

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

MAY 23, 2022

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.
3 Let's come to order and go on the record. Call to
4 order the Staff Conference for May 23rd. I'm
5 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland with the Utilities
6 Commission. With me this morning are Commissioners
7 Daniel G. Clodfelter, Kimberly W. Duffley, Floyd B.
8 McKissick, Jr., and Karen M. Kemerait.

9 In compliance with the State Government
10 Ethics Act, I remind Members of the Commission of our
11 duty to avoid all conflicts of interest and inquire,
12 at this time, whether any member has any known
13 conflict with any item coming before us this morning.

14 (No response)

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: The record will
16 reflect no conflicts were identified. I will now
17 proceed with Public Staff, Electric Agenda Item 1.

18 MR. LAWRENCE: Good morning. I'm Evan
19 Lawrence with the Public Staff's Energy Division.
20 Item 1 is an application by NC GreenPower to amend
21 its -- and expand its programs in all offerings. The
22 Public Staff has reviewed the request and recommends
23 the Commission issue an order approving the revisions.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Mr. Lawrence,

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 before we go further with this item, there are a
2 couple of questions that the Commission has, and the
3 first one is, to the extent that these changes that
4 are proposed by NC GreenPower, in terms of their
5 programs and additional service that are offered,
6 following our approval, how will the Commission be
7 informed of these changes? Is there a plan in place
8 for that to occur?

9 MR. LAWRENCE: I'm not aware of any formal
10 filing process. We can certainly work with NC
11 GreenPower with a -- to find some filing process that
12 would be -- just to notify the Commission of the
13 public, if that is necessary.

14 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And I realize you
15 hadn't thought about this in advance, but if you -- if
16 the Commission were to consider this and desire to
17 have some form of update reporting or to maintain some
18 reporting, are there any Public Staff recommendations
19 for the requirements, what we might need to know?

20 MR. LAWRENCE: I don't know that -- I'm not
21 prepared to speak on that, at this time. I'm sure we
22 will look into it and can make recommendations for it.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you. I see
24 someone from NC GreenPower rising. Would you like to

1 come forward and state your name, for the record, and
2 tell us what you might have to add.

3 MS. McCANN: Good morning. I'm Vicky
4 McCann. I'm vice president of NC GreenPower. Thank
5 you, Evan, for presenting. We have attendance by Lynn
6 Jarvis at each of our board meetings, which happens
7 three times a year. We also present to the North
8 Carolina Utilities Commission in our annual review.
9 So, hopefully, that's enough information as we go
10 along our processes to keep you-all informed of any
11 potential changes or additions that we're making to
12 our program.

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you. And
14 Ms. Jarvis, just for the record and for clarity, she
15 is a member of the Commission's legal staff. Am I
16 correct?

17 MS. McCANN: (Nods in the affirmative)

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Well, thank
19 you --

20 MS. McCANN: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: -- for bringing
22 that forward. I'll entertain a motion.

23 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: I move that we move
24 this Agenda Item to Executive Conference.

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1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: There's been a
3 motion that we decide this matter in Executive
4 Conference. Any further discussions or questions?

5 (No response)

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All in favor?

7 (All Commissioners say aye)

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

9 (No response)

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And that motion
11 carries. Thank you, Mr. Lawrence. Now, we'll move on
12 to Natural Gas, Agenda Item 2.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. Sonja Johnson,
14 Public Staff Accounting Division. This is
15 energy-efficient tracker. The Docket Number G-5, Sub
16 644, the Application for annual adjustment of rates
17 under Rider F. Public Staff has reviewed and
18 recommend for approval. We also would like to note
19 that the Public Staff has informed the Company that
20 we've had some concerns regarding the allocation of
21 costs between the rate classes and that making an
22 adjustment to address these concerns in this
23 proceeding would result in no change in the proposed
24 rates. But the Public Staff states that we have

1 spoken to the Company about the allocation methodology
2 used in this case, and that we've come to an
3 understanding that this is not going to be
4 precedential for purposes of future Rider F
5 proceedings, and that the Company has agreed to this
6 proposal. We recommend that the Commission approve
7 this and that the proposed order is attached to this
8 agenda item.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Move approval of the
11 Staff recommendation.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Do we have a
13 second?

14 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: I'll second that,
15 but I also had a quick question.

16 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Commissioner
17 McKissick.

18 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Can you answer this
19 question. I know you said that this would not set any
20 type of precedent for purposes of dealing with future
21 Rider F proceedings, but how was that formalized? Is
22 that through emails or letters, or how has that been
23 established?

24 MR. MANESS: Mike Maness, Director of the

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 Accounting Division. Our communication with the
2 Company is through emails and discussion, and then
3 we've formalized it in the proposed order.

4 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Very good. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Before we move on
7 with the motion, Ms. Johnson raised the issues that
8 the Public Staff had brought forth about the
9 allocation of costs, and I assume that no annual
10 filings on the costs have been made at this point. Is
11 that correct?

12 MS. JOHNSON: That is correct.

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Were the
14 projected costs by the Program, have they been
15 provided to the Public Staff at this point?

16 MS. JOHNSON: They have.

17 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Projected costs?

18 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And on the
20 Schedule C that was attached to the Company's
21 application and in the monthly reports that are filed
22 in the Sub 634A docket, the Company shows the total
23 actual expenses incurred rather than a separate
24 residential, commercial, and the common costs

1 incurred. So paragraph 42 of the Rider F appendix
2 requires that the Company categorize the cost and
3 expense information as a measure program -- at the
4 Measure Program and Portfolio level.

5 Does the Company plan to change its
6 reporting format to show the separate class-deferred
7 accounts like the cut-deferred accounts reports. And
8 if not, why the difference?

9 MS. JOHNSON: They are in the process of
10 changing the format of the presentation of the
11 deferred account.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And it will --
13 will it be to make those separate showings for the
14 residential, commercial, and common cost incurred?

15 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

16 MR. MANESS: I think there's also
17 representatives of the Company here this morning in
18 case you want to ask them directly.

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I don't know who
20 it is that wants to step forward for the Company on
21 that. It looks like Mr. Hinson, but come forward,
22 state your name, for the record.

23 MS. ATHENS: Hi. Good morning,
24 Commissioners. I'm Kristin Athens with the law firm

1 of McguireWoods, on behalf of the Public Service
2 Company of North Carolina. Today, I have Mr. Byron
3 Hinson who's the Director of Regulatory and Rates for
4 PSCNG.

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Okay.
6 Mr. Hinson, you've heard the questions. Why the
7 difference, if there was a reason, and does the
8 Company -- why hadn't the Company provided the
9 separate showings of the cost incurred, and are there
10 plans to categorize the expense information as in
11 Appendix F?

12 MR. HINSON: Ms. Johnson was correct. We
13 provide that on a monthly basis to the Public Staff,
14 the residential/commercial breakdown. But in our
15 filing of the deferred account, we just summarize it.
16 So she's correct. We're in the process of breaking
17 that down more granular for residential and
18 commercial.

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And also
20 categorizing the expense information at the Measure
21 Program and Portfolio levels?

22 MR. HINSON: Correct.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Are there any
24 other questions?

1 (No response)

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: We have a motion
3 to approve the recommendation and it's been properly
4 seconded. All in favor.

5 (All Commissioners say aye)

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

7 (No response)

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: There being none,
9 the motion passes. Next Agenda Item, Gas Item 3. I
10 believe it'll be Gas Items 3 and 5.

11 MS. PATEL: Good morning.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.

13 MS. PATEL: I will be presenting Items 3 & 5
14 today. My name is Neha Patel with the Public Staff's
15 Energy Division. Item 3 is Docket G-9, Sub 804, the
16 application filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company
17 seeking approval for biannual adjustment of rates
18 under Appendix E of its service regulations effective
19 June 1st, 2022. The proposed IMR rate adjustments are
20 shown in the table, including in Public Staff's
21 proposed order. Public Staff has reviewed the
22 application and recommends approval as filed.

23 Item 5 is Docket G-9, Sub 805, an
24 application filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company for

1 an adjustment of its rates and charges, to track
2 changes in its wholesale cost of gas effective
3 June 1st, 2022. Public Staff has, again, reviewed the
4 application and recommends approval as filed.

5 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Move approval of
6 Staff recommendations.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second. For both
8 items?

9 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Yes, both items.

10 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: That was a second
11 as to both items as well.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any questions?

13 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Is 4 being pulled
14 from today's docket?

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: No. We just took
16 5 out of order.

17 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any further
19 discussion on these items?

20 (No response)

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: It's been moved
22 and seconded that we accept the Public Staff
23 recommendation in Item 3 and Item 5. There being no
24 further discussion, all in favor.

1 (All Commissioners say aye)

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Are there any
3 opposed?

4 (No response)

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: The motion
6 carries. Thank you.

7 MS. PATEL: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Now, we will have
9 Gas Item Number 4.

10 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. Thank you,
11 Commissioners. My name is Jordan Pappas. I'm an
12 engineer with the Energy Division of the Public Staff.
13 Item 4 is Docket G-5, Sub 646, an application filed by
14 the Public Service Company of North Carolina on
15 May 13th, 2022, seeking authority to increase its
16 sales rate by \$1 and .0098 cents per dekatherm and to
17 increase its transportation rate by .0098 cents per
18 dekatherm effective June 1st, 2022. The Public Staff
19 has reviewed the application and recommends approval
20 as filed. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Move approval of
22 Staff recommendations.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any discussion?

1 (No response)

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: It's been moved
3 and seconded that we accept a recommendation for Item
4 4. All in favor.

5 (All Commissioners say aye)

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

7 (No response)

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And the motion
9 carries. Thank you.

10 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Moving on to
12 Communications, Public Staff Item 6 and 7.

13 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning. My name is
14 Karen Proffitt of the Public Staff's Water, Sewer, and
15 Telephone Division. Communications Items 6 and 7
16 present interconnection agreements with American
17 Messaging Services, LLC filed by CenturyLink on
18 March 31st. The Public Staff has reviewed these
19 filings and recommends that orders be issued approving
20 the agreements effective on the date they were filed.
21 Public Staff has provided proposed orders to the
22 Commission staff.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval of
24 Items 6 and 7.

1 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All in favor.

3 (All Commissioners say aye)

4 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

5 (No response)

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And the motion
7 carries. Items 6 and 7 are approved. The Commission
8 has its minutes from the May 16th, '22 Staff
9 Conference. 2022.

10 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Second.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: It's been moved
13 and seconded. All in favor.

14 (All Commissioners say aye)

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

16 (No response)

17 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And the minutes
18 are approved. Is there anything else? Is there
19 anyone else that needs to come before the Commission
20 at this time? Going forward, Ms. Edmundson of the
21 Public Staff. Ms. Proffitt, if you need to, you may
22 step down.

23 MS. EDMUNDSON: Good morning. Lucy

24 Edmundson, attorney with the Public Staff. I wanted

1 to introduce a new member of our legal staff who
2 recently joined us. This is Will Freeman. He a
3 native of South Carolina. He has a B.S. in accounting
4 and Finance from Florida State University. He got his
5 law degree from University of South Carolina, and he
6 has practiced litigation in North Carolina and South
7 Carolina for over 20 years. We're really glad to have
8 him.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Mr. Freeman,
10 welcome aboard to the North Carolina's practice of
11 utilities law. We're glad to have you. And we've
12 gotten into doing this little thing, so I guess I'll
13 say go Gamecocks. We have no problem with that.
14 We're equal opportunity up here. Well, we're glad to
15 have you and you've joined a mighty fine group to work
16 for. Thank you.

17 MR. FREEMAN: I'm looking forward to it.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you.
19 Anything else? Ms. Edmundson, any shattering,
20 breaking news, as they say?

21 MS. EDMUNDSON: Not at this moment, but
22 we'll let you know if something does come up.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right, then.
24 Thanks, everybody. We will stand adjourned.

1 -----
2 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.
3 -----

4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5 I, TONJA VINES, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
6 Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were taken
7 before me, that I did report in stenographic shorthand
8 the Proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing
9 pages are a true and correct transcription to the best
10 of my ability.
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14 Tonja Vines
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