

M-100 Sub 163

State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission
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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. M-100, SUB 163

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Investigation Regarding the Ability of North)	
Carolina's Electricity, Natural Gas, and)	ORDER REQUESTING
Water/Wastewater Systems to Operate)	COMMENTS
Reliably During Extreme Cold Weather)	

BY THE CHAIR: On January 26, 2022, the Commission initiated this docket to investigate whether North Carolina's major electricity, natural gas, water, and wastewater utilities have taken appropriate steps to assure reliable operations during extreme cold weather events. This investigation was prompted by the outages and rolling blackouts that occurred in Texas and other parts of the country in February of 2021 due to Winter Storm Uri.

The Commission required Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC); Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (collectively, Duke); Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont); Public Service Company of NC, Inc. (PSNC); Frontier Natural Gas Company (Frontier); Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua); and Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (Carolina Water) to respond in writing to a series of questions and to appear before the Commission at technical conferences to present that information and to respond to follow-up questions from the Commission and the Public Staff. Carolina Water and Aqua appeared before the Commission on March 15, 2022. DENC, Duke, Piedmont, PSNC, and Frontier appeared before the Commission on April 19, 2022. The Public Staff issued discovery questions to the utilities and participated in the technical conferences. Subsequently the utilities filed in this docket copies of their presentations as well as supplemental information responsive to questions received at the technical hearings.

In light of the information received during the course of the investigation, the Commission now directs the parties to address the question of whether the Commission's rules require revision in order to ensure reliable utility operations during extreme cold weather. Electric utilities are subject to Commission Rule R8-40 (Report of Impending Emergencies, Load Reductions and Service Interruptions in Bulk Electric Power Supply and Related Power Supply Facilities) and R8-41 (Filing of Emergency Load Reduction Plans and Emergency Procedures). Gas utilities are currently subject to Commission Rule R6-19.2 (Curtailment of Service). There are no analogous rules addressing emergency operations for water or wastewater utilities.