

Resolution # 135-19-20

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 18th day of February, 2020, at the regular meeting of the Board of Texas County Commissioners, the following resolution was presented, read, and adopted:

WHEREAS, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Tri-County) has been providing electric service to the three-county region of the Oklahoma Panhandle since 1945; and,

WHEREAS, in 2006 when Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) left the Oklahoma Panhandle, Tri-County began serving SPS's former customers by purchasing SPS's 200 miles of transmission assets and 11,200 retail customers; and,

WHEREAS, the SPS assets were aged and in need of significant upgrades; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is aware of the numerous occasions when the electrical power grid was negatively impacted by wind, snow, ice, wind, and fire -- causing numerous outages and impacting thousands of customers, sometimes for days; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 Tri-County entered into an agreement with GridLiance, an independent transmission company, to provide the necessary capital and upgrades to improve system reliability to provide comparable transmission service with neighboring service territories; and,

WHEREAS, GridLiance has invested \$80 million, including \$60 million in new upgrades, to provide an integrated network that will help reduce outages, minimize the number of affected customers, and enhance Tri-County's ability to restore service during an outage; and,

WHEREAS, these necessary upgrades will not only ensure grid reliability but also provide significant economic benefits for the agricultural, industrial, healthcare, commercial and residential needs of Tri-County ratepayers; and,

WHEREAS, SPS is opposing recovery of these prudent and necessary costs by GridLiance in a rate case pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and also opposing inclusion of the GridLiance facilities in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO); and,

WHEREAS, inclusion of the GridLiance facilities in the SPP RTO expands the SPP region, provides operational and maintenance flexibility to the transmission grid, and provide opportunities for load growth; and,

WHEREAS, Tri-County estimates its members already pay \$5.60 per month on an average monthly residential bill for existing projects of SPS's in eastern New Mexico and the Texas

Panhandle that were constructed not just for reliability but also to enhance economic development to those regions; and,

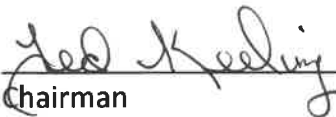
WHEREAS, Tri-County estimates that the cost of the GridLiance facilities will add less than \$.30 to the average monthly residential bill of SPS's ratepayers;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County to

- 1) acknowledge the efforts of GridLiance and Tri County Electric Cooperative to improve the reliability of transmission delivery service to the Texas County electric customers and the Panhandle region; and
- 2) support the inclusion of the GridLiance assets in the SPP RTO network planning process and fair and equitable allocation of the costs to the SPS pricing zone, comparably to how Tri-County's Oklahoma ratepayers have paid for SPS investments throughout its multi-state area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be provided to all necessary state and federal officials for use as needed to support this effort.

Adopted this 18th day of February, 2020 by the Board of County Commissioners of Texas County, Oklahoma.


Chairman


Vice-Chairman

Member



Attest: 
County Clerk