

**NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE**

**February 6, 2023**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, February 6, 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. Harrod, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Rhodes, Ms. Forrest, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Ms. Holt, Mr. Creech, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Josey, Mr. Felling, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Zhang, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Saillor, Mr. Metz, Mr. Michna, Ms. Proffitt

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**ELECTRIC*****CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT A SOLAR FACILITY*****Duke Energy Progress, LLC**

1. Docket No. SP-8056, Sub 0 – Application of Homer Solar, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 75-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Richmond and Montgomery Counties, North Carolina (Metz/Keyworth)

On December 22, 2021, the Commission issued an order granting Homer Solar, LLC (Applicant), a renewed certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 for construction of a 70.2-MW<sub>AC</sub> solar photovoltaic generating facility to be located at 318 Homer Andrews Road, Mt. Gilead, and 926 NC Highway 109, Mt. Gilead, in Richmond and Montgomery Counties, North Carolina. The Commission previously accepted registration of the facility as a new renewable energy facility.

On August 29, 2022, the Applicant filed an amendment to its application with a revised FERC Form 556 and indicated that the capacity of the facility has increased to 75-MW with no changes to the site plan.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the amendment 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 recommended that the Commission issue an amended CPCN to the Applicant.

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

Commissioner Kemerait did not participate in this decision.

***PURCHASED POWER ADJUSTMENT*****Western Carolina University**

2. Docket No. E-35, Sub 56 – Motion of Western Carolina University for approval of a purchased power adjustment (Brown/Sailor/Creech)

On December 14, 2022, in compliance with Commission orders in Docket No. E-35, Subs 17, 19, 49, 51, and 55, Western Carolina University (WCU) filed an application for a change in its Schedule CP Purchased Power Cost Rider (Rider) to be effective for the twelve-monthly billings, beginning with the bills rendered in February 2023. This filing

includes actual purchased power cost and recovery information only for the period January 2022 through October 2022.

On January 30, 2023, WCU filed its final rates for the Rider, incorporating actual purchased power costs and revenues through December 2022.

The Public Staff stated that it had completed its review of the calculations and documentation supporting the Rider requested by WCU and found them to be accurate.

The Public Staff recommended that the proposed Rider increment be approved effective for the twelve-monthly bills rendered on and after February 1, 2023, and before February 1, 2024. The Public Staff further stated that the approval of this Rider 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 recommendation be adopted.

## **NATURAL GAS**

### *INTER-COMPANY CREDIT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT*

#### **Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.**

3. Docket No. G-5, Sub 601 – Amendment and restatement of the inter-company credit agreement with Dominion Energy, Inc. (*Hinton/Holt*)

This Item was Withdrawn.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### *INTERCONNECTION AMENDMENT*

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

4. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1911 – Amendment to the interconnection agreement with Big River Telephone Company, LLC (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On October 28, 2022, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and Big River Telephone Company, LLC (collectively, the Parties) filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement approved on February 24, 2016

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 January 30, 2023, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.