

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-35, SUB 51

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Western Carolina University for) ORDER ESTABLISHING A
an Adjustment of Rates and Charges for) GENERAL RATE CASE AND
Electric Service in North Carolina) SUSPENDING RATES

BY THE COMMISSION: On March 9, 2020, Western Carolina University (WCU) filed an application with the Commission pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-133, 62-134, and 116-35, seeking authority to increase its rates for electric service in its service area in Jackson County, North Carolina, effective April 8, 2020. WCU operates an off-campus electric distribution system that serves approximately 3,170 residential customers and 230 commercial customers. The present rates have been in effect since 2016, with annual purchased power adjustments.

On March 27, 2020, the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) filed a letter recommending that the Commission issue an order establishing this proceeding as a general rate case and suspend the operation of the rates proposed in WCU's application. The Public Staff states that WCU is going to file an amendment to its application that will include a different revenue requirement and may increase WCU's proposed rates. The Public Staff further states that it has not had an opportunity to review the amendment. Therefore, the Public Staff states that it is only requesting that the Commission issue an order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates. The Public Staff states that it will make a future filing with a proposed order scheduling hearings and requiring customer notice.

Based upon the foregoing and the entire record herein, the Commission determines that the application constitutes a general rate case and that the proposed new rates should be suspended pending investigation. The Commission further determines that an order scheduling hearings and requiring customer notice will be issued at a later date.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That this proceeding is declared a general rate case pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-137;
2. That the proposed new rates are suspended for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-134; and

3. That an order scheduling hearings and requiring customer notice shall be issued by the Commission at a later date.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 6th day of April, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janice H. Fulmore".

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk