STATE OF NEW YORK

7541

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. OTIS, ABINANTI, BURDICK, GALEF, PAULIN, ROZIC, SAYEGH, SEAWRIGHT, THIELE, ZEBROWSKI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to the contents of emergency response plans required to be submitted to the public service commission by electric corporations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 21 of section 66 of the public service law, as added by section 4 of part X of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each electric corporation subject to section twenty-five-a of this chapter shall annually, on or before December fifteenth, submit to the commission an emergency response plan for review and approval. The emergency response plan shall be designed for the reasonably prompt restoration of service in the case of an emergency event, defined for purposes of this subdivision as an event where widespread outages have occurred in the service territory of the company due to storms or other causes beyond the control of the company. **To support reasonably prompt restoration of service in the case of an emergency event, emergency response plans should include details of staffing, equipment and a performance schedule with the goal of achieving restoration of service based upon a time-based restoration schedule established by the commission. In establishing such time-based restoration schedules, the commission should utilize benchmarks for the restoration of service which include, but are not limited to, the percentage of customers restored within each twenty-four-hour interval following the storm and consideration of different kinds of storm events.** The emergency response plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (i) the identification of management staff responsible for company operations during an emergency; (ii) a communications system with customers during an emergency that extends

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11344-01-1

beyond normal business hours and business conditions; (iii) identification of and outreach plans to customers who had documented their need for essential electricity for medical needs; (iv) identification of and outreach plans to customers who had documented their need for essential electricity to provide critical telecommunications, critical transportation, critical fuel distribution services or other large-load customers identified by the commission; (v) designation of company staff to communicate with local officials and appropriate regulatory agencies; (vi) provisions regarding how the company will assure the safety of its employees and contractors; (vii) procedures for deploying company and mutual aid crews to work assignment areas; (viii) identification of additional supplies and equipment needed during an emergency; (ix) the means of obtaining additional supplies and equipment; (x) procedures to practice the emergency response plan; (xi) appropriate safety precautions regarding electrical hazards, including plans to promptly secure downed wires within thirty-six hours of notification of the location of such downed wires from a municipal emergency official; and (xii) such other additional information as the commission may require. Each such corporation shall, on an annual basis, undertake drills implementing procedures to practice its emergency management plan. The commission may adopt additional requirements consistent with ensuring the reasonably prompt restoration of service in the case of an emergency event.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.