

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

August 15, 2022

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brown-Bland
Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Eastwood, Ms. Li, Mr. Rhodes, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Mr. Gajda, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Holt, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Josey, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Keyworth, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Chiu, Mr. Saillor, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Junis, Ms. Darden, Mr. Houser, Ms. Proffitt

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Vines

ELECTRIC*MID-YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL PURCHASED POWER ADJUSTMENT***Western Carolina University**

1. Docket No. E-35, Sub 55 – Motion for authorization and approval to implement a mid-year supplemental Purchased Power Adjustment (*Boswell/Saillor/Creech*)

On August 8, 2022, Western Carolina University (WCU) filed a request pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-7 and North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 62-32 for authorization and approval to implement a mid-year supplemental Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) to change its Schedule CP Purchased Power Cost Rider (Rider) to be effective for the six monthly billings remaining in the 2022 PPA billing cycle, beginning with the bills rendered in August 2022 (Adjustment Request).

The Public Staff stated that it has reviewed the filing and information provided by WCU in response to the Public Staff's data requests.

The Public Staff recommended approval of the mid-year supplemental PPA as requested by WCU. The Public Staff further stated that the approval of this PPA should be without prejudice to the right of any party to take issue with it in a general rate case.

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

*ORDER APPROVING INCREASE IN PRICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS AND NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS***Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC**

2. Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1190; E-7, Sub 1185; and E-100, Sub 90 – Request for Approval of Renewable Advantage Rider (NC) and Customer Notice (*Lucas or Lawrence/Keyworth*)

On July 22, 2022, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP) (collectively, Duke) filed requests for Commission approval of a \$1.00 per month increase in the monthly rates of their voluntary programs offering residential and small business customers the option to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset all or a portion of their electrical consumption.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed Duke's request and agrees that the tariff increase is necessary.

The Public Staff recommended approval of the proposed tariff modifications and customer notice.

Kendrick Fentress, Associate General Counsel at Duke Energy Corporation, responded to questions from the Commission on behalf of the Applicant.

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

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITY

Duke Energy Progress, LLC

3. Docket No. SP-32939, Sub 0 – Application of Gum Swamp Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an 80-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Scotland County, North Carolina and Registration Statement (*T. Williamson/Keyworth*)

On May 14, 2021, Gum Swamp Solar, LLC (Applicant) filed an application seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1(a) for construction of an 80-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic generating facility to be located at 6540 McFarland Road, Laurel Hill, Scotland County, North Carolina. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity generated by this facility to Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP).

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 recommendations be adopted.

Commissioner Kemerait did not participate in this decision.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated

4. Docket No. W-1274, Sub 10 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water and Sewer Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water and Sewer from the Town of Waynesville in Its Service Area in Haywood County, North Carolina (*Darden/Coleman/Little*)

On July 13, 2022, Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated (LJA), filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water and sewer customers in its Lake Junaluska Assembly service area in Haywood County an increase in the cost of purchasing bulk water

and sewer treatment service from the Town of Waynesville (Waynesville). On July 27, 2022, LJA filed the required verification. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff recommended that LJA be allowed to increase its usage charge for metered water service by \$0.08 per 100 cubic feet (ccf), increasing the rate from \$2.61 per ccf to \$2.69 per ccf, and increase its usage charge for metered water only by \$0.19 from \$6.36 per ccf to \$6.55 per ccf.

The Public Staff recommended that the tariff revision be approved as modified and indicated that LJA agrees with the Public Staff's recommended rates.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS

BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina (AT&T)

5. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1950 – Agreement with Frontier Communications of the Carolinas LLC (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On June 21, 2022, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and Frontier Communications of the Carolinas LLC, filed an interconnection agreement for Commission approval.

The Public Staff recommended that the agreement be approved.

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

6. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1951 – Agreement with Easton Telecom Services, LLC (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On June 21, 2022, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and Easton Telecom Services, LLC, filed an interconnection agreement, amended to include North Carolina, for Commission approval.

The Public Staff recommended that the agreement, as amended, be approved.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of July 25, 2022 were approved.

Charles Junis, Director of the Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission's Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division, introduced the Public Staff's new Water Engineer, Evan Houser.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.