

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

October 30, 2023

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 30, 2023, 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, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. Barley; Mr. Keshar; Ms. Winstead; Mr. McCoy; Ms. McMillen

PUBLIC STAFF: Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Holt, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Josey, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Keyworth, Mr. Felling, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Fang, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. Lucas, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Michna, Ms. Patel, Ms. Wade

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Clayton

ELECTRIC*AFFILIATE AGREEMENTS***Dominion Energy North Carolina**

1. Docket No. E-22, Sub 665 - Application of DENC for approval of an inventory purchase and sale agreement between DENC and Dominion Privatization Virginia, LLC (Boswell/Freeman)

On January 31, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC), filed an Application for Approval of Inventory Purchase and Sale Agreement (Agreement) for the purchase and sale of various spare parts, equipment, and materials utilized in the operation of utility assets between DENC and Dominion Privatization Virginia, LLC (DPV), and vice versa, on an as-needed basis under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-153(b) and Regulatory Condition 3.1(a) as approved by the Order Approving Merger Subject to Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) on November 19, 2018, in Docket Nos. E-22, Sub 551, and G-5, Sub 585.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023, and stated that it had reviewed the Agreement between DENC and DPV.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Agreement subject to conditions.

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

*DSM/EE PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS***Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC**

2. Docket No. E-7, Sub 1032 – Application of DEC for approval of modifications and expansion of its existing Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program (T. Williamson/Keyword)

On September 11, 2023, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), filed a request for approval of Proposed Modifications to the Existing Commission-Approved Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Assistance Program (Program) in the above-captioned docket pursuant to Commission Rule R8-68 (Modification Proposal). (The Program was initially approved on October 29, 2013.) The Program is intended to encourage and assist low-income residential customers with energy efficiency (EE) measures in their homes to reduce energy usage. The Program provides funding to local agencies and non-profit organizations providing weatherization services and EE upgrades which result in energy savings to income-qualified residential households in the DEC service territory.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023.

The Public Staff recommended that DEC's Modification Proposal be approved as filed.

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

NATURAL GAS

MARGIN DECOUPLING TRACKER MECHANISM

Piedmont Natural Gas, Inc.

3. Docket No. G-9, Sub 834 – Application of Piedmont Natural Gas for a bi-annual adjustment of rates under Appendix C of its Service Regulations (Patel/Culpepper)

On October 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., filed an application requesting authority to adjust its rates effective November 1, 2023, pursuant to Appendix C of its North Carolina Service Regulations, the Company's Margin Decoupling Tracker mechanism, to increase its rates for Residential Service, Small General Service, and Medium General Service by: (1) increasing the existing increment in its rates for Residential Service; (2) decreasing the existing decrement for Small General Service; and (3) replacing the existing decrement with an increment for Medium General Service. These adjustments are based on the Margin Decoupling Deferred Account balances as of August 31, 2023, as reflected in Schedule B of the application.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023, stating that it had reviewed the proposed rate adjustments.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE

Overhills Water Company, Inc.

4. Docket No. W-175, Sub 15 – A Verified Petition to Amend Its Tariff to Adjust Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increase Cost of Purchased Water from the Town of Spring Lake in Overhills Park Subdivision and Carolina Sands Mobile Home Park in Cumberland County, North Carolina (Bhatta/Feasel/Holt)

On October 9, 2023, Overhills Water Company, Inc., filed a verified 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 approximately 291 residential water customers in Overhills Park Subdivision and its bulk water utility customer, Carolina Sands Mobile Home Park, in Cumberland County, North Carolina, the increase in cost of purchasing water service from the Town of Spring Lake. Section 62-133.11(a) 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.

This item was withdrawn by the Public Staff.

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

Brightspeed of Central North Carolina, LLC

5. Docket No. P-35, Sub 163 – Interconnection agreement with Earthgrid PBC (Wade/Coxton)

On August 17, 2023, Brightspeed of Central North Carolina, LLC, and Earthgrid PBC, filed an interconnection agreement for Commission approval.

The Public Staff presented the agreement at its Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023.

The Public Staff recommended that the agreement be approved.

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

Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC

6. Docket Nos. P-7, Sub 1280 – Interconnection agreement with Time Warner Cable Information Services (North Carolina), LLC, approved by the Commission on September 26, 2016 (Wade/Coxton)

On June 12, 2023, Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC, formerly Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink; and Time Warner Cable Information Services (North Carolina), LLC filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement approved by the Commission on September 26, 2016, while Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC was operating as Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink. On September 8, 2023, an amended amendment was filed in the docket to replace the amendment filed on June 12, 2023.

The Public Staff presented the amendment at its Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved

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

Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC and Brightspeed of North Carolina, LLC

7. Docket Nos. P-7, Sub 1208 and Docket No. P-10 Sub 827 – Amendment to the interconnection agreement with Charter Fiberlink NC-CCO, LLC, approved by the Commission on May 6, 2009 (Wade/Coxton)

On June 12, 2023, Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC, formerly Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink; Brightspeed of North Carolina, LLC, formerly Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink; and Charter Fiberlink NC-CCO, LLC, filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement approved by the Commission on May 6, 2009, while Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC was operating as Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company LLC d/b/a CenturyLink and Brightspeed of North Carolina, LLC was operating as Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink. On September 8, 2023, an amended amendment was filed in the dockets to replace the amendment filed on June 12, 2023.

The Public Staff presented the amendment at its Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved.

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

8. Docket Nos. P-7, Sub 1305 and P-10 sub 918 – Interconnection agreement with Earthgrid PBC (Wade/Coxton)

On August 16, 2023, Brightspeed of Eastern North Carolina, LLC, Brightspeed North Carolina, LLC, and Earthgrid PBC filed an interconnection agreement for Commission approval.

The Public Staff presented the agreement at its Regular Staff Conference on October 30, 2023.

The Public Staff recommended that the agreement be approved.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of September 18, 2023, were approved.

Michelle Boswell, Director of the Public Staff's Accounting Division, introduced new staff member Vevian Fang, Accountant.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.