

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

August 30, 2021

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good morning, everybody.
3 Let's come to order and go on the record. I'm
4 Charlotte Mitchell, Chair of the Utilities Commission,
5 and with me this morning are the following
6 Commissioners. When I call your name, please announce
7 your presence. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Good morning.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. Good
13 morning.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

15 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Here.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

17 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Good morning.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: And commissioner McKissick.

19 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Good morning.

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: In compliance with the
21 State Government Ethics Act, I remind members of the
22 Commission of their duty to avoid conflicts of
23 interest, and inquire as to whether any member of the
24 Commission has a known conflict of interest with

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 respect to matters coming before us this morning?

2 (No response)

3 The record will reflect that no conflicts
4 have been identified, so we will proceed with Public
5 Staff, Natural Gas Item P1.

6 MS. PATEL: Good morning. I'm Neha Patel
7 with the Public Staff's Energy Division. Item P1 is
8 Docket G-5, Sub 636, an Application filed by Public
9 Service Company of North Carolina requesting authority
10 to adjust its rates effective September 1st, 2021,
11 under Rider E of the Company's tariff pursuant it's
12 Integrity Management Tracker Mechanism.

13 PSNC is required to file a revision to its
14 tariff for Commission approval by February 15th and
15 August 15th each year showing the computation of the
16 Integrity Management adjustment that it proposes to
17 charge during six-month period between March 1st and
18 September 1st respectively.

19 On July 30th, 2021, PSNC filed in Docket
20 G-5, Sub 565C the computation for the IMRR that
21 supports the bi-annual IM rate adjustments based on
22 the Company's IM plant investment through June 30,
23 2021.

24 The proposed IMT rate adjustment table

1 expressed in dollars per therm is as shown in the
2 table.

3 The Public Staff has reviewed the proposed
4 rate adjustments and recommends approval as filed, and
5 a proposed order is attached as Exhibit P-1. Thank
6 you.

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
8 the recommendation.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
11 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
12 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or
13 discussion on the motion?

14 (No response)

15 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.
16 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and
17 your opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland?

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

20 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

24 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

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1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes?

2 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: And Commissioner McKissick?

4 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Aye.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: For the record I support
6 the motion as well and the motion carries.

7 (MOTION PASSES)

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Patel.

9 We'll proceed now to Public Staff,
10 Communications Item P1. Ms. Proffitt?

11 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning everyone. Item
12 P1 presents a request by the Department of Health and
13 Human Services, or DHHS, regarding its administration
14 of the TRS service, Telecommunications Relay Service
15 Program. At Staff Conference on October 26th, 2020,
16 the Public Staff presented findings of DHHS's
17 evaluation of the TRS RFP bids and presented -- and
18 the Commission approved the DHHS's election of Sprint
19 as the vendor for relay services for the four-year
20 period beginning January 1st, 2021 and ending on
21 December 31st, 2024. The contract bid was for a total
22 cost of \$5,700,480.00 over the life of the contract.
23 DHHS -- excuse me, I'm sorry. And the Commission
24 issued an Order approving the DHHS's selection.

1 On July 21st, 2021, DHHS filed a letter with
2 the Commission to provide notice of a need for a
3 contract extension and asked that the contract period
4 be changed from January 1st, 2021 through
5 December 30th -- 31st, 2024, instead to be July 1st,
6 2021 through June 30th, 2025, and to increase the
7 total contract cost to \$6,084,400. DHHS stated that
8 this change in contract period is necessary to align
9 the 2016 contract termination date with the start of
10 the approval Order.

11 Regarding the increased total contract cost,
12 DHHS explained that the change in the total contract
13 cost is required by the Statewide IT Procurement
14 Office and is a result of their effort to address the
15 estimated RCC usage. RCC is the Relay Conference
16 Captioning portion of their service. They stated that
17 it was because of the pandemic and the expanded use of
18 this service, the actual bid award made by the
19 Statewide IT Procurement Office is \$6,084,400.

20 The Public Staff's Accounting Division has
21 reviewed the TRS surcharge monthly reports and
22 determined that the reserve account balance, with the
23 current rate being \$0.08 per access line, is
24 sufficient to absorb the increase in the contract

1 cost. And, as such, the Public Staff agrees that
2 amending the order to increase the total contract cost
3 will not create the need for a TRS surcharge rate
4 change. Further, the Public Staff sees no harm in
5 amending the previously approved contract period as
6 requested by the DHHS in its July 21st letter to the
7 Commission.

8 A copy of our proposed order is attached as
9 Exhibit P-2.

10 The Public Staff recommends that the
11 Commission issue an amended order increasing the total
12 contract cost to \$6,084,400 and changing the contract
13 period to the four-year period beginning July 1st,
14 2021 and ending June 30th, 2025.

15 I do have someone here available to answer
16 any questions if you need from the DHHS.

17 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I move approval
18 of the recommendation.

19 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
21 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
22 the Public Staff. Are there any questions or
23 discussion?

24 (No response)

1 Hearing none, I'm going to call the roll for
2 a vote. Indicate your support for the motion with an
3 aye and your opposition with a no. Commissioner
4 Brown-Bland?

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

7 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

11 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes?

13 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: And Commissioner McKissick?

15 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: For the record, I support
17 the motion as well and the motion carries.

18 (MOTION PASSES)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Proffitt.

20 MS. PROFFITT: Yes, ma'am.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: We'll proceed now to Public
22 Staff, Electric Item P1.

23 MR. SAILLOR: Scott Saillor with the Public
24 Staff, Energy Division. Item P1 consists of

1 Applications to renew Certificates of Public
2 Convenience and Necessity for solar PV electric
3 generating facilities.

4 The Public Staff recommends that the
5 Commission approve the Applications and issue the
6 renewed Certificates.

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
8 the recommendation.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAY: And a second.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
11 seconded that the item be approved as recommended by
12 the Public Staff. Any questions or discussion?

13 (No response)

14 Hearing no questions or discussion, I'll
15 call the roll for a vote. Indicate your support for
16 the motion with an aye and your opposition with a no.
17 Commissioner Brown-Bland?

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

20 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

24 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes?

2 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick?

4 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Aye.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I
6 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

7 (MOTION PASSES)

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Saillor.

9 We'll proceed now to Public Staff. We'll
10 start with Water Item P1. Ms. Casselberry or
11 Ms. Darden, I'm not sure which of you is presenting
12 but you all are up.

13 MS. DARDEN: Good morning. I'm Lindsay
14 Darden, Engineer of the Public Staff - Water, Sewer
15 and Telephone Division. I'll be presenting the water
16 items together today.

17 Water Items P1 through P5 were filed by
18 Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina in
19 Docket Number W-354, Subs 388, 389, 390, 394 and 395,
20 respectively. They are Applications seeking authority
21 to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along
22 to its passing along to its customers the increased
23 cost of purchasing water and/or sewer service from its
24 bulk water and sewer provider.

1 The Public Staff recommends that the
2 Commission issue the proposed orders approving the
3 tariff revisions and requiring customer notice.

4 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
5 the recommendation.

6 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
8 seconded that the item be approved as -- the items be
9 approved as recommended by the Public Staff. Are
10 there any questions or discussion?

11 (No response)

12 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.
13 Indicate your support with an aye and your opposition
14 with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland?

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

17 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

21 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes?

23 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick?

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1 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Aye.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I
3 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

4 (MOTION PASSES)

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Darden.

6 The Commission has before it its minutes
7 from the August 16th Staff Conference. I'll take a
8 motion, please.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAY: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: We've got a motion that the
12 minutes from the 16th be approved. Any questions or
13 discussion on that motion?

14 (No response)

15 Hearing none, all in favor indicate with an
16 aye.

17 (All Commissioners say aye)

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

19 (No response)

20 Our minutes of August 16th are approved.

21 Any additional business for the Commission
22 this morning.

23 (No response)

24 Hearing none, we will be adjourned. Thank

1 you very much, everybody.

2
3 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.
4

5
6 C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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14 Kim T. Mitchell

15 Kim T. Mitchell
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