

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

December 12, 2022

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Barber, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. Gajda, Ms. Forrest, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Mr. Ayers, Ms. Holt, Ms. Jost, Mr. Little, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. Nader, Mr. Michna, Mr. Junis, Ms. Bhatta

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Vines

NATURAL GAS*ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER ADJUSTMENT***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

1. Docket No. G-9, Sub 814 – Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., for approval of Energy Efficiency Program adjustment of rates under Appendix H of its service regulations (*D. Williamson/Jost*)

On September 16, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont) filed its Annual Energy Efficiency (EE) Program Filing addressing the operation of the Company's EE programs for the five-month period from November 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022, and requesting authority to implement its proposed EE Rider rate adjustment for calendar year 2023 (2023 Rate Period).

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the updated proposed EE Rider rate adjustments.

The Public Staff recommended approval of the updated proposed EE Rider rate.

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

WATER AND WASTEWATER*ORDER GRANTING TRANSFER, APPROVING RATES, TRANSFERRING BOND, AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE***Ferrington Utilities, LLC**

2. Docket No. W-661, Sub 10/W-1341, Sub 0 – Application for authority to transfer the wastewater utility system and public utility franchise for providing wastewater utility service in Ferrington Village S/D in Chatham County, North Carolina, and Approval of Rates (*Bhatta/Allison/Little*)

On June 1, 2022, Ferrington Utilities, LLC (Ferrington Utilities) and Fitch Creations, Inc. d/b/a Ferrington Utilities (Fitch Creations) (Applicant) filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for Transfer of Public Utility Franchise and for Approval of Rates (Application), seeking authority to transfer the wastewater utility system and public utility franchise serving the Ferrington Village Subdivision in Chatham County, North Carolina, from Fitch Creations to Ferrington Utilities, a subsidiary of Fitch Creations. Ferrington Utilities filed with the Commission supplemental and additional materials in support of the Application on June 1 and June 24, 2022.

The Public Staff recommends accepting and approving the transfer of bond, approving the transfer of the assets and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), approving the requested rates, and requiring customer notice.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of November 28, 2022, were approved.

Kendal Bowman, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Policy - NC for Duke Energy introduced Bonnie Titone, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Sam Holeman, Vice President, Transmission Planning & Operations; and Rodney Hutcherson, Vice President of Construction and Maintenance at Duke Energy Corporation. The panel provided an overview of the events in Moore County during the substation attack of December 3, 2022, the response of Duke Energy to the attack, and the ongoing investigation.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.