

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

October 11, 2021

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding. The remote meeting was conducted by use of simultaneous communication (via Webex) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.24, streamed live online, and available to the public.

The following were present during the entirety of the remote meeting:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brown-Bland
Commissioner Gray
Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick

COMMISSION STAFF: Ms. McMillen, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Ms. Blue, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Culpepper, Mr. Creech, Mr. Grantmyre, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Josey, Mr. Magarira, Mr. Metz, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Franklin

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTERS: Ms. Vines

D. ELECTRIC**P.1 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITIES**

The following applications are in regard to certificates of public convenience and necessity for construction of solar photovoltaic generating facilities, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Progress, LLC:

- Docket No. SP-7737, Sub 0 – Application of Eastway Solar, LLC, for renewal of a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 4.99-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Bladen County, North Carolina. (no registration statement)
- Docket No. SP-32943, Sub 0 – Application of Old River Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an 80-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Moore County, North Carolina.
- Docket No. SP-33082, Sub 0 – Application of Filo Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an 80-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Montgomery County, North Carolina.

Unless otherwise noted, each applicant has filed a registration statement for a new renewable energy facility. The registration statement includes certified attestations, as required by Commission Rule R8-66(b), that: (1) the facility is in substantial compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules for the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources; (2) the facility will be operated as a new renewable energy facility; (3) the applicant will not remarket or otherwise resell any renewable energy certificates sold to an electric power supplier to comply with N.C.G.S. §. 62-133.8; and (4) the applicant will consent to the auditing of its books and records by the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) insofar as those records relate to transactions with North Carolina electric power suppliers.

The Public Staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue orders approving the applications and issuing the requested certificates. The Public Staff has provided proposed orders to the Commission Staff.

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

E. WATER

P1. DOCKET NO. W-1079, SUB 19 – CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, INC. – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION

On September 3, 2021, Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc. (CCA), filed a petition with the Commission requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its customers in Christmount Christian Assembly and Christmount Subdivision in Buncombe County, an increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD). CCA serves approximately 102 metered water and sewer connections, including approximately 88 privately-owned residences and 14 non-residential properties used for camping and conference activities. On September 14, 2021, CCA filed a verification pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

CCA stated that, effective July 1, 2021, MSD increased its monthly sewer rates charged to CCA by \$0.18 per 1,000 gallons, from \$6.32 to \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons for sewer usage and increased the monthly base charge by \$8.34, from \$304.02 to \$312.36 per month for sewer service.

CCA’s current rates became effective July 30, 2019, upon issuance of the Commission’s Order Approving Tariff Revision and Requiring Customer Notice issued in Docket No. W-1079, Sub 18.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) has reviewed CCA’s request and recommends that for bills rendered on and after the date of this order that CCA be allowed to increase its rates as shown below.

<u>Monthly Metered Sewer Rates:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Base Charge, zero usage	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 7.75	\$ 7.97

The above rates take into account the effect of the 0.13% regulatory fee. Under the new rates, the average residential customer’s monthly sewer bill will increase by \$0.99, from \$43.88 to \$44.87, based upon 4,500 gallons of usage. CCA has agreed with the Public Staff’s recommendation.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order approving the tariff revision at the recommended rates and requiring customer notice.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of October 4, 2021, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.