

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

February 5, 2024

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait
Commissioner Brawley
Commissioner Tucker

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Murrell, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Walker, Ms. Hilburn

PUBLIC STAFF: Mr. Ayers, Mr. Creech, Ms. Keyworth, Mr. Felling, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. Thomas

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Burgess

ELECTRIC*CUSTOMER BILLING PROGRAM***Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC**

1. Docket No. E-2, Sub 1326, and Docket No. E-7, Sub 1293 – Applications of DEP and DEC for approval of My Energy Bill+ programs (*D. Williamson/Felling*)

On June 22, 2023, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP and, together with DEC, Duke or the Companies), filed a joint application (Application) requesting approval of Duke's My Energy Bill+ program (MEB+ or the Program). Duke stated that the Program is designed in response to customer and stakeholder feedback to provide an enhanced bill certainty option for residential customers with several features that aim to help participants manage their bills, minimize their energy use, and further North Carolina's clean energy goals.

On September 15, 2023, the Commission issued an order requesting comments on the proposed Program.

On December 6, 2023, Duke filed reply comments stating the Public Staff and the Companies had reached an agreement that (1) the Program should be modified to be a three-year pilot program to commence on the date it is officially made available for customer enrollment, and (2) Duke would report annually on the Program.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the program.

The Public Staff recommended approval, subject to the modifications.

Brady Allen, counsel for Duke, introduced Sun Gandara, Manager of Residential Solutions Development, to respond to questions from the Commission.

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

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

2. Docket No. E-2, Sub 1335 – Application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct New Tap Line in Chatham County, North Carolina (*Thomas/Creech*)

On December 18, 2023, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), prefiled with the Public Staff an unsigned application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 62-102, and Commission Rule R8-62(k), for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public

convenience and necessity (CEPCN) to construct approximately 0.5 miles of new 230-kV transmission line in Chatham County (the Line) to support the load needs of Wolfspeed, a domestic developer and manufacturer of semiconductor microchips at the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite. The Line will energize a planned new substation at the CAM megasite to serve industrial load.

The Public Staff stated that the application meets the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-102 and Commission Rule R8-62 for a certificate and the conditions of N.C.G.S. §62-101(d)(1) for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate.

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

CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

3. Docket No. SP-60462, Sub 0 – Application of Oates Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity and registration statement for a 4.99 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in Sampson County, North Carolina (*D. Williamson/Keyworth*)

On November 14, 2023, Oates Solar, LLC (Applicant), filed an application in the above-captioned docket seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of a 4.99-MW_{AC} solar generating facility to be located south of Tomahawk Highway (a/k/a NC Highway 41), north and east of Bland School Road, and north and west of Wildcat Road (a/k/a State Road 1007), near Harrells, Sampson County, North Carolina. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity to North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC).

Contemporaneously with the application, the Applicant filed a registration statement for a new renewable energy facility.

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 further stated that the registration statement contains the certified attestations required by Commission Rule R8-66(b).

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

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of January 29, 2024, were approved.

Sam Watson, General Counsel, introduced new staff members Kim Murrell, Staff Attorney, and Melissa Walker, Staff Attorney.

The Chair recognized the passing of Anna Williams, Pipeline Safety Inspector for the Commission.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.