

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

October 18, 2021

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding. The remote meeting was conducted by use of simultaneous communication (via Webex) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.24, streamed live online, and available to the public.

The following were present during the entirety of the remote meeting:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brown-Bland
Commissioner Gray
Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner McKissick

COMMISSION STAFF: Ms. McMillen, Ms. Lazo, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Zhang, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Downey, Ms. Holt, Ms. Luhr, Mr. Maness, Mr. Henry, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Sun, Mr. Saillor, Mr. Lucas, Ms. Casselberry, Mr. Franklin

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTERS: Ms. Vines

D. ELECTRIC**P.1 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITIES**

The following applications are in regard to amended and renewed certificates of public convenience and necessity for construction of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating facilities, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Progress, LLC:

- **Docket No. SP-4892, Sub 0** – Application of Fresh Air Energy XXIV, LLC, to amend and renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 10-MW solar PV facility in Harnett County, North Carolina. The amendment is requested to (i) reduce the size of the project from 19.99-MW to 10-MW, (ii) update the facility's E911 address, and (iii) relocate the facility's point of interconnection. (amended registration statement)
- **Docket No. SP-8214, Sub 1** – Application of Monday Farm, LLC, to amend and renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar PV facility in Franklin County, North Carolina. The amendment is requested to relocate the facility's point of interconnection. (registration statement issued previously)

The Public Staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue orders approving the amended and renewed applications and issuing the requested certificates. The Public Staff has provided proposed orders to the Commission Staff.

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

E. WATER**P1. DOCKET NO. W-1327, SUB 1 – DILLSBORO WATER UTILITIES, INC. – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION**

On September 9, 2021, Dillsboro Water Utilities, Inc. (Dillsboro or Company), filed a letter with the Commission, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its customers in Jackson County the increased cost of purchasing water and wastewater treatment from Tuckasegee Water and Sewer Authority (TWSA). Dillsboro provides water and sewer service to the BP/Subway, Holiday Inn Express, and Microtel,

and sewer service to Dillsboro Crossing Apartments. On October 1, 2021, Dillsboro filed a verification pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) 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. TWSA's new rates became effective June 30, 2021.

Dillsboro states that, effective June 30, 2021, TWSA increased its monthly water and sewer rates charged to Dillsboro by six percent. Dillsboro requested to increase its water and sewer rates by six percent to pass along this increase in the cost of purchasing water and wastewater service from TWSA.

Dillsboro's current rates became effective December 30, 2020, upon issuance of the Commission's Order Accepting and Approving Bond, Granting Transfer, Approving Rates, and Requiring Customer Notice in Docket Nos. W-1327, Sub 0 and W-1303, Sub 4.

The Public Staff has reviewed Dillsboro's request and recommends that Dillsboro be allowed to increase its water usage rate by \$0.45 per 1,000 gallons, from \$4.03 to \$4.48 per 1,000 gallons, its sewer usage rate by \$0.60 per 1,000 gallons, from \$3.55 to \$4.15 per 1,000 gallons, and its flat rate charged to Dillsboro Crossing Apartments by \$62.53 per month, from \$835.16 to \$897.69 per month. On October 6, 2021, Dillsboro filed a letter stating that it agreed with the Public Staff's recommended rates.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order approving the tariff revision at the recommended rates and requiring customer notice.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of October 11, 2021, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.