

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH
STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA
March 25, 2024
Commission Hearing Room 2115, 10:00 a.m.

ELECTRIC

CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Duke Energy Progress, LLC

1. Docket No. SP-62430, Sub 0 – Application of Grifton Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity and registration statement to construct an 80-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Pitt County, North Carolina (Thomas/Keyworth)

NATURAL GAS

FUEL TRACKER AND ELECTRIC POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC

2. Docket No. G-39, Sub 50 – Application of Cardinal Pipeline for approval to adjust its fuel retention percentage and its electric power rate effective April 1, 2024 (Michna/Lentz/Holt)

CUSTOMER UTILIZATION TRACKER / MARGIN DECOUPLING TRACKER

Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.

3. Docket No. G-5, Sub 674 – Application of PSNC for authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Riders C and D (Patel/Akpom/Holt)

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

4. Docket No. G-9, Sub 839 – Application of PNG for authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Appendix C (Patel/Lentz/Holt)

The Public Staff recommends approval of these agenda items as described above and reflected in proposed orders provided to the Commission Staff.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. SP-62430, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Grifton Solar, LLC, for a)	ORDER ISSUING CERTIFICATE
Certificate of Public Convenience and)	AND ACCEPTING
Necessity to Construct an 80 MW Solar Facility)	REGISTRATION OF NEW
with 32 MW of Battery Storage in Pitt County,)	RENEWABLE ENERGY
North Carolina)	FACILITY

BY THE COMMISSION: On January 5, 2024, Grifton Solar, LLC (Applicant), filed an application seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of an 80-megawatt^{AC} (MW) solar photovoltaic generating facility, co-located with 32 MW of battery storage, to be located at 1627 Brown Hodges Road, Grifton, Pitt County, North Carolina. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity generated by this facility to Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP).

Contemporaneously with the CPCN application, the Applicant also included a registration statement for a new renewable energy facility. The registration statement included certified attestations that (1) the facility is in substantial compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules for the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources; (2) the facility will be operated as a new renewable energy facility; (3) the Applicant will not remarket or otherwise resell any renewable energy certificates sold to an electric power supplier to comply with N.C.G.S. § 62-133.8; and (4) the Applicant will consent to the auditing of its books and records by the Public Staff insofar as those records relate to transactions with North Carolina electric power suppliers.

On January 30, 2024, the Applicant filed an Amended CPCN Application with a revised Exhibit 6(ii)(c).

On February 2, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Requiring Publication of Notice and Clearinghouse Review.

On February 6, 2024, the Applicant filed a verified certificate of service stating that the application and the related public notice were provided to DEP on February 5, 2024.

On March 13, 2024, the Applicant filed an affidavit of publication from The Daily Reflector (Greenville, North Carolina) stating that the publication of notice was completed on February 27, 2024. No complaints have been received.

On March 13 and 15, 2024, the State Clearinghouse filed comments. Because of the nature of the comments, the cover letter indicated that no further State Clearinghouse review action by the Commission was required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on March 25, 2024. The Public Staff stated that the application meets the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1(a) and Commission Rule R8-64. The Public Staff further stated that the registration statement contains the certified attestations required by Commission Rule R8-66(b). Therefore, the Public Staff recommended approval of the certificate and registration for the facility.

After careful consideration, the Commission finds good cause to approve the application and issue the attached certificate for the proposed solar photovoltaic generating facility. The Commission further finds good cause, based upon the foregoing and the entire record in this proceeding, to accept registration of the facility as a new renewable energy facility. The Applicant shall annually file the information required by Commission Rule R8-66 on or before April 1 of each year and is required to participate in the NC-RETS REC tracking system (<http://www.ncrets.org>) in order to facilitate the issuance of renewable energy certificates.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the application of Grifton Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be, and is hereby, approved;
2. That Appendix A shall constitute the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued to Grifton Solar, LLC, for the 80-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic generating facility to be located at 1627 Brown Hodges Road, Grifton, Pitt County, North Carolina;
3. That the registration statement filed by Grifton Solar, LLC, for its solar photovoltaic generating facility to be located in Pitt County, North Carolina, as a new renewable energy facility, shall be, and is hereby, accepted;
4. That Grifton Solar, LLC, shall annually file the information required by Commission Rule R8-66 on or before April 1 of each year; and
5. That Grifton Solar, LLC, shall renew this certificate by re-compliance with the requirements set forth in Commission Rule R8-64 if it does not begin construction within five years after the issuance of the certificate.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of March, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

OFFICIAL COPY

Mar 20 2024

APPENDIX A

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. SP-62430, SUB 0

Grifton Solar, LLC
3402 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, California 90405

is hereby issued this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. 62-110.1

for an 80-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic generating facility

to be located

at 1627 Brown Hodges Road, Grifton, Pitt County, North Carolina,

subject to all orders, rules, regulations and conditions
as are now or may hereafter be lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of March, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

[Back to Agenda](#)

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-39, SUB 50

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application of Cardinal Pipeline Company,) ORDER APPROVING FUEL
LLC, for Approval of Fuel Tracker and Electric) TRACKER AND ELECTRIC
Power Cost Adjustment) POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

BY THE COMMISSION: On February 27, 2024, Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC (Cardinal), filed an application (Application), pursuant to Section 1 of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) in its tariffs, seeking approval to adjust its fuel retention percentage from 0.69% to 0.75% for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2024. In addition, pursuant to Section 2 of the General Terms and Conditions of its tariffs, Cardinal's Application seeks approval to implement an Electric Power (EP) rate of \$0.01557 per dekatherm (dt) per month (\$0.00051 per dt per day) for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2024.

Cardinal stated in its Application that the fuel retention percentage is designed to recover Cardinal's estimate of gas required for operations (GRO), as adjusted by the current balance in the Deferred GRO Account. Per Section I of the GT&C of Cardinal's tariff, the fuel retention percentage includes the collection of fuel and lost and unaccounted for gas. The fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective April 1, 2024, is based on the actual GRO for the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, and the balance in the Deferred GRO Account as of December 31, 2023, divided by the transportation volumes received by Cardinal during the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023.

Cardinal further stated in its Application that the EP rates are designed to recover Cardinal's estimate of electric power costs at Compressor Station No. 161, as adjusted by the current balance in the EP Deferred Account. The proposed EP rates are effective April 1, 2024, and are based on the estimated EP costs for the period April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, plus the balance in the EP Deferred Account as of January 31, 2024.

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its Regular Staff Conference on March 25, 2024. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Application, and other information provided by the Company, and recommended approval as filed.

The Commission, based upon the review of the Application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, is of the opinion that the proposed fuel retention

percentage and the EP rate should be allowed to become effective as filed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Cardinal is allowed to adjust its fuel retention percentage for Rate Schedule CFT for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 to 0.75%, effective April 1, 2024.
2. That Cardinal is allowed to adjust its EP rate to \$0.01557 per dt per month (\$0.00051 per dt per day) for Rate Schedule CFT for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2, effective April 1, 2024.
3. That Cardinal shall file revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 within five days of the date of this Order.
4. That Cardinal shall give notice to its customers of the changes allowed in this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of March, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

[Back to Agenda](#)

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 674

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application of Public Service Company of)
North Carolina, Inc., for Approval of Bi-Annual)
Adjustment of Rates Under Rider C and an)
Adjustment to Track Changes in Its Wholesale)
Costs of Gas Under Rider D to Its Tariff)
	ORDER APPROVING
	RATE ADJUSTMENTS
	EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2024

BY THE COMMISSION: On March 15, 2024, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company), filed an application (Application) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.7 and § 62-133.4, Rule R1-17(k)(3) and (5)(d) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, and Rider C and D of the Company's Tariffs requesting (1) authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Rider C; (2) to implement new temporary decrements in its rates for residential, small general service, and medium general service customers; and (3) to implement, pursuant to Rider D, a decrease in its commodity benchmark cost of gas.

PSNC's Application complies with its Rider C, which is based on the Customer Usage Deferred Account balances as of January 31, 2024. The Company's supporting calculations are provided in Schedule A.

According to the Customer Usage Tracker (CUT) mechanism, PSNC is required to compare actual residential and small and medium general service margins with the margins contained in the most recent Commission-approved rates. PSNC is then to apply, on a bi-annual basis, for authority to implement temporary rate increments or decrements (temporaries) to collect or refund any differences in the Customer Usage Deferred Account.

The proposed CUT temporaries, as well as the existing CUT temporaries and the corresponding rate changes, expressed in dollars per dekatherm (\$/dt), are as follows:

Rate Class and Schedule	Customer Usage Deferred Account Balance at 1/31/2024 (\$)	Proposed CUT Temporaries (\$/dts)	Existing CUT Temporaries (\$/dts)	Change in CUT Temporaries (\$/dts)
Residential (101)	\$13,178,150	\$0.4054	\$1.1783	(\$0.7729)
Residential Hi-Efficiency (102)	(\$20,293)	(\$0.0278)	\$0.8458	(\$0.8736)
Sm Gen Service (125)	\$4,538,077	\$0.3341	\$0.6842	(\$0.3501)
Sm Gen Service Hi-Efficiency (127)	(\$23,936)	(\$0.1973)	\$0.0661	(\$0.2634)
Med.Gen. Service(140)	(\$430,328)	(\$0.1201)	\$0.1259	(\$0.2460)

In addition, PSNC's Application is also in compliance with Rider D – Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Procedures, under which PSNC is seeking authority to decrease its sales rates by \$0.2524 per dekatherm (dt) and its transportation rates by \$0.0024 per dt effective April 1, 2024. The decreases are the result of a change in PSNC's Benchmark Commodity Gas Cost from \$2.50 per dt to \$2.25 per dt, as well as the effects of the company-use and unaccounted-for gas as described in PSNC's Rider D. The Company's Application provided supporting calculations in Schedule B.

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its Regular Staff Conference on March 25, 2024. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the Application and proposed rate adjustments, found them to be in compliance with PSNC's tariffs, and recommended approval as filed.

Based upon review of the Application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed rate adjustments should be allowed to become effective as filed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That PSNC is authorized to implement the proposed rate changes as contained in the body of this Order based on its Customer Usage Deferred Account balances as of January 31, 2024, effective for service rendered on and after April 1, 2024;
2. That PSNC is authorized to decrease its sales rates by \$0.2524 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after April 1, 2024;
3. That PSNC is authorized to decrease its transportation rates by \$0.0024 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after April 1, 2024.

4. That PSNC shall file its revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 within five days of the date of this Order.

5. That PSNC shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes authorized in this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of March, 2024

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

[Back to Agenda](#)

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 839

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company,)) Inc., for Approval of Bi-Annual Adjustment of) Rates Under Appendix C of its Service) Regulations)	ORDER APPROVING RATE ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2024
--	--

BY THE COMMISSION: On March 15, 2024, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company), filed an application (Application) requesting authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Appendix C of its North Carolina Service Regulations, the Company's Margin Decoupling Tracker (MDT) 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) increasing the existing increment for Medium General Service. These adjustments are based on the Margin Decoupling Deferred Account balance as of January 31, 2024, as reflected in Schedule B of the Application.

According to the MDT mechanism, Piedmont is required to compare actual residential, small general commercial, and medium general commercial margins with the margins contained in the approved rates from the Company's most recent general rate case (Docket No. G-9, Sub 781). Piedmont is then to apply for, on a bi-annual basis, authority to implement temporary rate increments and/or decrements (temporaries) to collect or refund any differences in the Margin Decoupling Deferred Account.

The proposed MDT temporaries, as well as the existing MDT temporaries and the corresponding rate changes, expressed in dollars per dekatherm (\$/dt), are as follows:

Description and Schedule	Balance at 1/31/2024 (\$)	MDT Temporaries (\$/dt)	MDT Temporaries (\$/dt)	MDT Temporaries (\$/dt)
Residential Service (Rate Schedule 101)	\$55,650,623	\$1.4173	\$1.3628	\$0.0545
Small General Service (Rate Schedule 102)	(\$558,928)	(\$0.0224)	(\$0.0685)	\$0.0461
Medium General Service (Rate Schedule 152)	\$7,057,985	\$1.4015	\$0.0760	\$1.3255

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its Regular Staff Conference on March 25, 2024. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the proposed rate adjustments and recommended approval as filed.

Based on the review of the Application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission finds good cause to approve the proposed rate changes.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Piedmont is authorized to implement the proposed rate changes as contained in the body of this Order based on its Margin Decoupling Deferred Account balance as of January 31, 2024, effective for service rendered on and after April 1, 2024.

2. That Piedmont shall file its revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraph 1 within five days of the date of this Order.

3. That Piedmont shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes authorized by this Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk