

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

November 29, 2021

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning, everyone.
3 Let's come to order and go on the record, please.

4 In compliance with the State Government
5 Ethics Act, I remind members of the Commission of
6 their duty to avoid conflicts of interest, and inquire
7 as to whether any member of the Commission has a known
8 conflict of interest with respect to matters coming
9 before us?

10 (No response)

11 The record will reflect that no conflicts
12 have been identified, so we'll proceed with Public
13 Staff, Natural Gas Item P1.

14 MS. PATEL: Good morning. My name is Neha
15 Patel with the Public Staff's Energy Division. Item
16 P1 is Docket G-5, Sub 638, an Application filed by
17 Public Service Company of North Carolina on
18 November 17, 2021, requesting authority to adjust its
19 rates, effective December 1st 2021, to implement an
20 increase in its sales and transportation rates. This
21 increase is due to PSNC's Benchmark Commodity Cost of
22 Gas from \$3.75 per dekatherm to \$4.75 per dekatherm,
23 as well as a change in the Company use and lost and
24 unaccounted for, as proposed in Schedule A.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 The Application also included temporary
2 increments to the Company's All Customers' Deferred
3 Account to avoid significant under-collection of its
4 fixed gas costs as reflected in Schedule B. The
5 Public Staff inadvertently omitted adding this to
6 their proposed order. A letter will be filed
7 reflecting this addition to the order.

8 The Public Staff has reviewed the
9 Application, Schedule B, and the revised Scheduled A
10 as filed by PSNC on November 18, 2021, and recommends
11 approval as filed.

12 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
13 the recommendation.

14 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
16 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
17 the Public Staff. Any questions or discussion on the
18 motion?

19 (No response)

20 Hearing none, all in favor indicate with an
21 aye.

22 (All Commissioners say aye)

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response)

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 The motion carries.

2 (MOTION PASSES)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Patel.

4 We'll proceed to Public Staff, Natural Gas Item P2.

5 MR. SINGER: Good morning. My name is James
6 Singer with the Public Staff's Energy Division. Item
7 P2 is Docket G-9, Sub 795. On October 29, 2021,
8 Piedmont Natural Gas Company filed its projected
9 three-year plan of Integrity Management Plant
10 Investment that contained the proposed Integrity
11 Management Revenue Requirement biannual rate
12 adjustment, effective December 1st, 2021, as required
13 by Appendix E of Piedmont's North Carolina Service
14 Regulations.

15 On November 15th, 2021, Piedmont filed the
16 schedule showing the proposed IM rate adjustment for
17 each rate schedule and revised tariffs, effective
18 December 1st, 2021. The proposed IM rate adjustments
19 are included in the Public Staff's agenda item and
20 proposed order.

21 The Public Staff has reviewed the proposed
22 IM rate adjustments and recommends approval as filed.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
24 the recommendation.

1 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
3 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
4 the Public Staff. Any questions or discussion on the
5 motion?

6 (No response)

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing none, indicate with
8 an aye.

9 (All Commissioners say aye)

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Is there anyone opposed?

11 (No response)

12 The motion carries.

13 (MOTION PASSES)

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Singer.
15 We'll proceed next with Public Staff, Communications
16 Item P1.

17 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning. My name is
18 Karen Proffitt with the Public Staff - Water, Sewer
19 and Telephone Division. Communications Item P1
20 presents Interconnection Agreements and Amendments
21 filed by AT&T North Carolina, MebTel and CenturyLink
22 between September 15th and September 17th.

23 The Public Staff has reviewed the filings
24 and recommends that orders be issued approving

1 Agreements and Amendments effective on the date they
2 were filed.

3 The Public Staff has provided proposed
4 orders to the Commission staff.

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
6 the Public Staff's recommendation.

7 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
9 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
10 the Public Staff. Any questions? Discussion?

11 (No response)

12 Hearing none, all in favor indicate with an
13 aye.

14 (All Commissioners say aye)

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response)

17 The motion carries.

18 (MOTION PASSES)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Proffitt.
20 We'll proceed next to Public Staff, Communications
21 Item P2.

22 MS. PROFFITT: Item P2 presents the
23 October 12th filing by CenturyTel Broadband Services,
24 LLC, or CTBS is how I'll refer to it in this item,

1 seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications
2 Carrier, or ETC, for the RDOF census blocks that are
3 listed in Exhibit B. Those are the census blocks that
4 were outside -- that fall outside of the Carolina
5 Telephone service area but that have been assigned to
6 Carolina Telephone.

7 The Public Staff has reviewed the CTBS
8 Application and believes that CTBS satisfies the
9 requirements for designation as an ETC.

10 The Public Staff recommends that the
11 Commission issue an order finding that CTBS has met
12 the requirements to serve as an ETC in the requested
13 census blocks, as specified in Exhibit B to the
14 Application, and designating CTBS as an ETC for those
15 census blocks.

16 The Public Staff has provided a proposed
17 order to the Commission staff.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
19 the recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
22 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
23 the Public Staff. Questions or discussion?
24 Commissioner Clodfelter.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Proffitt, no
2 problems with your recommendation, just a question out
3 of curiosity. Do you know whether the new federal
4 funds for broadband are going to be channeled through
5 the RDOF or will they be distributed in some other
6 manner?

7 MS. PROFFITT: I am actually not sure of the
8 mechanics of how they're going to be distributing
9 that. There's the -- there are several different
10 mechanisms in place for the different funds that are
11 available. Some are characterized as the RDOF funds
12 which is what this is --

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Right.

14 MS. PROFFITT: -- and there's others. So,
15 I'm not really not sure how to get that for you.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Just curious.

17 MS. PROFFITT: Okay.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any additional questions?

19 (No response)

20 All in favor of the motion, indicate with an
21 aye.

22 (All Commissioners say aye)

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response)

1 Motion carries.

2 (MOTION PASSES)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Proffitt.
4 Next up, we'll proceed with Public Staff, Electric
5 Item P1.

6 MR. LAWRENCE: Good morning. I am Evan
7 Lawrence with the Public Staff's Energy Division.
8 Electric Item P1 consists of Applications for new and
9 renewed Certificates of Public Convenience and
10 Necessity for the construction of solar PV electric
11 generating facilities and a registration for a new
12 renewable energy facility.

13 The Public Staff recommends the Commission
14 issue the Certificates and accept the registration.

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
16 the recommendation.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
19 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
20 the Public Staff. Questions or discussion on the
21 motion?

22 (No response)

23 Hearing none, all in favor indicate with an
24 aye.

1 (All Commissioners say aye)

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response)

4 Motion carries.

5 (MOTION PASSES)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Lawrence.

7 The Commission has before us for approval
8 our minutes of our November 15th Staff Conference.
9 I'll take a motion.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAY: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any questions or
13 discussion?

14 (No response)

15 All in favor of approving the minutes?

16 (All Commissioners say aye)

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: The minutes of
20 November 15th are approved.

21 Before we adjourn this morning, any
22 additional business for the Commission? Go ahead,
23 Freda.

24 MS. HILBURN: Yes, ma'am, can I please

1 introduce our new hire to the Commissioners?

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Please do.

3 MS. HILBURN: Thank you. Good morning,
4 Chair and Commissioners. I would like to introduce to
5 you our newest hire to the Operations Division team.
6 This is John Gajda. He will fill our Engineer III
7 position. He comes to us from Strata Clean Energy in
8 Durham. He has over 30 years' experience working with
9 electric matters and utilities, and he worked for
10 approximately 18 years as a lead engineer for Duke
11 Progress which then became Duke Energy. He has a
12 Masters of Science degree in electrical engineering
13 from North Carolina State University, and he has a
14 Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering
15 from the University of Arkansas, and he is a licensed
16 professional engineer in North Carolina, South
17 Carolina, Florida, and Indiana.

18 We are just so excited to have him here at
19 this time with all this before the Commission right
20 now with the experience that he has. He will report
21 to Poornima. And, for now, he will be located in our
22 conference room across from Poornima's office until we
23 get the construction that will create offices in that
24 space.

1 So, thank you for giving us the time, and
2 I'll see if John wants to say hello.

3 MR. GAJDA: Yes. Good morning,
4 Commissioners. And I'm just excited about the
5 opportunity. With that introduction I'm guaranteed to
6 disappoint I suppose, but I'm elated to be here and
7 just very excited to be back amongst a few colleagues
8 from a long time ago and just excited to help. So,
9 thank you very much for the opportunity.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Well, John, welcome. We're
11 so glad you're here. And I think you might be the
12 first Razorback on the team, so hang in there. Thank
13 you. We look forward to working with you very much.

14 MR. GAJDA: Thank you very much.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anything else before we
16 adjourn this morning?

17 (No response)

18 Hearing nothing, we will be adjourned.
19 Thank you very much.

20 -----
21 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.
22 -----
23
24

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM T. MITCHELL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that
the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were
taken before me, that I did report in stenographic
shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the
foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription
to the best of my ability.

Kim T. Mitchell

Kim T. Mitchell