

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-34, SUB 46

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Appalachian State University,)	ORDER POSTPONING HEARING
d/b/a New River Light and Power Company)	AND MODIFYING PROCEDURAL
for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges for)	SCHEDULE
Electric Service in North Carolina)	

BY THE CHAIRMAN: On July 28, 2017, Appalachian State University, d/b/a New River Light and Power Company (NRLP) filed an application with the Commission pursuant to G.S. 62-133 and 62-134, and Commission Rules R1-5, R1-17, and R8-27, seeking authority to increase its rates for electric service in its service area in Watauga County, North Carolina.

On August 28, 2017, the Commission issued an Order establishing this proceeding as a general rate case, suspending the effect of the proposed rates pending the Commission's investigation, scheduling hearings, and requiring NRLP to provide public notice of its pending application. That Order set this matter for hearing on October 24, 2017, for the purpose of receiving testimony of public witnesses, and provided that the hearing would resume on January 9, 2018, for the purpose of receiving expert witness testimony.

On December 13, 2017, the Commission issued an Order that, among other things, extended the deadline for NRLP to file its rebuttal testimony to January 5, 2018.

No person has sought to intervene in this proceeding and NRLP and the North Carolina Utilities Commission-Public Staff (Public Staff) are the only parties to this proceeding.

On January 5, 2018, NRLP and the Public Staff filed a joint motion to amend procedural schedule. NRLP and the Public Staff state that they are engaged in ongoing, extensive settlement negotiations, which they anticipate will result in a comprehensive settlement. NRLP and the Public Staff request that they be allowed until January 17, 2018, to file a settlement agreement and supporting testimony and that NRLP be allowed to file rebuttal testimony, if any, on or before January 19, 2018 so that they can properly and adequately address the remaining issues between the parties and to facilitate their ability to file meaningful settlement testimony. NRLP and the Public Staff further state that if the Commission grants this requested modification to the procedural schedule, they anticipate that the Commission would schedule a new date for the evidentiary hearing in this proceeding. Finally, NRLP and the Public Staff state that the modification to the

procedural schedule is reasonable and designed to further the pursuit of comprehensive settlement in a complex case and will not cause prejudice to any party.

Based upon the foregoing, the Chairman finds that good cause exists to continue the hearing scheduled for January 9, 2018 pending further order of the Commission, and to allow NRLP to file rebuttal testimony, if any, on or before January 19, 2018.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 8th day of January, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linnetta Threatt".

Linnetta Threatt, Deputy Clerk