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July 7, 2023

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston
Chief Clerk
N.C. Utilities Commission
430 N. Salisbury Street, Room 5063
Raleigh, NC 27603

**Re: *New River Light and Power Company
Summary of Direct Testimony of Edmond Miller
Docket No. E-34, Subs 54 and 55***

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Attached hereto, on behalf of New River Light and Power Company, is the Summary of Direct Testimony of Edmond Miller to be filed in the above-referenced dockets.

Twelve paper copies of same will be delivered to the Clerk's Office within 24 business hours of the electronic filing.

If you have any questions concerning this filing, or exhibits thereto, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ David T. Drooz

David T. Drooz

pbb

Attachments

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JUL 07 2023



Fox Rothschild ^{LLP}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Ms. Shonta A. Dunston
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cc: Parties and Counsel of Record
NC Commission Staff
NC Public Staff
Mr. Randall E. Halley
Mr. Edmond C. Miller
Mr. M. Gray Styers, Jr.

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JUL 07 2023

SUMMARY OF DIRECT TESTIMONY OF EDMOND MILLER

**ON BEHALF OF
NEW RIVER LIGHT & POWER**

**DOCKET NO. E-34, SUBS 54 & 55
JULY 10, 2023**

New River Light & Power is an operating unit of Appalachian State University. The utility started in 1915 to supply electric power to the educational institution. The surrounding community had no electric service, so New River extended lines to provide power in the Town of Boone.

New River is a small utility. There are approximately 8,882 metered customers. We have 31 employees. Some services are provided to New River by Appalachian State University staff.

New River only provides distribution service. We buy power under contract with Carolina Power Partners. That electricity is delivered to our substations over the transmission lines of Duke Energy Carolinas and the distribution lines of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation.

The present rate case is driven by new capital investments including:

- A new campus substation
- A new SCADA system
- Replacement of overhead lines with underground lines where there were high outages
- Renovation of the New River warehouse
- Renovation of the New River laydown yard

In addition, we have had increased expenses due to Unrelated Business Income Tax, purchased power costs, and inflation and salary increases.

Another feature of the New River rate request is that we propose for the first time a Net Billing Rider for customers with solar generation that wish to use their renewable energy.

Finally, I am proud of the outstanding service provided by New River. New River outperforms other utilities in North Carolina on the SAIDI and SAIFI reliability factors. At the same time, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that New River has the lowest residential electric rates in North Carolina.