

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

August 28, 2023

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, August 28, 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. Jarvis, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Barber, Mr. Barley; Ms. Winstead; Mr. Warren, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Mr. Bernier, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Sun; Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Michna, Ms. Patel, Mr. Junis, Ms. Darden

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

NATURAL GAS*INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT TRACKER***Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.**

1. Docket No. G-5, Sub 663 – Application of PSNC for approval of bi-annual adjustment to rates under Rider E of its tariff (*Michna/Sun/Holt*)

On July 31, 2023, pursuant to Rider E of the Company's tariff, PSNC filed in Docket No. G-5, Sub 565C, the computation for the IMRR that supports the bi-annual IM rate adjustments, effective September 1, 2023, based on the Company's IM Plant Investment through June 30, 2023.

On August 15, 2023, PSNC filed an Application for Bi-Annual Adjustment of Rates Under Rider E to its Tariff (Application), which included the schedule showing the computation of the IM rate adjustments for each rate schedule and the revised tariffs, effective for service rendered on and after September 1, 2023.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Application.

The Public Staff recommended approval as filed.

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

WATER AND WASTEWATER*ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER TO OWNER EXEMPT FROM REGULATION, CANCELING FRANCHISES, AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE***Pluris Webb Creek, LLC**

2. Docket No. W-1314, Sub 5 – Application for Authority to Transfer its Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wastewater System Assets in Onslow County, North Carolina to Onslow Water and Sewer Authority, Owner Exempt from Regulation (*Darden/Feasel/Newell*)

On June 26, 2023, Pluris Webb Creek, LLC (Pluris Webb Creek or Applicant) filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to transfer its wastewater treatment plant and wastewater system assets providing wastewater utility service in its service area in Onslow County to the Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA). ONWASA is exempt from Commission regulation pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-3(23)(d). Pluris currently provides wastewater utility service to approximately 1,700 customers in this service area. Pursuant to the terms of the transfer, Applicant will transfer all its customers to ONWASA.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the transfer of the wastewater utility system from Pluris Webb Creek to ONWASA without public hearing since significant protests were not received after customer notice.

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

Pluris, LLC

3. Docket No. W-1282, Sub 20 – Application for Authority to Transfer its Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wastewater System Assets in Onslow County, North Carolina to Onslow Water and Sewer Authority, Owner Exempt from Regulation (*Darden/Feasel/Newell*)

On June 26, 2023, Pluris, LLC (Pluris or Applicant) filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to transfer its wastewater treatment plant and wastewater system assets providing wastewater utility service in its service area in Onslow County to the Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA). ONWASA is exempt from Commission regulation pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-3(23)(d). Pluris currently provides wastewater utility service to approximately 7,000 customers in its service area. ONWASA provides water utility service to this service area. Pursuant to the terms of the transfer, Applicant will transfer all of Applicant's customers to ONWASA.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the transfer of the wastewater utility system from Pluris to ONWASA without public hearing since significant protests were not received after customer notice.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of August 21, 2023, were approved.

Charles Junis, Director of the Public Staff's Water, Sewer and Telephone Division, introduced returning staff member Joanna Garcia-Morin, Program Coordinator.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.