

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

August 16, 2021

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. With me  
5 this morning are Commissioner Brown-Bland,  
6 Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Clodfelter,  
7 Commissioner Duffley, Commissioner Hughes, and  
8 Commissioner McKissick.

9 In compliance with the State Government  
10 Ethics Act, I remind members of the Commission of  
11 their duty to avoid conflicts of interest, and inquire  
12 at this time as to whether any member of the  
13 Commission has a known conflict of interest with  
14 respect to matters coming before us this morning?

15 (No response)

16 The record will reflect no conflicts were  
17 identified, so we will proceed with Public Staff,  
18 Water Item P1. Ms. Casselberry, you are up.

19 MS. CASSELBERRY: Good morning. Gina  
20 Casselberry with the Water Division. Item P1 is  
21 Docket Number W-354, Sub 386. On July 28, 2021,  
22 Carolina Water Service Inc., of North Carolina filed a  
23 letter with the Commission requesting authority to  
24 amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to

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1 water customers in High Vista Estates in Henderson  
2 County an increase in the cost of purchasing water  
3 from the City of Hendersonville.

4 The Public Staff has reviewed the current  
5 rates and recommends that the Company be allowed to  
6 increase its usage charge for water service by \$1.32  
7 per 1000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$3.40 to  
8 \$4.72 per 1000 gallons.

9 The Public Staff recommends that the  
10 proposed order be issued approving the recommended  
11 tariff revision.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
13 the recommendation.

14 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved by  
16 Commissioner Brown-Bland that the item be approved as  
17 recommended by the Public Staff and seconded -- the  
18 motion was seconded by Commissioner Gray. Any  
19 questions/discussion on the motion?

20 (No response)

21 Hearing none, I will call for a vote.  
22 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and  
23 your opposition with a no. All in favor, indicate  
24 with an aye.

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1 (All Commissioners say aye).

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any opposed?

3 (No response)

4 The motion carries.

5 (MOTION PASSES)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: We will proceed now to  
7 Public Staff, Water Item P2.

8 MS. CASSELBERRY: Item P2 is Docket Number  
9 W-354, Sub 387. On July 28, 2021, Carolina Water  
10 Service, Inc. of North Carolina filed a letter with  
11 the Commission requesting authority to amend its  
12 tariff for the purpose of passing along to water  
13 customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon  
14 County an increase in the cost of purchased water from  
15 the Town of Franklin.

16 The Public Staff has reviewed the current  
17 rates and recommends that the Company be allowed to  
18 increase its usage charge for water service by \$0.60  
19 per 1000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$7.50 to  
20 \$8.10 dollars per 1000 gallons.

21 The Public Staff recommends that the  
22 proposed order be issued approving the recommended  
23 tariff revision.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of

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1 the recommendation.

2 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved by  
4 Commissioner Brown-Bland and seconded by Commissioner  
5 Gray that the item be approved as recommended by the  
6 Public Staff. Any questions or discussion?

7 (No response)

8 All in favor of the motion indicate with an  
9 aye.

10 (All Commissioners say aye).

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any opposed?

12 (No response)

13 The motion carries.

14 (MOTION PASSES)

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Casselberry.

16 We will proceed now to Public Staff  
17 Supplemental Item, Electric P1.

18 MR. AKPOM: Good morning. I am Charles A.  
19 Akpom with the Public Staff, Accounting Division.  
20 Supplemental Electric Item P-1 refers to a request  
21 by --

22 (WHEREUPON, the Court Reporter  
23 requested Mr. Akpom to speak up.)

24 MR. AKPOM: Supplemental Electric Item P-1

1 refers to a request by Western Carolina University in  
2 Docket Number E-35, Sub 54. In this order in Docket  
3 Number E-35, Sub 53, February 9th, 2021, the  
4 Commission approved WCU's request to file an  
5 Application for a mid-year adjustment to adjust rates  
6 to reflect the impact of the proposed DEC coal ash  
7 settlement.

8 On July 20th, 2021, Western Carolina  
9 University, or WCU, filed a request to refund to its  
10 customers the refund of rates for over collection from  
11 Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, stated that the amount,  
12 that the total amount of the refund was \$464,959 and  
13 asked for approval of its supplementary PPA EMF refund  
14 rate decrement of \$0.02283 per kilowatt hour for bills  
15 rendered from August 1st, 2021 through January 31,  
16 2022.

17 The Public Staff has reviewed WCU's filing  
18 and recommends approval subject to the inclusion of  
19 interest to the ratepayers to reflect a period of time  
20 for which WCU has access to the over collection. The  
21 inclusion of the interest to ratepayers included the  
22 total refund to \$480,458, and included the rate  
23 decrement that the Company requested \$0.02283 per  
24 kilowatt hour to \$0.02359 per kilowatt hour. WCU has

1 reviewed the Public Staff's calculation and agrees  
2 with the inclusion of interest and the Public Staff's  
3 calculation of the total refunded rate decrement.

4 A proposed order is attached as Exhibit  
5 Number P-1.

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
7 the recommendation.

8 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved by  
10 Commissioner Brown-Bland and seconded by Commissioner  
11 Gray that the item be approved as recommended by the  
12 Public Staff. Any questions or discussion?

13 (No response)

14 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion  
15 indicate with an aye.

16 (All Commissioners say aye)

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any opposed?

18 (No response)

19 Motion carries.

20 (MOTION PASSES)

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Akpom.

22 MR. AKPOM: Thank you.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: The Commission has before  
24 it for approval its minutes of Staff Conference from

1 August 6th.

2 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Move approval.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Second.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any questions/discussion on  
5 the motion?

6 (No response)

7 All in favor of approving the minutes  
8 indicate with an aye.

9 (All Commissioners say aye).

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any opposed?

11 (No response)

12 The minutes of August 6th are approved. Any  
13 additional business for the Commission this morning?

14 (No response)

15 Hearing none, we will be adjourned. Let's  
16 go off the record please. Thank very much everybody.

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18 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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