



**NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

– PRESS RELEASE –

Release: Immediate
Date: April 24, 2020

Contact: Sam Watson
Phone: 919-715-7057

North Carolina Utilities Commission Further Extends Suspension of Scheduled Hearings Through May 8, 2020, in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 116 declaring a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In so doing, the Governor ordered all state and local governmental entities and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the executive order. Through a succession of further executive orders, the Governor closed public schools, limited mass gatherings, and closed bars and restaurants to dine-in service.

On March 27, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 121 taking the further step of imposing a statewide “stay at home” order restricting non-essential movement of the State’s residents until April 29, 2020, to further limit unnecessary person-to-person contact in workplaces and communities.

On April 23, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 135 extending the restrictions under the “stay at home” order through May 8, 2020.

In response to the declared State of Emergency and consistent with the Governor’s executive orders, the Commission previously suspended scheduled hearings until April 29, 2020, to assist in preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

In response to the Governor’s recent extension of the statewide “stay at home” order, the Commission is extending its suspension of scheduled hearings through May 8, 2020. Orders will be issued in the affected dockets, and the Commission will inform parties by further order in each proceeding of new hearing dates as that information becomes available.

The Commission notes that it has previously suspended indefinitely the requirement for paper copies of electronically filed documents and has extended the time for public utilities subject to Commission Rule R1-32 to file their annual reports from April 30, 2020, to July 30, 2020. However, as before, the Commission remains open, and these actions suspending hearings and waiving certain rule provisions do not generally toll or waive any other filing, discovery, or notice deadlines in any proceeding before the Commission. All parties are strongly encouraged to use the Commission’s electronic filing system, and the Chief Clerk’s Office will continue to accept and process filings.

#