

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

July 31, 2023

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, July 31, 2023, 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. Duffy, Ms. Jarvis, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Franke, Ms. Olive, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Forrest; Ms. Winstead; Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Bernier, Ms. Newell, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Lucas, Mr. T. Williamson, Ms. Patel, Mr. Junis, Mr. Houser

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

ELECTRIC*CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY***Roanoke Electric Cooperative**

1. Docket No. EC-31, Sub 51 – Application of Roanoke EC for a CECPCN to construct 2,026 feet of 230 kV transmission line in Hertford County, North Carolina (*T. Williamson/Creech*)

On June 16, 2023, Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Roanoke EC or Applicant), filed its letter of intent to file for a waiver of the hearing and notice requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-102 and 104, and Commission Rule R8-62, as provided for in N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1). On that same date, the Applicant prefiled a completed application and waiver request with the Public Staff for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a new 230-kV transmission line (Line) in Hertford County, North Carolina. The application stated that this Line would allow Roanoke EC to assist Piedmont Natural Gas in constructing a new pressurization facility which will provide the required pressure and capacity to an existing pipeline to guarantee service to current and future customers in Hertford County.

The Public Staff stated that the application meets the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-102 and Commission Rule R8-62 for a certificate and the conditions of G.S. 62-101(d)(1) for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate.

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

NATURAL GAS*DEMAND CHARGE REDUCTION***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

2. Docket No. G-9, Sub 830 – Application of PNG for approval of a reduction in the demand charge component of its rates (*Patel/Johnson/Culpepper*)

On July 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., filed a petition, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4 and Commission Rule R1-17(k), requesting authority to reduce the demand charge component of its rates.

The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the proposed temporary rate decrements.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER ESTABLISHING GENERAL RATE CASE AND SUSPENDING RATES

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC

3. Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 – Application for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for Wastewater Utility Service in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina (*Houser/Morgan/Creech*)

On July 7, 2023, 904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC, filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing wastewater utility service in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

The Public Staff recommends that the application be found to constitute a general rate case and that the proposed new rates be suspended pending investigation.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

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

4. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1722–Amendment to the interconnection agreement with PNG Telecommunications, Inc. (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On May 26, 2023, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and PNG Telecommunications, Inc. filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement approved by the Commission on December 27, 2007.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of July 24, 2023, were approved.

Lucy Edmondson, Chief Counsel of the Public Staff, introduced new staff member Davia Newell, Staff Attorney.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.