#### BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

## NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**December 23, 2013** 

IN RE:	)	
APPLICATION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN 2014 FINANCING PROGRAMS	) ) )	DOCKET NO. 13-00140
ORDER APPROVING FINANCI	NG TRANSA	ACTIONS

This matter came before Vice Chairman Herbert H. Hilliard, Director Robin Bennett and Director David F. Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 18, 2013, for consideration of the Application filed on October 30, 2013, by Appalachian Power Company ("Appalachian" or "Company") seeking approval of certain 2014 financing programs.

Appalachian is a Virginia corporation with its principal offices in Roanoke, Virginia. Although the majority of Appalachian's customers are located in Virginia, Appalachian is authorized to transact business in Tennessee and provides power to Kingsport Power Company ("Kingsport"). Both Appalachian and Kingsport are wholly-owned subsidiaries of American Electric Power Company, Inc., a publicly traded holding company. Appalachian and Kingsport are separate legal entities and finance their operations separately. Kingsport purchases all of its power requirements from Appalachian at wholesale rates under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and receives some services from Appalachian, at cost, pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## THE APPLICATION

The Applicant proposes to issue and sell, from time to time through December 31, 2014, secured or unsecured promissory notes ("Notes") in the aggregate principal amount up to \$600,000,000. The Notes will mature in not less than nine months and not more than sixty years with interest rates that may be fixed or variable. Appalachian states it may enter into, from time to time through December 31, 2014, one or more interest rate hedging arrangements, including but not limited to, treasury lock agreements, forward-starting interest rate swaps, treasury put options or interest rate collar agreements to protect against future interest rate movements in connection with the issuance of Notes.

Appalachian requests to continue its Interest Rate Management Agreements as approved in Docket No. 08-00194 through December 31, 2014. The Application states that such authority would allow Appalachian sufficient alternatives and flexibility when striving to reduce its effective interest costs and manage interest costs on financing transactions. The aggregate notional amount of all Interest Rate Management Agreements shall not exceed 25% of the Applicant's existing debt obligations, including pollution control revenue bonds.

Appalachian further requests approval to assume certain obligations under various agreements in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$290,375,000 in connection with the proposed issuance of one or more series of Bonds. The Bonds will be issued by the West Virginia Economic Development Authority on behalf of Appalachian and will be comprised of \$86 million in New Series Bonds related to the acquisition of generation assets and \$204,375,000 in Bonds related to pollution control activities. The New Series Bonds will be issued on April 1, 2015 and not later than July 1, 2015. The remaining Bonds will be issued prior to December 31, 2014. Appalachian requests authority to utilize interest rate hedging arrangements to protect against future interest rate movements in connection with issuance of the Bonds.

On December 5, 2013, the Virginia State Corporation Commission entered an Order approving these financing transactions in Case No. PUE-2013-00115.

# FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109 (2004) provides:

No public utility shall issue any stocks, stock certificates, bonds, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness payable in more than one (1) year from the date thereof, until it shall have first obtained authority from the authority for such proposed issue. It shall be the duty of the authority after hearing to approve any such proposed issue maturing more than one (1) year from the date thereof upon being satisfied that the proposed issue, sale and delivery is to be made in accordance with law and the purpose of such be approved by the authority.

At a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 18, 2013, the panel voted unanimously to approve the Application and made the following findings:

- The proposed financing transaction is subject to Authority approval pursuant to Tenn.
  Code Ann. § 65-4-109 (2004);
- 2. The proposed financing transaction is being made in accordance with laws enforceable by this agency;
- 3. The purpose of the transaction is in the public interest because it will provide Appalachian Power Company flexibility to manage interest costs on financing; and
- The Company shall be bound by the same filing requirements imposed by the Virginia
  State Corporation Commission regarding the transaction.

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Appalachian Power Company is authorized to enter into the financing transaction as described in the Application and discussed herein.
- 2. Appalachian Power Company shall be bound by the same conditions as set forth in the Order of the Virginia State Corporation Commission approving the Virginia Application.

3. The authorization and approval given hereby shall not be used by any party, including but not limited to, any lending party for the purpose of inferring an analysis or assessment of the risks involved.

4. This decision is not intended to create any liability on the part of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the State of Tennessee or any political subdivision thereof.

Vice Chairman Herbert H. Hilliard, Director Robin Bennett and Director David F. Jones concur.

**ATTEST:** 

Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director