

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

October 24, 2022

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brown-Bland
Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Barber, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Culpepper, Ms. Holt, Ms. Jost, Mr. Creech, Mr. Felling, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Floyd, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Michna, Ms. Patel, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Junis, Mr. Houser

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Vines

NATURAL GAS*FUEL PURCHASE AGREEMENT***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

1. Docket No. G-9, Sub 809 – Petition for approval of a compressed natural gas fuel purchase agreement (*Patel/Johnson/Jost*)

On July 14, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), filed a petition requesting approval of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fuel Purchase Agreement (Agreement) between Piedmont and Amazon Logistics, Inc. (Customer). Piedmont submitted the Agreement under seal on the grounds that it is confidential and proprietary and has been designated as such pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.2.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the Agreement and other information provided by Piedmont in response to Public Staff data requests. Based on its investigation, the Public Staff determined that the terms of the Agreement are within the parameters set forth in N.C.G.S. § 62-140.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order: (1) concluding that the Agreement is not unlawful and does not violate the rules and regulations of the Commission; (2) allowing Piedmont to provide service to the Customer pursuant to the Agreement; and (3) stating that the Commission's acceptance of the Agreement neither constitutes approval of the amount of any compensation paid thereunder nor prejudices the right of any party to take issue with any provision of the Agreement in a future proceeding.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendations be adopted.

*MODIFICATION OF NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE REGULATIONS***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

2. Docket No. G-9, Sub 815 – Application to modify Appendix D to its North Carolina Service Regulations (*Patel/Johnson/Culpepper*)

On September 30, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company), filed a petition pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5 and R6-5.1 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-138 requesting Commission approval to modify Appendix D of its North Carolina Service Regulations (Appendix D), the Company's Equal Payment Plan (EPP or Plan).

The Public Staff stated that it has reviewed Piedmont's proposed modification to Appendix D.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order allowing Piedmont to implement the proposed modification.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION

Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc.

3. Docket No. W-1079, Sub 20 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Sewer Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Sewer Service from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (*Houser/Feasel/Grantmyre*)

On July 29, 2022, Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc. (CCA) filed a petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its customers in Christmount Christian Assembly and Christmount Subdivision in Buncombe County an increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD). On September 7, 2022, CCA filed the verification pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) which provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed CCA's request.

The Public Staff recommended for service rendered on and after the date of the order that CCA be allowed to increase its rates to the Public Staff's recommended rates. The Public Staff stated that CCA has agreed with the Public Staff's recommendation.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of October 10, 2022 were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.