

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

March 27, 2023

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., with Commissioner Brown-Bland presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Duffy, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Barber, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Holt, Ms. Jost, Mr. Creech, Mr. Josey, Mr. Little, Ms. Keyworth, Ms. Boswell, Mr. Allison, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Metz, Ms. Patel

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

ELECTRIC*CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY***Duke Energy Progress, LLC**

1. Docket No. SP-8467, Sub 0 – Application of Friesian Holdings, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity for an 80-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic generating facility in Scotland County, North Carolina (*Metz/Keyworth*)

On September 9, 2022, Friesian Holdings, LLC (Applicant) filed an amended application seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of an 80-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic generating facility to be located on Leisure Road and generally bounded by Academy Road, Sanders Road, and Tom Gibson Road, Laurinburg, Scotland County, North Carolina. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity generated by this facility to Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP).

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application and determined it to be in compliance with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1(a) and Commission Rule R8-64.

The Public Staff recommended approval of the certificate for the facility.

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

Commissioner Kemerait did not participate in this decision.

NATURAL GAS*CUSTOMER UTILIZATION/MARGIN DECOUPLING TRACKERS***Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.**

2. Docket No. G-5, Sub 660 – Application of PSNC for adjustment to its Customer Utilization Tracker (Patel/Chiu/Little)

On March 17, 2023, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company) filed an application (Application), pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.7 and Rider C of the Company's Tariff, requesting authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2023, and implement new temporary increments and decrements in its rates for residential, small general service and medium general service customers.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the application and proposed rate adjustments and found them to be in compliance with Rider C of PSNC's tariffs.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

3. Docket No. G-9, Sub 827 – Application of PNG for adjustment to its Margin Decoupling Tracker (Patel/Allison/Jost)

On March 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or Company) filed an application requesting authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2023, pursuant to Appendix C of Piedmont's Service Regulations, the Company's Margin Decoupling Tracker (MDT) mechanism, and the terms of the approved settlement in the Company's last general rate case, Docket No. G-9, Sub 781. These adjustments are based on the Margin Decoupling Deferred Account balances as of January 31, 2023.

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

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

COST OF GAS ADJUSTMENT

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

4. Docket No. G-9, Sub 826 – Application of PNG for adjustment to its Cost of Gas Demand Temporaries Adjustment (Patel/Allison/Jost)

On March 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or Company), filed a petition, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4 and Commission Rule R1-17(k), requesting authority to increase the demand charge component of its rates. Piedmont also requests a waiver of the Commission's Rules pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-134(a) to allow such increase in rates to be effective April 1, 2023.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the proposed temporary rate decrements.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

*FUEL AND ELECTRIC TRACKER***Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC**

5. Docket No. G-39, Sub 49 – Application of Cardinal Pipeline for an adjustment to its annual fuel retention and electric power rate tracker (Allison/Patel/Holt)

On March 1, 2023, Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC (Cardinal), filed an application, pursuant to Section 1 of the General Terms and Conditions in its tariffs, to seek approval to adjust its fuel retention percentage from 0.84% to 0.69% for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2023. In addition, pursuant to Section 2 of the General Terms and Conditions of its tariffs, Cardinal filed to seek approval to implement an Electric Power (EP) rate of \$0.0135 per dekatherm (dt) per month (\$0.00044 per dt per day) for Zones 1A, 1B and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2023.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application, and other information provided by the Company.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of March 20, 2023, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.