

August 12, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

**RE: Reinstatement of Late Payment Fees
Docket Nos. E-22, Sub 583, G-5 Sub, 617 and M-100, Sub 158**

Dear Ms. Dunston:

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina by Executive Order No. 116 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic ("State of Emergency"). Soon thereafter, Virginia Electric and Power, Inc., d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina ("DENC") and Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. ("PSNC") (PSNC and DENC collectively referred to as "the Companies") jointly requested, by letter dated March 16, 2020, in Docket Nos. E-22, Sub 583 and G-5, Sub 617, among other relief, that the Commission allow the Companies to suspend late payment charges to residential customers who did not pay their bills on time. On March 18, 2020, the Commission granted the Companies' request in its *Order Granting Temporary Waivers of Specific Provisions of Commission Rules*. On March 19, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Suspending Utility Disconnections for Non-Payment, Allowing Reconnection, and Waiving Certain Fees*, in Docket No. M-100, Sub 158 ("Public Utility Waiver Order"). In the Public Utility Waiver Order, the Commission stated, among other things, that customers shall not be charged any late fees for late payment of arrearages accrued during the State of Emergency.¹

On July 11, 2022, Governor Roy Cooper issued a press release stating that the State of Emergency will be lifted on August 15, 2022.² This letter is to notify the Commission that, given the expiration of the State of Emergency, the Companies intend to resume late payment charges for arrearages accrued after August 15, 2022.

Consistent with the Governor's executive orders and the Commission's orders, no late fees will be applied to arrearages incurred during the State of Emergency. DENC and PSNC will include a bill message in September bills, notifying customers that late payment charges will be

¹ Public Utility Waiver Order at 2.

² <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2022/07/11/governor-cooper-signs-two-bills-vetoes-four-bills-and-lets-one-bill-become-law>.

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applied to arrears beginning with their next billing cycle. Therefore, accounts that carry arrears not covered by the State of Emergency protection will incur a late payment charge beginning with October bills in conformance with Commission Rule R12-9. DENC and PSNC's websites will also be updated to reflect the resumption of the late payment fees.

The Companies remain committed to working with their customers and will continue to offer payment plans to assist customers in paying their bills.

The Companies have shared this letter with the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission ("Public Staff") prior to filing it, and the undersigned is authorized to state that the Public Staff had no objection to it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary Lynne Grigg

Mary Lynne Grigg

cc: Lucy Edmondson
Gina Holt
Parties of Record

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing letter has been served by electronic mail, hand delivery, or by depositing a copy in the United States Mail, 1st Class Postage Prepaid, properly addressed to parties of record.

This the 12th day of August, 2022

/s/ Mary Lynne Grigg

Mary Lynne Grigg

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*Attorney for Public Service Company of North
Carolina, Inc.*

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