

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE
September 20, 2021

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding. The remote meeting was conducted by use of simultaneous communication (via Webex) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.24, streamed live online, and available to the public.

The following were present during the entirety of the remote meeting:

COMMISSIONERS:

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

COMMISSION STAFF: Ms. McMillen, Ms. Lazo, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Ms. Blue, Ms. Needham, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Culpepper, Mr. Creech, Mr. Josey, Ms. Boswell, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Metz, Mr. Junis

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTERS: Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Vines

D. ELECTRIC**P1. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITIES**

The following applications seek to amend or renew certificates of public convenience and necessity for construction of solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facilities pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC:

- Docket No. SP-8039, Sub 0 – Application of Necal Farm, LLC, to amend and renew a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar PV facility in Alamance County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously).

Duke Energy Progress, LLC:

- Docket No. SP-7641, Sub 0 – Application of Hood Solar Farm, LLC, to renew a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar PV facility in Wayne County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously).
- Docket No. SP-8102, Sub 0 – Application of Shieldwall Solar, LLC, to renew a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar PV facility in Halifax County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously).

The Public Staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue orders approving the applications and issuing the requested amended and/or renewed certificates for the facilities. Proposed orders have been provided to the Commission Staff.

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

E. WATER

P1. DOCKET NO. W-1148, SUB 21 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION

On July 28, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company) as emergency operator, filed a verified petition with the 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 424 residential and 25 commercial sewer customers in Mountain Air Development in Yancey County, North Carolina, the increase in costs of purchasing sewer service from the Town of Burnsville (Burnsville). N.C.G.S. § 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.

CWSNC states that, effective July 1, 2021, Burnsville increased its minimum monthly sewer rate by \$1.32, increasing the rate from \$44.28 to \$45.60. CWSNC requested to increase the monthly flat rate sewer charge applicable to its residential sewer customers and the monthly base charge applicable to its metered commercial sewer customers in Mountain Air Development for service rendered on and after the date of this order. The requested increase passes along the aforementioned increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Burnsville.

The current rates have been in effect since September 28, 2020, when they were approved by the Commission in its Order Approving Tariff Revision and Requiring Customer Notice issued in Docket No. W-1148, Sub 18. The present and proposed rates are as follows:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Monthly Flat Rate for Residential Sewer Service:</u>	\$ 71.16	\$ 72.48
 <u>Monthly Metered Commercial Sewer Rates:</u>		
Base Charge, includes 2,000 gallons	\$ 69.25	\$ 70.57
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons:		
From 2,000 to 6,000 gallons	\$ 4.76	\$ 4.76
Above 6,000 gallons	\$ 5.24	\$ 5.24

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) has reviewed Burnsville’s rates and recommends that CWSNC’s request for a tariff revision be approved.

The Public Staff recommended the proposed order be issued approving the requested tariff revision and requiring customer notice.

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

P2. DOCKET NO. W-1063, SUB 5 – C & P ENTERPRISES, INC. – APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE

On August 27, 2021, C & P Enterprises, Inc. (Applicant), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing sewer utility service in Carteret County, North Carolina. The Applicant serves two customers, Ocean Bay Villas Owners' Association, Inc. (Ocean Bay Villas), and Ocean Glen Towne House Condominiums Owners Association, Phase I, Inc. (Ocean Glen Condominiums).¹ The present sewer rates have been in effect since January 1, 2017.²

The Applicant's present and proposed rates are as follows:

	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
<u>Monthly Flat Rate Sewer Utility Service:</u>		
Ocean Bay Villas	\$2,912.31	\$3,526.65
Ocean Glen Condominiums	\$2,169.96	\$2,627.70

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates. The Public Staff will provide the Commission with a proposed order establishing discovery guidelines, scheduling hearings, and requiring customer notice at a later date.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of September 13, 2021, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.

¹ There are 51 residential units in Ocean Bay Villas and 38 residential units in Ocean Glen Condominiums.

² In its Order Approving Tariff Revision and Requiring Customer Notice issued in Docket No. W-1063, Sub 4, on December 6, 2016, the Commission approved rates effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2017.