STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 632 DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 634

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 632	
In the Matter of Application of Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. for General Rate Increase))) ORDER APPROVING
DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 634) GREENTHERM™ PROGRAM) AND RIDER G
In the Matter of Application for Approval to Modify Existing Conservation Programs and Implement New Conservation Programs)

BY THE COMMISSION: On April 1, 2021, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (PSNC) filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-133 and 62-134 requesting authority to adjust and increase its retail natural gas rates and charges, effective May 1, 2021 (Application). As part of the Application, PSNC requested Commission authority to implement the GreenTherm™ Program, a voluntary renewable energy program offering a way for participating customers to purchase attributes of renewable natural gas. PSNC also proposed deferred accounting treatment and the implementation of a Rider G to ensure that GreenTherm™ Program costs are properly accounted for and assigned to participating customers.

On October 15, 2021, PSNC, the Public Staff, Carolina Utility Customer Association, and Evergreen Packaging, LLC filed a Stipulation of Settlement (Stipulation). In Section 29 of the Stipulation, the stipulating parties agreed to provisional approval of PSNC's proposed GreenThermTM Program, subject to review and approval of the estimated program costs and revenues, sources of Green Attributes and carbon offsets, certification of the program, cost of a block of Green Attributes, and other specifications of the program. The stipulating parties further agreed that PSNC shall be allowed to recover reasonable and prudently incurred costs of the GreenThermTM Program from participating customers through a Rider G recovery mechanism. Additionally, the stipulating parties agreed that PSNC would work with the Public Staff to finalize Rider G for purposes of cost recovery and that PSNC would file such rider with the Commission for final approval.

On January 21, 2022, the Commission issued its Order Approving Stipulation, Granting Rate Increase, and Requiring Customer Notice, which approved the Stipulation and granted PSNC provisional approval of the GreenThermTM Program, subject to review and approval of certain specifications prior to final approval. The Order also concluded that it was reasonable for PSNC to work with the Public Staff to finalize the Rider G and file such rider with the Commission for approval. Additionally, the Order granted PSNC cost recovery approval of reasonable and prudently incurred costs resulting from the GreenThermTM Program.

On July 13, 2022, PSNC filed a Motion for Final Approval of the GreenThermTM Program and Rider G (Motion), which included as exhibits a proposed Rider G and revised Summary of Rates and Charges. PSNC's Motion explained that the GreenThermTM Program and corresponding Rider G provides qualifying customers with the option to offset the carbon emissions associated with their natural gas usage through voluntary direct funding of PSNC's purchase of Green Attributes. In its Motion, PSNC proposes to purchase Green Attributes sourced from renewable natural gas and from nature-based carbon offsets, including those generated from landfill projects and avoided forest conversion projects. PSNC's Motion also explained that included with Rider G is an Appendix describing the accounting, ratemaking, and regulatory reporting conditions applicable to the GreenThermTM Program that were agreed upon by PSNC and the Public Staff.

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its July 25, 2022, Staff Conference. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the proposed Appendix G and recommended approval of the Company's Motion.

Based upon the foregoing, and in the absence of any opposition to the Rider and Program and recognizing the voluntary nature thereof, the Commission hereby approves implementation of the GreenThermTM Program and the addition of Rider G to PSNC's Service Regulations, subject to each of the matters set forth in the Appendix to PSNC's Rider G filed on July 13, 2022, effective August 1, 2022.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

- 1. That PSNC's request for approval of the proposed GreenTherm[™] Program, revised Summary of Rates and Charges, and Rider G to PSNC's Service Regulations is granted subject to each of the conditions and requirements set forth in the Rider G Appendix;
- 2. That PSNC's annual report shall state as a separate line item the volume and percentage of the total Green Attributes purchased through the Program that were produced (a) in North Carolina and (b) in other states;
- 3. That PSNC's annual report shall state, as a separate line item, the volume and percentage of the total Green Attributes purchased through the GreenThermTM Program that are supplied by (a) renewable natural gas and (b) other identified sources;

- 4. That, annually and no later than 60 days following PSNC's filing of the annual report, the Public Staff shall file a letter informing the Commission regarding its review of the monthly reports on the GreenThermTM Program Deferred Account activity and the annual report, and recommending whether the Rider should continue as approved herein or be modified; and
- 5. That PSNC shall file revised tariffs within five days of the date of this Order, implementing the tariff changes approved herein.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

This the 26th day of July, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk