

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

JUNE 20, 2022

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning. Let's come  
3 to order, please, go on the record. I'm Charlotte  
4 Mitchell, Chair of the Utilities Commission, and with  
5 me this morning are Commissioners Brown-Bland,  
6 Clodfelter, Duffley, Hughes, McKissick, and Kemerait.

7 In compliance with the State Government  
8 Ethics Act, I remind Members of the Commission of our  
9 duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to  
10 whether any member of the Commission has a known  
11 conflict of interest with respect to matters coming  
12 before us this morning.

13 (No response)

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: The record will reflect  
15 that no conflicts have been identified, so we'll  
16 proceed with Public Staff, Item 1.

17 MR. SAILLOR: I'm Scott Sailior with the  
18 Public Staff Energy Division. Item 1 is a motion by  
19 New River Light and Power to revise its Prepaid  
20 Service Rider. The Public Staff recommends that the  
21 Commission approve New River's motion with the  
22 following revisions. New River informed the Public  
23 Staff that it is planning, as part of its upcoming  
24 rate case application, to make the Prepaid Service

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1 Rider a permanent tariff offering and to reduce the  
2 minimum prepayment required to set up a prepaid  
3 account from \$50 to \$25.

4 The Public Staff does not object to this  
5 plan and recommends that the Prepaid Service Rider be  
6 approved as a permanent tariff offering, and that the  
7 minimum prepayment required to set up a prepaid  
8 account be lowered from \$50 to \$25. So the Public  
9 Staff does not object to making these changes now  
10 rather than waiting for the rate case.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
12 the recommendation.

13 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Second.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
15 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
16 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or  
17 discussion on the motion?

18 (No response)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing none, all in favor,  
20 indicate with an aye.

21 (All Commissioners say aye)

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

23 (No response)

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Motion carries. Thank you,

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1 Mr. Saillor. We will proceed now with Public Staff,  
2 Item 2. It's the Aqua item.

3 MS. FEASEL: Good morning. Lynn Feasel from  
4 Public Staff Accounting Division. Docket No. W-218,  
5 Sub 56 -- sorry, Sub 526A, on April 27th, 2022, Aqua  
6 North Carolina filed an application requesting  
7 authority to adjust its Water System Improvement  
8 Charges and the Sewer System Improvement Charges  
9 effective July 1st, 2022. The Public Staff has  
10 reviewed Aqua's updated WSIC and SSIC revenue amongst  
11 a newly-applied EMF. And based on this review, the  
12 Public Staff recommends four adjustments which do not  
13 change Aqua's proposed WSIC and SSIC percentages. The  
14 Company agrees with the Public Staff's recommended  
15 adjustments.

16 The Public Staff recommends that the  
17 Commission issue the proposed order approving the  
18 Public Staff's recommended Water and the Sewer System  
19 Improvement Charges effective for service rendered on  
20 or after July 1st, 2022, subject to true-up.

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

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and

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1 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by  
2 the Public Staff. Questions or discussion on the  
3 motion?

4 (No response)

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing none, all in favor,  
6 indicate with an aye.

7 (All Commissioners say aye)

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

9 (No response)

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Motion carries. Thank you,  
11 Ms. Feasel. We'll proceed now to Public Staff,  
12 Item 3.

13 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning. My name is  
14 Karen Proffitt of the Public Staff Water, Sewer, and  
15 Telephone Division. I'll be presenting Items 3  
16 through 6, if that's all right. Communications  
17 Items 3 through 6 present an Interconnection Agreement  
18 Amendment filed by AT&T North Carolina and  
19 Interconnection Agreements filed by Saluda Mountain  
20 Telephone Company and Frontier filed between April 7th  
21 and April 18th, 2022.

22 The Public Staff has reviewed the filings  
23 and recommends that orders be issued approving the  
24 amendment and agreements effective on the date they

1 were filed. The Public Staff has provided proposed  
2 orders to the Commission Staff.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of  
4 Public Staff's recommendations for Communication Items  
5 P3 through P6 inclusive.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second.

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and  
8 seconded that Items 3 through 6 be approved as  
9 recommended by the Public Staff. Questions or  
10 discussion on the motion?

11 (No response)

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing none, all in favor,  
13 indicate with an aye.

14 (All Commissioners say aye)

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

16 (No response)

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: That motion carries. Thank  
18 you, Ms. Proffitt. Commission has before us our  
19 minutes of the June 6, 2022 Staff Conference for  
20 approval. Take a motion.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval of  
22 the minutes.

23 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and

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1 seconded that the minutes be approved. Any questions  
2 or discussion on the minutes?

3 (No response)

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: All in favor, indicate with  
5 an aye.

6 (All Commissioners say aye)

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

8 (No response)

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: The minutes are approved.  
10 Checking in, any additional business for the  
11 Commission before we adjourn this morning?

12 (No response)

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing none, we'll be  
14 adjourned. Thank you very much, everybody. Let's go  
15 off the record, please.

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17 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.

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

I, TONJA VINES, 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.



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Tonja Vines