

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

October 31, 2022

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning. Let's come
3 to order and go on the record, please. I'm Charlotte
4 Mitchell, Chair of the Utilities Commission and with
5 me this morning are Commissioners Brown-Bland,
6 Clodfelter, Duffley, Hughes, and Kemerait.

7 In compliance with the State Government
8 Ethics Act, I remind members of the Commission of
9 our duty to avoid conflicts of interest, and inquire
10 as to whether any member of the Commission has a
11 known conflict with respect to matters coming before
12 us?

13 (No response)

14 The record will reflect that no conflicts
15 have been identified, so we will proceed with Public
16 Staff, Item Number 1.

17 MR. METZ: Good morning. I'm Dustin Metz
18 with the Public Staff's Energy Division. Item P1 is
19 a proposed order for establishing a general rate
20 case and suspending rates for Duke Energy Progress.

21 I have one amendment to the proposed
22 order. DEP filed a Performance Based Ratemaking
23 Application and, therefore, under 62-133(16)(d)(3),
24 the Commission may suspend the implementation of the

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1 proposed rates for up to 300 days. Accordingly,
2 Ordering Paragraph 2, the proposed order should read
3 that the proposed new rates are suspended for up to
4 300 days pursuant to or upon General Statute
5 62-133.16.

6 With that amendment, I recommend the
7 Commission approve the proposed order.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval
9 of the recommendation as amended.

10 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll second.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
12 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
13 the Public Staff. Questions or discussion on that
14 motion?

15 (No response)

16 Hearing none, all in favor, indicate with
17 an aye.

18 (All Commissioners say aye.)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

20 (No response)

21 That motion carries.

22 Thank you, Mr. Metz.

23 We'll proceed to Public Staff, Agenda Item

24 2.

1 MR. THOMAS: Good morning, Commissioners.
2 My name is Jeff Thomas. Item 2 is a request by Duke
3 Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress for
4 approval of their Green Source Advantage Bridge
5 Program and associated tariffs GSA-B.

6 The Public Staff recommends that the
7 Commission approve the request and issue the
8 proposed order.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Kemerait.

10 MS. KEMERAIT: Mr. Thomas, I also see that
11 Ms. Fentress and Mr. Jirak are here from Duke, and I
12 think that my questions might be better answered by
13 either or both, Ms. Fentress or Mr. Jirak.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Or to the extent that
15 Duke has a witness that's available to respond,
16 please do come up.

17 MR. THOMAS: Should I step down or stay?

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: No. Stay up there,
19 Mr. Thomas.

20 MS. FENTRESS: Good morning, Chair
21 Mitchell and Commissioners. My name is Kendrick
22 Fentress. I'm appearing on behalf of Duke Energy
23 Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress in this matter,
24 and we do have two subject matter witnesses with us

1 here today to respond to any questions. I believe
2 Commissioner Kemeraït indicated she had some. I'm
3 going to let them introduce themselves, if that's
4 all right, and I'll step out of the way.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Fentress.

6 MR. SNOOK: Chair Mitchell, Commissioners,
7 Leland Snook, Managing Director of Pricing Solutions
8 for Duke Energy.

9 MS. CUMMINGS: Chair Mitchell,
10 Commissioners, Layla Cummings, Energy Policy North
11 Carolina with Duke Energy.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning to both of
13 you. Commissioner Kemeraït.

14 MS. KEMERAÏT: Thank y'all for being here.
15 I have a couple of questions to make sure that we
16 understand this GSA Bridge Program. And the first
17 is about how the 350 megawatts that would be
18 allocated to the GSA Bridge Program, how it relates
19 to the 2021 appropriations bill under Section
20 11.19(f1) and (f2). And my understanding is that
21 that 350 megawatts in the appropriations bill had
22 been reserved for an eligible customer that would be
23 owning and operating a manufacturing facility. And
24 so what relation does the 350 megawatts in this GSA

1 Bridge Program have or not have to the reserved
2 capacity in the appropriations bill?

3 MR. SNOOK: Chair Mitchell, Commissioner
4 Kemeraït, there is no relation. This is additional
5 capacity.

6 COMMISSIONER KEMERAÏT: So the
7 350 megawatts would still remain reserved for the
8 eligible facility, the manufacturing facility; is
9 that correct?

10 MR. SNOOK: Yes, that's correct.

11 COMMISSIONER KEMERAÏT: And then on --
12 we'd like to also better understand how the
13 250 megawatts of the GSA Bridge Program capacity
14 will be provided. And I think the Application talks
15 about that it would be 45 percent of third-party
16 owned renewable capacity from the Carbon Plan. Is
17 my understanding correct? And can you explain
18 basically where this 250 megawatts would be coming
19 from?

20 MR. SNOOK: Yes. Chair Mitchell,
21 Commissioner Kemeraït, it would be provided by third
22 parties and it would count towards the 45 percent.

23 COMMISSIONER KEMERAÏT: And how will it be
24 allocated? Is it going to be part of the 2022 solar

1 procurement or some other solar procurement later --
2 solar procurement program?

3 MS. CUMMINGS: So this capacity would be
4 available once it's approved. It will be -- there's
5 a couple of different paths that this capacity can
6 come from, but it will not be taken out of whatever
7 number, target volume, the solar procurement has set
8 up. So if you had, for instance, a PPA project that
9 dropped out of the procurement right now in Step 1
10 or didn't make it to Step 2, or even beyond, if they
11 didn't win after Step 2, that person could go
12 contract with another customer and then could come
13 to the Company with a GSA Application.

14 COMMISSIONER KEMERAIT: So then,
15 Ms. Cummings, it would be outside of the 2022 solar
16 procurement; is that correct?

17 MS. CUMMINGS: That is correct.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any additional questions?

19 (No response)

20 MS. KEMERAIT: I'll make a motion to move
21 this matter to executive conference.

22 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any objections to the
24 motion on the table?

1 (No response)

2 All right. We'll take this into executive
3 session.

4 MS. KEMERAIT: Thank you for the answers.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you very much Duke
6 and Mr. Thomas.

7 We will now proceed to Public Staff, Item
8 3.

9 MS. PATEL: Good morning, Chair Mitchell,
10 Commissioners. I'm Neha Patel with Public Staff's
11 Energy Division. I'm presenting Item 3 today.

12 Item 3 is a request by Piedmont Natural
13 Gas Company for approval of bi-annual adjustment of
14 rates under Appendix C of its Service Regulations.

15 Public Staff has reviewed the proposed
16 rate adjustments and recommends that the Commission
17 approve the proposed order allowing Piedmont to
18 adjust their rates as provided in Schedule A of the
19 Application.

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval
21 of the recommendation.

22 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
24 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by

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1 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or
2 discussion on that motion?

3 (No response)

4 Hearing none, all in favor indicate with
5 an aye.

6 (All Commissioners say aye.)

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

8 (No response)

9 The motion carries.

10 Thank you, Ms. Patel.

11 The Commission has before us our minutes
12 of the October 24th Staff Conference for approval.
13 I'll take a motion.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval.

15 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's moved and seconded
17 that those minutes be approved. Questions or
18 discussion on that motion?

19 (No response)

20 All in favor indicate with an aye.

21 (All Commissioners say aye.)

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

23 (No response)

24 Our minutes of October 24th Staff

1 Conference are approved.

2 Any additional business for the Commission
3 this morning before we adjourn?

4 (No response)

5 Seeing none, we'll be adjourned. Thank
6 you very much everybody. Let's go off the record,
7 please.

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9 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM T. MITCHELL, do hereby certify that the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were taken before me, that I did report in stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription to the best of my ability.

Kim T. Mitchell

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