

Paul Suskie  
Chairman  
(501) 682-1451

Colette D. Honorable  
Commissioner  
(501) 682-1455

Olan W. Reeves  
Commissioner  
(501) 682-1453

**ARKANSAS  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
1000 Center  
P.O. Box 400  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0400  
<http://www.Arkansas.gov/psc>



John P. Bethel  
Director  
(501) 682-1794

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 30, 2009

**ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
WAIVES COMMISSION RULES TO HELP PUBLIC UTILITIES EXPEDITE  
ICE STORM RESTORATION EFFORTS; ESTABLISHES A DOCKET TO  
ADDRESS COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ICE STORM RESTORATION  
EFFORTS**

(Little Rock) – The Arkansas Public Service Commission (PSC) has issued an order waiving certain commission rules in order to allow Arkansas public utilities engaged in ice storm restoration efforts to dedicate resources toward restoration efforts. The Commission’s order also initiated a process to consider storm restoration cost recovery by electric utilities.

The Commission expressed its appreciation for “the heroic round-the-clock efforts of the thousands of utility restoration crewmen working to restore electric service.”

“While focusing their efforts on service restoration and the lack of access to many customers, the public utilities have been unable to maintain their daily meter reading, customer billing and other responsibilities as required by the Commission’s *General Service Rules and Telecommunications Provider Rules* (“Rules”). In order to facilitate and encourage restoration efforts, all public utilities that are unable to comply with certain requirements of the Rules due to the ice storms are hereby granted a temporary

waiver of such Rules until such time as the public utilities are able to resume full compliance with the Rules.”

“Further, all electric public utilities are invited and encouraged to file within this Docket specific proposals for the recovery of extraordinary storm restoration expenses associated with the recent ice storms.”

Contact: Paul Suskie at 501-682-5809  
E-mail: [psuskie@psc.state.ar.us](mailto:psuskie@psc.state.ar.us)

###