

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1095D
DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1100D
DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 682D

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Third-Party Independent Audits of Affiliate)	ORDER ALLOWING COMMENTS
Transactions Pursuant to Regulatory)	ON PROPOSED AUDITOR AND
Condition No. 5.8)	REQUIRING SERVICE OF ORDER
)	ON ALL PARTIES

BY THE CHAIR: On September 29, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Approving Merger Subject to Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct (Merger Order), in Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682, approving the merger of Duke Energy Corporation and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. Included among the Regulatory Conditions (RCs) approved in the Merger Order is RC No. 5.8. This RC requires, among other things, that a third-party independent audit be conducted regarding the affiliate transactions among Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and Piedmont (collectively, Duke utilities) no less than every two years.

Subsection (b) of RC No. 5.8 requires that the Public Staff propose one or more independent auditors. The Duke utilities and other parties then have an opportunity to propose additional auditors.

On December 20, 2023, the Public Staff filed its auditor proposal. The Public Staff stated that it sent a Request for Proposals (RFP), including a detailed description of the scope of the audit, to eleven firms and posted the RFP on the Public Staff's website. The Public Staff further stated that two audit firms submitted proposals in response to the RFP and that it reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews of the two firms. The Public Staff recommended that Schumaker & Company be chosen as the third-party independent auditor, and stated that the Duke utilities agree with the recommendation.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Chair finds good cause to allow other parties to comment on the Public Staff's proposed auditor selection and/or propose an alternative auditor. Consistent with RC No. 5.8, any party proposing an independent auditor must file such auditor's audit proposal with the Commission. Finally, the Chair finds good cause to direct that the Chief Clerk serve a copy of this Order on all parties to Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682.

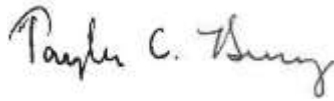
IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That on or before February 12, 2024, interested parties may file comments and/or the names and audit proposals of additional independent auditors; and
2. That the Chief Clerk shall serve a copy of this Order on all parties to Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1095, E-7, Sub 1100, and G-9, Sub 682.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 24th day of January, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Taylor C. Berry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor C. Berry, Deputy Clerk