR riders, and the EECR riders have been approved for all of these applicable utilities.

As of December 2014, many of the approved Quick Start programs are now available to customers. The remaining programs are slated to begin by early 2015.

Comprehensive Portfolio Phase

- Beginning thirty-six (36) months from the date of the Commission’s approval of the Quick Start Plan or nine (9) months following the Commission’s approval of specific numerical energy savings target, all electric and gas utilities, including those with 25,000 or fewer meters, will be required to submit Comprehensive Portfolio Plans.
- Comprehensive Portfolio programs are characterized as programs that collectively support long-term, widespread implementation of all types of significant cost-effective energy-efficiency improvements for all customer classes. Cost-benefit assessments will be applied to Comprehensive Portfolio programs.
- The Commission will adopt an energy savings target as a part of the Comprehensive Portfolio phase.
- It is expected that the Commission will reconsider offering utility incentives as a part of EECRs, based on efficiency target performance.

B. Quick Start Plan Objectives

According to Rule 29 (p.7) there are four main objectives that Quick Start plans should address:

1. Develop increased utility program capabilities and infrastructure
2. Expand energy efficiency expertise in Mississippi
3. Identify locally successful (and unsuccessful) energy efficiency programs delivery strategies
4. Generate energy savings benefits to a sizable cross section of utility customers in initial program delivery

C. Quick Start Plan Requirements

Rule 29 (p.7-9) states that Quick Start plans should also address the following:

- Be selected from programs that have been widely implemented in other jurisdictions and can provide aggregate benefits to a majority of utility customers;
- Be well-defined, and have well-established track records;
- Be capable of being implemented within six months of approval;
- Use commercially available technologies;
• Not duplicate programs funded through other sources, and that they coordinate with such programs where applicable;
• Comply with promotional practices rules;
• Form a portfolio of fewer programs providing significant savings, rather than a portfolio of many smaller programs with minimal impacts;
• Address all customer classes; and
• Be exempt from the requirement to provide cost-effectiveness showings.

D. Cost Benefit Tests

Quick Start programs are exempt from the requirements to provide cost-effectiveness showings per Section 105 of Rule 29 (p. 13). However, cost-benefit assessments for all energy efficiency programs shall be evaluated during the Comprehensive Portfolio Phase using the following tests as defined in the California Standards and Practices Manual: Economic Analysis of Demand Side Programs and Projects and submitted to the PSC:

• Total Resource Cost (TRC),
• Program Administrator Costs (PAC) or Utility Cost Test (UCT),
• Participant Cost Test (PCT), and
• Rate Impact Measure (RIM)

The cost-benefit results should be presented for both individual programs and the entire portfolio, but not one test should deem a program or portfolio as lacking cost-effectiveness. Utilities may use the evaluation period of ten years (a natural gas utility may use an evaluation period of 15 years) or the actual lives for each measure in a program to evaluate a program or portfolio.

E. Quick Start Plan Individual Program Requirements

Additionally, Rule 29 states each program in the Quick Start plan should include the following general information (p. 9):

• Description of program and the services
• Target customer population
• Program objectives
• EM&V procedures
• Implementation barriers (and how they will be addressed)
• Customer incentives
• Program time frame
• Plan for oversubscription
• Estimated energy and peak demand savings and basis for estimates
• Estimated program costs and Proportion of Quick Start budget
• Any additional information or analysis
III. Quick Start Program Summary: Entergy Mississippi – Entergy Solutions

Docket 2014-UA-6

Quick Links
- Quick Start Plan Submission
- Quick Start Plan Approval
- Energy Efficiency Cost Rider Approval (under Docket 2009-UN-64)
- Entergy Solutions Website

Approved Quick Start Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Estimated Energy Savings</th>
<th>Estimated Program Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Lighting</td>
<td>42,475 MWh</td>
<td>$3,184,132 25.47% of total budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential HVAC Equipment Tune-up Program</td>
<td>11,795 MWh</td>
<td>$2,764,894 22.12% of total budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Audit and Direct Install Program</td>
<td>5,393 MWh</td>
<td>$1,596,457 12.77% of total budget</td>
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<td>14,514 MWh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial, Industrial and Governmental (CIG) - Custom</td>
<td>6,438 MWh</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,614 MWh</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,499,810</strong></td>
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</table>

Program Implementation
- Third-Party Administrator: ICF international
- Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V): Tetra Tech selected as independent evaluator

Cost Recovery
Entergy Mississippi’s Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Rider was approved by the Mississippi Public Service Commission under Docket 2009-UN-64 in September 2014. This previously existing docket allowed Entergy Mississippi to recover costs associated with its 2009 “First Step Program” and its “Energy Wise Initiative” energy efficiency pilot programs. The existing EECR was amended (Schedule EE-2 [Revised]) to reflect the recoverable costs allowed by the Commission under Rule 29. The Energy Efficiency Cost Adjustment Factors listed below will be effective for bills rendered on and after the first billing cycle of October 2014.

Rate Class and Energy Efficiency Cost Factors
- Residential: $ 0.687 /1,000 kWh
- General Service: $ 0.348 /1,000 kWh
- Intermediate General Services: $ 0.348 /1,000 kWh
- High Load Factor Services: $0.348 /1,000 kWh
- Large General Service: $0.348 /1,000 kWh
- Alt. Large General Svc.: $0.159018 /kW
- Lighting: $0.348 /1,000 kWh

### IV. Quick Start Program Summary: Mississippi Power Company

**Docket 2014-UN-10**

**Quick Links**
- [Quick Start Plan Submission](#)
- [Quick Start Plan Approval](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Cost Rider Approval](#)

#### Approved Quick Start Programs

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<th>Approved Quick Start Programs</th>
<th>Estimated Energy Savings</th>
<th>Estimated Program Costs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Energy Audit &amp; Direct Install</td>
<td>1,528 MWh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential &amp; Commercial HVAC Tune-Up &amp; Replacement</td>
<td>1,588 MWh</td>
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<td>Small Business Direct Install &amp; Incentive</td>
<td>7,130 MWh</td>
<td>$1,134,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Commercial &amp; Industrial Prescriptive &amp; Custom</td>
<td>14,678 MWh</td>
<td>$1,853,000</td>
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<td>MPC Neighborhood Efficiency</td>
<td>6,050 MWh</td>
<td>$1,041,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPC School Kits &amp; Energy Education</td>
<td>1,857 MWh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Analysis</td>
<td>4,882 MWh</td>
<td>$772,000</td>
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<td>MPC Residential &amp; Business Lighting</td>
<td>2,182 MWh</td>
<td>$118,000</td>
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<td>Evaluation, Measurement &amp; Verification</td>
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<td>$339,000</td>
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<td>Administrative Costs</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and Advertising</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,895 MWh</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,257,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Program Implementation

- Third-Party Administrators: CLEAResult and OPower
- Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V): An independent evaluator to be selected after programs are in place

Cost Recovery

Mississippi Power’s Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Rider was approved by the Mississippi Public Service Commission in November 2014.

Rate Class and Energy Efficiency Cost Factors

- Residential Group: $1.690/1,000 kWh
- Small Commercial & Industrial Group: $0.504/1,000 kWh
- Large Commercial & Industrial Group: $0.365/1,000 kWh

V. Quick Start Program Summary: Atmos Energy- Mississippi SmartChoice Program

Docket 2014-UN-17

Quick Links

- Quick Start Plan Submission
- Quick Start Plan Approval
- Energy Efficiency Cost Rider Approval
- Mississippi SmartChoice Website

Approved Quick Start Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Estimated Energy Savings</th>
<th>Estimated Program Costs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Solutions</td>
<td>21,408 Mcf</td>
<td>$1,446,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-family Direct Install Program</td>
<td>1,896 Mcf</td>
<td>$113,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Commercial &amp; Industrial (C&amp;I) Program</td>
<td>31,907 Mcf</td>
<td>$444,171</td>
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<td>Large Commercial &amp; Industrial (C&amp;I) Program</td>
<td>14,583 Mcf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atmos Energy Education Program</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$338,256</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>69,791 Mcf</td>
<td>$2,708,569</td>
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</table>

Program Implementation

- Third-Party Administrators: CLEAResult
• **Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V):** An independent evaluator to be selected after programs are in place

### Cost Recovery

Atmos Energy’s Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Rider was approved by the Mississippi Public Service Commission in August 2014.

### Rate Class and Energy Efficiency Cost Factors

- Residential: $0.00231 Ccf
- Small Commercial: $0.00198 Ccf
- Large Volume: $0.00418 Ccf

#### VI. Quick Start Program Summary: CenterPoint Energy

**Docket 2014-UA-7**

**Quick Links**

- Quick Start Plan Submission
- Quick Start Plan Approval
- Energy Efficiency Cost Rider Approval
- CenterPoint Residential Rebates & Program Website
- CenterPoint Business Rebates Website

**Approved Quick Start Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Estimated Energy Savings</th>
<th>Estimated Program Costs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Heating Program</td>
<td>1,778 Mcf</td>
<td>$154,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space Heating Program</td>
<td>7,080 Mcf</td>
<td>$470,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-Flow Showerhead and Faucet Aerator Program</td>
<td>19,988 Mcf</td>
<td>$237,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential New Home Construction Program</td>
<td>1,738 Mcf</td>
<td>$274,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Food Service Program</td>
<td>6,341 Mcf</td>
<td>$154,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial and Industrial Boiler Program</td>
<td>3,774 Mcf</td>
<td>$176,000</td>
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<td>Commercial and Industrial Solutions Program</td>
<td>15,188 Mcf</td>
<td>$216,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>CenterPoint Energy Education Program</td>
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<td>$90,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,887 Mcf</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,773,442</strong></td>
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</table>
Program Implementation

- CenterPoint Energy will administer their Quick Start plan along with the support of CLEAResult on one of the programs.

- **Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V):** CenterPoint will evaluate each program annually to ensure program effectiveness, verify installations, verify energy savings and ensure rebates meet program criteria.

Cost Recovery

CenterPoint Energy’s Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Rider was approved by the Mississippi Public Service Commission in August 2014.

Rate Class and Energy Efficiency Cost Factors

- Residential $0.0046 per Ccf
- Commercial $0.0061 per Ccf
- Industrial $0.0260 per Mcf

VII. Quick Start Program Summary: Electric Co-operatives

South Mississippi Electric Power Association

The South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA) [filed for a Motion of Approval of Quick Start Programs](#) on behalf of nine of its eleven distribution cooperative Members in January 2014:

- Coahoma Electric Power Association (EPA)
- Delta EPA
- Dixie EPA
- Magnolia EPA
- Pearl River Valley EPA
- Southern Pine EPA
- Southwest Mississippi EPA
- Twin County EPA
- Yazoo Valley EPA

The two remaining SMEPA members, Coast EPA and Singing River EPA, filed individual Requests for Waiver from Rule 29 in late 2013, separate from the other SMEPA members. The Commission denied the waivers from Coast EPA and Singing River EPA and found that the information provided was sufficient to satisfy the Quick Start requirements of Rule 29. All SMEPA members filed Quick Start plans, even those with fewer than 25,000 meters that were not required.
Quick Links

- **Quick Start Plan Submission**
  - Exhibits A through I include information on each SMEPA member’s Quick Start Portfolio. In addition to energy efficiency programs offered by the individual members, SMEPA also offers the Comfort Advantage Program, an energy efficiency program that provides incentives for energy efficiency new home construction and HVAC equipment upgrades, to all members.
  - In their filing, SMEPA and its members requested a waiver to the extent necessary for any Quick Start Filing requirements not already satisfied in their application.

- **Quick Start Plan Approval**
  - In September 2014, the Commission determined that SMEPA and its Members serving more than 25,000 customers are not entitled to a waiver of the Quick Start section of Rule 29. However, the Commission found that information contained within SMEPA’s filing, as well as supplemental documentation provided in data responses to the Staff, generally satisfies the Quick Start requirements of the rule.
  - The Commission granted SMEPA’s Motion for Approval of Quick Start Programs on behalf of its members. The Commission required that SMEPA develop budgeted cost and savings estimates for 2015 and 2016 and develop an EM&V program on behalf of its members and provide an update to the Commission of efforts to implement the addition measures as part of the Annual Reporting Requirement filings due May 1, 2015.

- **South Mississippi Electric Power Association Home Energy Savings Website**
- **South Mississippi Electric Power Association Comfort Advantage Program Website**

Tennessee Valley Authority Distributors

All six electric power associations (EPAs) that serve as Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) distributors submitted Requests for Waivers from the requirements of Rule 29. Many of these EPAs have been administering residential and commercial energy efficiency programs for many years through their own programs and programs jointly administered with the Tennessee Valley Authority, through TVA EnergyRight® Solutions.

- Five of the EPAs, including 4-County Electric Power Association, Central Electric Power Association, Northcentral Electric Power Association, Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association, and Tombigbee Electric Power Association, noted in their request for waivers that compliance with the rule will impact their rates.
• East Mississippi Electric Power Association also submitted a Request for Waiver from the requirements of Rule 29, with the reasoning that it operates two separate systems, one in North Mississippi and the other in South Mississippi. The northern system distributes power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, while the southern system distributes power from Mississippi Power Company. Separately, each system has fewer than 25,000 meters; together, the system has 36,745 meters.

In September 2014, the Commission denied Request for Waiver to the six TVA EPAs required to submit Quick Start filings (See appendix A for links to filings and approvals). The Commission also found that the supplemental information previously submitted was sufficient to meet Quick Start Plan program requirements. However, the Commission recommended additional measures, where applicable:

• Develop and implement an Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) program as part of the Quick Start phase,
• Conduct EM&V assessment more frequently,
• Develop three years of projected savings broken down by program,
• Prepare three-year projected budgets broken down by program, and
• Provide an update to the Commission of efforts to implement the addition measures as part of the Annual Reporting Requirement filings due May 1, 2015.

VIII. Next Steps

As the utilities in Mississippi begin to implement their portfolio of Quick Start programs they will have the unique opportunity to develop a strategic approach that will both meet short-term objectives and set the stage for long-term growth and success.

The majority of the Quick Start programs will initially be offered to customers in late 2014 and early 2015. During this period there will be major emphasis on performing outreach to customers to take advantage of the programs, recruiting contractors and businesses to participate in program implementation, and utilities building up the necessary infrastructure for these programs to be successful and cost-effective in the long-term. In February 2015, the Mississippi Development Authority and the Mississippi Public Service Commission will sponsor an Energy Efficiency Showcase event. This event will be an opportunity for the utilities and their program administrators to present their program offerings and how to get involved to stakeholders and the general public.

For approximately three years utilities will run the Quick Start programs and fine tune program offerings before transitioning into the Comprehensive Portfolio phase, which will lead to better performance towards goals, more satisfied customers and more efficient program delivery.

Thirty-six (36) months after Quick Start plan approval, or nine (9) months after Commission approval of energy savings targets, all utilities in Mississippi will be required to submit plans for the Comprehensive Phase, including those with fewer than 25,000 meters. Cost effectiveness testing, EM&V, an efficiency target, and potentially incentives will be a part of this Comprehensive Portfolio phase.
# Appendix A: Summary of Quick Start Filings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Docket Number</th>
<th>Quick Start Filing</th>
<th>Quick Start Approval</th>
<th>Cost Recovery</th>
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<td><strong>Electric Utilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Entergy Mississippi</td>
<td>2014-UA-6</td>
<td>Quick Start Filing</td>
<td>Quick Start Approval</td>
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<td>Mississippi Power Company</td>
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<td><strong>South Mississippi Electric Power Association Members</strong></td>
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*Utilities rates are not regulated by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.
## Appendix B: Utility Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Number of Customers</th>
<th>Sales (MWh)</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
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<td>Entergy Mississippi</td>
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