

MAR 12 2020

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**MISS. PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 2018-AD-141

IN RE: MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OMNIBUS DOCKET

ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING RULES
AND ENCOURAGING USE OF THE COMMISSION'S
ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEMS

COMES NOW the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission"), *sua sponte*, and temporarily suspends portions of Public Utility Rules of Practice and Procedure 6.102.2 and 6.102.3(d)(iii), and in support thereof, the Commission finds as follows, to wit:

- 1) The Commission is cognizant of the threat posed by the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, particularly with regard to those who are more vulnerable citizens of our state.
- 2) On March 12, 2020, the Mississippi Department of Health held a press conference in order to highlight common-sense behaviors designed to mitigate the risk of transmitting said novel coronavirus, and the Commission finds that suspending certain of its rules may assist in mitigating the spread of the novel coronavirus by limiting non-essential visits to the Commission for the purpose of making filings.
- 3) The Commission further finds that it has the authority both to promulgate rules,¹ and to suspend its rules when enforcing the same is "not in the public interest."²

- 4) Rule 6.102.2 provides:

Number Required

Unless otherwise provided, the original and twelve (12) copies of all Petitions, Prefiled Testimony, Exhibits, Motions, Pleadings of any nature and any other type of document (except for copies of maps, plans and specifications, see below) required

¹ Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-45.

² RP 102.

or allowed to be filed under the provisions of these rules shall be filed with the Commission by transmitting a copy to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall deliver eight (8) stamped filed copies to the Office of the Executive Director of the Staff.

5) Rule 6.102.3(d)(iii) provides:

Requirement of Paper Copies Within three (3) business days of transmittal of a document for filing by facsimile or e-mail, the requisite number of paper copies, as designated above [RP 102.2], shall be furnished to the Executive Secretary of the Commission or to the Executive Director of the Staff, whomever is applicable.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that where possible, all filings with the Commission shall be made via electronic means through the Commission's website: <https://www.psc.ms.gov/exec-sec/filing> or via electronic mail directed to: executive.secretary@psc.ms.gov instead of filing the same in person.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that that portion of RP 6.102.2 that requires the Executive Secretary to "deliver eight (8) stamped filed copies to the Office of the Executive Director of the Staff" is hereby suspended until further order of this Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that that portion RP 6.102.3(d)(iii) that requires the transmittal of physical copies of filings to the Executive Secretary within three (3) business days of making an electronic filing is hereby suspended until further order of this Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order does not eliminate the requirement that the physical filings ultimately be made. Instead, delivery of said physical copies to the Commission shall be delayed until further order of this Commission.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, on this the 12th day of March, 2020.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SERVICE


KATHERINE COLLIER,
Executive Secretary

