

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

March 25, 2024

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait
Commissioner Brawley
Commissioner Tucker

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Li, Mr. Barber, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. Barley, Ms. Winstead, Mr. Hardy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Holt, Ms. Keyworth, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lentz, Mr. Akpom, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Michna, Ms. Patel, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Thomas

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

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

1. Docket No. SP-62430, Sub 0 – Application of Grifton Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity and registration statement to construct an 80 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Pitt County, North Carolina (*Thomas/Keyworth*)

On January 5, 2024, Grifton Solar, LLC (Applicant), filed an application seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of an 80-megawatt AC (MW) solar photovoltaic generating facility, co-located with 32 MW of battery storage, to be located at 1627 Brown Hodges Road, Grifton, Pitt County, North Carolina. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity generated by this facility to Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP).

Contemporaneously with the CPCN application, the Applicant also included a registration statement for a new renewable energy facility. On January 30, 2024, the Applicant filed an Amended CPCN Application with a revised Exhibit 6(ii)(c).

The Public Staff stated that the application meets 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.

NATURAL GAS*FUEL TRACKER AND ELECTRIC POWER COST ADJUSTMENT***Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC**

2. Docket No. G-39, Sub 50 – Application of Cardinal Pipeline for approval to adjust its fuel retention percentage and its electric power rate effective April 1, 2024 (*Michna/Lentz/Holt*)

On February 27, 2024, Cardinal Pipeline Company, LLC (Cardinal), filed an application (Application), pursuant to Section 1 of the General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) in its tariffs, seeking approval to adjust its fuel retention percentage from 0.69% to 0.75% for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2024. In addition, pursuant to Section 2 of the General Terms and Conditions of its tariffs, Cardinal's Application seeks approval to implement an Electric Power (EP) rate of \$0.01557 per dekatherm (dt)

per month (\$0.00051 per dt per day) for Zones 1A, 1B, and 2 of Rate Schedule CFT, effective April 1, 2024.

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.

CUSTOMER UTILIZATION TRACKER / MARGIN DECOUPLING TRACKER

Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.

3. Docket No. G-5, Sub 674 – Application of PSNC for authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Riders C and D (*Patel/Akpom/Holt*)

On March 15, 2024, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company), filed an application (Application) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.7 and § 62-133.4, Rule R1-17(k)(3) and (5)(d) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, and Rider C and D of the Company's Tariffs requesting (1) authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Rider C; (2) to implement new temporary decrements in its rates for residential, small general service, and medium general service customers; and (3) to implement, pursuant to Rider D, a decrease in its commodity benchmark cost of gas.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the Application and proposed rate adjustments and found them to be in compliance with 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.

4. Docket No. G-9, Sub 839 – Application of PNG for authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Appendix C (*Patel/Lentz/Holt*)

On March 15, 2024, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company), filed an application (Application) requesting authority to adjust its rates effective April 1, 2024, pursuant to Appendix C of its North Carolina Service Regulations, the Company's Margin Decoupling Tracker (MDT) mechanism, to increase its rates for Residential Service, Small General Service, and Medium General Service by (1) increasing the existing increment in its rates for Residential Service, (2) decreasing the existing decrement for Small General Service, and (3) increasing the existing increment for Medium General

Service. These adjustments are based on the Margin Decoupling Deferred Account balance as of January 31, 2024, as reflected in Schedule B of the Application.

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.

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of March 18, 2024, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.