

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

April 12, 2021

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning. Let's come  
3 to order and go on the record, please. I'm Charlotte  
4 Mitchell, Chair of the Utilities Commission, and with  
5 me this morning are the following Commissioners. When  
6 I call your name, please announce your presence.  
7 Commissioner Brown-Bland.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Good morning.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, good morning.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

14 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Good morning.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

16 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Good morning.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: And Commissioner McKissick.

18 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Good morning.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: In compliance with the  
20 State Government Ethics Act, I remind members of the  
21 Commission of their duty to avoid conflicts of  
22 interest, and inquire as to whether any member of the  
23 Commission has a known conflict of interest with  
24 respect to matters coming before us?

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 (No response)

2 The record will reflect that no conflicts  
3 have been identified, so we will proceed with Public  
4 Staff, Natural Gas Item P1. Ms. Patel and Ms. Li, you  
5 all are up.

6 MS. PATEL: Thank you. Good morning. My  
7 name is Neha Patel with the Public Staff, Energy  
8 Division. Item P1 is a consolidated docket, Docket  
9 No. G-9, Sub 722 and Docket G-9, Sub 781.

10 On March 16, 2021, the Commission issued an  
11 Order consolidating Piedmont's general rate case in  
12 Docket No. G-9, Sub 781, with its request for approval  
13 of the revised Consolidated Natural Gas Construction  
14 and Redelivery Services Agreement between Piedmont and  
15 Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, filed on November 16,  
16 2018, in Docket G-9, Sub 722.

17 On March 22, 2021, Piedmont filed an  
18 Application with the Commission requesting authority  
19 to adjust and increase its rates and charges for  
20 customers served in North Carolina effective April 21,  
21 2021.

22 The Public Staff recommends that an Order be  
23 issued establishing a general rate case and suspending  
24 rates. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I'll move  
2 approval of the recommendation.

3 COMMISSIONER GRAY: I'll second.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
5 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
6 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or  
7 discussion on the motion?

8 (No response)

9 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.  
10 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and  
11 your opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

14 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

18 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

20 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick.

22 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I  
24 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

1 (MOTION PASSES)

2 MS. PATEL: Thank you.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: We will proceed with  
4 Communications, Item P1.

5 MR. McCOY: Karen, you're on mute.

6 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning. Let me try  
7 this again. So my name is Karen Proffitt with the  
8 Water, Sewer and Telephone Division and I'm presenting  
9 Communications Item P1, which presents the  
10 Interconnection Agreement Amendments filed by Verizon  
11 South for Commission approval on January 14th, 2021.

12 The Public Staff has reviewed these filings  
13 and recommends that the Commission -- excuse me, that  
14 Orders be issued approving the Amendments effective on  
15 the date they were filed.

16 The Public Staff has provided proposed  
17 orders to the Commission staff.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
19 the recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
22 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
23 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or is there  
24 any discussion on the motion?

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 (No response)

2 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.

3 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and  
4 your opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

7 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

11 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

13 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick.

15 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I  
17 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

18 (MOTION PASSES)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Proffitt.

20 We will proceed now to Public Staff,

21 Electric Item P1. Mr. Lawrence, you're up.

22 MR. LAWRENCE: Good morning. I'm Evan  
23 Lawrence with the Public Staff's Energy Division.

24 Electric Item P1 consists of an Application for a CPCN

1 and Registration filed by Perendale Holdings, LLC, for  
2 a solar PV generating facility.

3 The Public Staff recommends that the  
4 Commission issue an Order approving the Application,  
5 issuing the Certificate and accepting the Registration  
6 Statement.

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
8 the recommendation.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
11 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
12 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or  
13 discussion?

14 (No response)

15 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.  
16 Indicate your support with an aye and your opposition  
17 with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

20 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

24 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

2 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick.

4 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I  
6 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

7 (MOTION PASSES)

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Lawrence.  
9 We will proceed to Public Staff, Electric Item P2.  
10 Mr. Floyd, you are up.

11 MR. FLOYD: Good morning. I'm Jack Floyd  
12 with the Energy Division. Item two is a filing by  
13 Dominion Energy North Carolina seeking approval to  
14 close its Residential Income and Age Qualifying Home  
15 Improvement Program and withdrawing the schedule  
16 associated with that program. This program offers  
17 energy audits and a variety of energy efficient  
18 measures to customers who meet certain income and age  
19 qualifications.

20 The Program is set to expire in Virginia at  
21 the end of June of this year, pursuant to the  
22 requirements of the Virginia State Corporation  
23 Commission. In order to facilitate the closure of the  
24 Program at the end of June, the Company needs to close

1 the Program to new participants by April 15th.

2 As you know, Dominion offers this program on  
3 a systemwide basis to both its Virginia service area  
4 and North Carolina.

5 Dominion intends to replace the Program with  
6 another low-income program, which the Company has  
7 filed with the Virginia Commission. That replacement  
8 program is very similar to the current program in  
9 terms of measures and qualifications. The approval of  
10 that replacement program is pending before the  
11 Virginia Commission.

12 I would also note that the Company has  
13 committed to filing the replacement low-income program  
14 as soon as possible following approval by the Virginia  
15 Commission. If the Program is not approved in  
16 Virginia, the Company has committed to evaluating the  
17 possibility of implementing the replacement program on  
18 a North Carolina-only basis.

19 Based upon our review of the Application,  
20 the Public Staff recommends that the Commission issue  
21 our proposed order granting the Company's request to  
22 close the Residential Income and Age Qualifying Home  
23 Improvement Program as filed.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I move approval



1 of the recommendation.

2 COMMISSIONER GRAY: I'll second.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
4 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
5 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or  
6 discussion on the motion?

7 (Pause).

8 Mr. Floyd, I do have a question for you.  
9 Any idea of when the Virginia Corporation Commission  
10 will rule on Dominion's program?

11 MR. FLOYD: They typically issue their  
12 approvals sometime between now and the first of June,  
13 so it's pretty much any day.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay. Understood. Any  
15 additional questions?

16 (No response)

17 I'll go ahead and call the roll for a vote.  
18 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and  
19 your opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

22 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

2 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

4 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick.

6 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Aye.

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: For the record I support  
8 the motion as well and the motion carries.

9 (MOTION PASSES)

10 MR. FLOYD: Thank you.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Floyd.

12 We'll proceed to Public Staff, Electric Item  
13 P3. Ms. Boswell, I believe you're up.

14 MS. BOSWELL: Good morning. I'm Michelle  
15 Boswell, Public Staff, Accounting Division. Item P3  
16 is Docket Number E-22, Sub 563, an Application by  
17 Dominion Energy North Carolina, or DENC, for approval  
18 of a Revised Affiliate Service Agreement and request  
19 for interim authority filed on April 6th, 2021.

20 DENC is requesting a three-year extension of  
21 the current agreement with DESC last approved by the  
22 Commission on November 5th, 2019, which was currently  
23 set to expire on April 18th, 2021.

24 The Public Staff is in the process of its

1 review and investigation and, based on the preliminary  
2 review, does not object to allowing the Company to  
3 operate under the proposed agreement on an interim  
4 basis.

5 The Public Staff will bring its final  
6 recommendations to the Commission either by a future  
7 filing or placement of the matter on a future Staff  
8 Conference agenda.

9 The Public Staff recommends that the Company  
10 be authorized to operate under the proposed agreement  
11 on an interim basis pending the issuance of an Order  
12 regarding the proposed agreement, and that for  
13 ratemaking purposes, that this action does not  
14 constitute approval of the amount of compensation paid  
15 pursuant to the interim authority, and that the  
16 authority is granted without prejudice to the right of  
17 any party to take issue with any provision of the  
18 interim authority in a future proceeding.

19 The Public Staff's proposed order is  
20 attached as Exhibit Number P-3.

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I move approval  
22 of the recommendation.

23 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and

1 seconded that the recommendation -- that the item be  
2 approved as recommended by the Public Staff. Are  
3 there any questions or discussion on that motion?

4 (No response)

5 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.  
6 Indicate your support with an aye and your opposition  
7 with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

14 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

16 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick.

18 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I  
20 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

21 (MOTION PASSES)

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Boswell.

23 The Commission has before it for approval  
24 its minutes of April 5th, 2021 Staff Conference.

1 (Pause).

2 I'll take a motion.

3 COMMISSIONER GRAY: I'll approve -- move the  
4 motion.

5 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
7 seconded that the minutes of April 5th be approved.  
8 Are there any questions or discussion on the motion?

9 (No response)

10 Hearing none, indicate your support for the  
11 motion with an aye and your opposition with a no.  
12 Commissioner Brown-Bland.

13 (No response)

14 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

16 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

20 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

22 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: And Commissioner McKissick.

24 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: And I support the motion as  
2 well, and our minutes of April 5th are approved.

3 Any additional business for the Commission  
4 this morning before we adjourn?

5 MR. JOSEY: Madam Chair, yes, we have one  
6 additional item. I'd like to recognize Mike Maness of  
7 our Accounting Division to introduce a new staff  
8 member.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right, Mr. Josey.  
10 Mr. Maness, you may proceed.

11 MR. MANESS: Thank you Madam Chair and  
12 Members of the Commission. I'd like to take this  
13 opportunity this morning to introduce our newest  
14 member of the Accounting Division, Mr. Hemanth Meda,  
15 who I believe he has overcome some technical  
16 difficulties and managed to join with us as a  
17 panelist.

18 Mr. Meda is a native of India. He has  
19 Bachelor's degrees from Osmania University and Masters  
20 from - if I can say this correctly - the University of  
21 Wollongong. He has served with many companies in  
22 Canada and the United States since his graduation.  
23 And most recently he has operated his own CPA practice  
24 in Durham as well as doing income tax work for other

1 CPAs in the area. Mr. Meda is a CPA himself, and we  
2 are absolutely delighted to have him with us.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Well, Mr. Meda, welcome.  
4 It's nice to meet you, even if it is remotely. We  
5 look forward to hearing from you in the coming months  
6 and years, and welcome you to the Utilities  
7 Commission.

8 Anything else for the staff -- for the  
9 Commission this morning?

10 (No response)

11 Hearing none, we will be adjourned. Thank  
12 you everybody. Let's go off the record, please,  
13 ma'am.

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.  
16 \_\_\_\_\_

## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM T. MITCHELL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that  
the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were  
taken before me, that I did report in stenographic  
shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the  
foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription  
to the best of my ability.

Kim Mitchell

Kim Mitchell