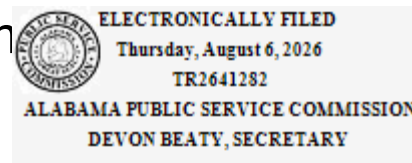


Public Comment Submitted to the Alabama Service Commission



Regarding Confidential Treatment of Sensitive Infrastructure Information in Large Load Data Center Contracts

Submitted for consideration during the open comment period

To the Honorable Commissioners of the Alabama Public Service Commission:

I respectfully submit this public comment to the Alabama Public Service Commission in response to comments filed by the Energy Institute of Alabama concerning the treatment of sensitive infrastructure information associated with large load data center contracts.

I submit these comments as an Alabama resident and ratepayer, with an interest in ensuring that utility-related decisions remain transparent, accountable, and consistent with the public interest.

The Energy Institute of Alabama raises important concerns regarding national security, economic development, and regulatory certainty. Those concerns merit careful consideration. At the same time, the Commission should ensure that any confidentiality protections are applied narrowly and only where necessary, so they do not impair transparency, public accountability, or informed participation in matters affecting Alabama ratepayers and the public interest.

Transparency and Public Oversight

Broad restrictions on access to infrastructure-related information may limit the ability of the public, independent experts, and oversight bodies to evaluate utility decisions and regulatory outcomes. Transparency is a fundamental component of sound public governance. Without sufficient information, stakeholders cannot meaningfully assess whether large load data center contracts advance the public interest or impose disproportionate risks or costs on ratepayers. Public review also helps ensure that regulatory decisions remain accountable, equitable, and supported by the record.

Security and Independent Review

Protecting critical infrastructure is essential, but confidentiality alone is not a complete safeguard. Appropriate review by qualified stakeholders can identify vulnerabilities, improve resilience, and strengthen proposed arrangements before implementation. A process that permits meaningful scrutiny while withholding truly sensitive technical or operational details can enhance security without unnecessarily restricting public participation.

Economic Development and Innovation

Excessive confidentiality may limit innovation and reduce the ability of researchers, technology providers, and market participants to develop solutions that improve grid efficiency and reliability. Access to appropriate non-sensitive information can support resource planning, renewable integration, and advanced energy technologies. A measured disclosure framework may therefore promote, rather than undermine, the economic development objectives associated with large load investment.

Proportionate Confidentiality Protections

The Commission should consider confidentiality measures that are targeted, proportionate, and supported by a clear showing of need. Information such as specific security protocols, real-time operational data, or details that would create a demonstrable security risk may warrant protection. By contrast, general contract terms, policy considerations, and non-sensitive operational information should remain available for public review when disclosure would not create a specific and substantiated risk.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to adopt a balanced approach that protects genuinely sensitive infrastructure information while preserving meaningful transparency and public oversight. Such an approach would better serve Alabama's security, economic, and regulatory interests and would help ensure that confidentiality protections remain consistent with the broader public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arie Lucille Kimble-Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arie Lucille Kimble-Foster
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