

# NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

**October 3, 2022**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

### **COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Brown-Bland  
Commissioner Duffley  
Commissioner Hughes  
Commissioner McKissick  
Commissioner Kemerait

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Jarvis, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Rhodes, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Culpepper, Ms. Holt, Mr. Creech, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Felling, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McLawhorn, Ms. Patel, Mr. Junis, Ms. Bhatta, Ms. Proffitt, Mr. Hinton

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Vines

**NATURAL GAS***NATURAL GAS FIRM TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AND MINIMUM MARGIN COMMITMENT AGREEMENT***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (PNG)**

1. Docket No. G-9, Sub 772 – PNG - Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Special Contract (*Johnson/Patel/Culpepper*)

On August 11, 2020, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont), filed a Natural Gas Firm Transportation Service and Minimum Margin Commitment Agreement (Agreement) between Piedmont and Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company (Customer). Piedmont submitted the Agreement under seal on the grounds that it is confidential and proprietary and has been designated as such pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.2.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Agreement and other information provided by Piedmont in response to Public Staff data requests. Based on its investigation, the Public Staff determined that the terms of the Agreement are within the parameters set forth in N.C.G.S. § 62-140.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order: (1) concluding that the Agreement is not unlawful and does not violate the rules and regulations of the Commission; (2) allowing the Agreement to become effective as filed; and (3) authorizing Piedmont to provide service to the Customer pursuant to the Agreement. The Public Staff also recommended that the Commission's order state that acceptance of the Agreement neither constitutes approval of the amount of any compensation paid thereunder nor prejudices the right of any party to take issue with any provision of the Agreement in a future proceeding.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS***INTERCONNECTION AMENDMENT AND AGREEMENT***Verizon South Inc.**

2. Docket No. P-19, Sub 501 – Amendment to the interconnection agreement with Charter Fiberlink NC-CCO, LLC, approved October 18, 2005 (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On August 19, 2022, Verizon South Inc., and Charter Fiberlink NC-CCO, LLC filed for Commission approval of an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement, approved October 18, 2005.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved.

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

### **Service Telephone Company**

3. Docket No. P-60, Sub 91 – Agreement with Time Warner Cable Information Services, LLC (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On August 12, 2022, Service Telephone Company and Time Warner Cable Information Services (North Carolina), LLC, filed an interconnection agreement for Commission approval.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved.

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

## **WATER AND WASTEWATER**

### *APPLICATION TO TRANSFER TO OWNER EXEMPT FROM REGULATION*

#### **Joyceton Water Works, Inc.**

4. Docket No. W-4, Sub 23 – Order Approving Transfer to Owner Exempt from Regulations, Canceling Franchise, and Requiring Customer Notice (*Bhatta/Feasel/Coxton*)

On May 12, 2022, Joyceton Water Works, Inc. (Joyceton), filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to transfer its franchise for providing water utility service in its service area in Caldwell County to the City of Lenoir (City), which is exempt from Commission regulation.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the transfer of the water utility system from Joyceton to the City without public hearing since significant protests were not received after customer notice.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of September 26 2022 were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.