

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

May 9, 2022

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, May 9, 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, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Eastwood, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Mr. Gajda, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Downey, Ms. Holt, Ms. Jost, Mr. Creech, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Keyworth, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McLawhorn, Ms. Patel, Mr. Nader, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Junis, Mr. Hinton

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Vines

ELECTRIC

DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

(T. Williamson/Edmondson)

Dominion Energy North Carolina

1. Docket Nos. E-22, Sub 614, Sub 615, Sub 616, Sub 617, Sub 618, Sub 619, Sub 620, and Sub 621 – Applications for approval of eight demand-side management and energy efficiency programs.

On February 15, 2022, Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC or the Company), filed applications seeking approval of the following programs as new energy efficiency (EE) or demand-side management (DSM) programs (individually, Program; collectively, Programs) under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.9 and Commission Rule R8-68:

- Non-Residential Building Automation Program;
- Non-Residential Building Optimization Program;
- Non-Residential Engagement Program;
- Non-Residential Enhanced Prescriptive Program;
- Residential Smart Home Program;
- Residential Virtual Audit Program;
- Residential Water Savings (DR) and Residential Water Savings (EE) Programs.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed each application.

The Public Staff recommends that the Non-Residential Building Automation Program, Non-Residential Building Optimization Program, Non-Residential Engagement Program, Non-Residential Enhanced Prescriptive Program, Residential Smart Home Program, Residential Virtual Audit Program, Residential Water Savings (DR) Program, and Residential Water Savings (EE) Program are hereby approved as new demand side management and energy efficiency programs pursuant to Commission Rule R8-68.

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

NATURAL GAS

METER SAMPLING PROGRAM (Nader/Holt)

Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.

2. Docket No. G-5, Sub 645 – Request for temporary waiver of obligation to conduct routine meter sampling of residential and commercial natural gas meters.

On April 22, 2022, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company) filed a petition in the above-captioned docket requesting approval for a temporary waiver of the Company's obligation to conduct routine sample program testing of customers' residential and commercial gas meters as required by Commission Rule R6-25(5). In summary, PSNC stated that pursuant to Commission Rule R6-25(5), PSNC performs routine testing of its in-service meters selected using a statistical sampling process to ensure that they are within specified accuracy limits. To implement the requirements of Rule R6-25(5), PSNC states that it has developed a periodic meter sampling program (Program), which was approved by the Commission by order dated April 5, 1995, in Docket No. G-5, Sub 340. The Company states its Program is in addition to meter testing that is required by Rule R6-25 (1)-(4).

The Public Staff recommends that PSNC is granted a temporary waiver to suspend routine sample program testing of its customers' residential and commercial natural gas meters pursuant to its Statistical Meter Sampling Program.

Mary Lynne Grigg, attorney for Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc., and Bill McAuley responded to questions from the Commission on behalf of the Applicant.

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

COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS FUEL PURCHASE AGREEMENT (Nader/Holt)

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

3. Docket No. G-9, Sub 802 – Request for approval of a compressed natural gas purchase agreement between Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (PNG), and McAbee Trucking, Inc., pursuant to PNG's Rate Schedule 142.

On March 25, 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 McAbee Trucking, 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 reviewed the Agreement and other information provided by Piedmont in response to Public Staff data requests.

The Public Staff recommends that the Agreement between Piedmont and the Customer is hereby allowed to become effective as filed.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of April 25, 2022, were approved.

Dianna Downey, Chief Counsel of the Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, and Lucy Edmondson, Manager, Electric Section, Public Staff Legal Division, introduced the Public Staff's new Staff Attorney, Anne Keyworth.

Dianna Downey, Chief Counsel of the Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission, announced her retirement from the Public Staff.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.