



**NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

– PRESS RELEASE –

Release: Immediate
Date: March 16, 2020

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**North Carolina Utilities Commission Suspends Scheduled Hearings Until
April 13, 2020, to Assist in Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 116 declaring a state of emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In so doing, the Governor ordered all state and local governmental entities and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the executive order. States of emergency have similarly been declared by the federal government and numerous counties within North Carolina, including Wake County.

On March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court issued an emergency order directing superior and district courts to continue most pending cases for at least 30 days in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure caused by crowded sessions of court.

On March 14, 2020, Governor Cooper, finding that further action is necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents of North Carolina, slow the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, reduce the number of people infected, and avoid strain on our health care system, issued Executive Order No. 117 prohibiting mass gatherings of more than 100 persons to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In response to the declared state of emergency and consistent with the Governor's executive orders, the Commission by orders issued in the affected dockets is suspending effective today all hearings scheduled to be held prior to April 13, 2020. The Commission will inform parties by further order in each proceeding of new hearing dates as that information becomes available.

Importantly, however, the Commission remains open, and this action suspending hearings does not toll or waive any filing, discovery, or notice deadlines in any proceeding before the Commission. All parties are strongly encouraged to use the Commission's electronic filing system, and the Chief Clerk's Office will continue to accept and process filings.

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