

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

October 10, 2022

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Let's, come to  
3 order and go on the record. I'm ToNola D. Brown-Bland  
4 with the North Carolina Utilities Commission, and with  
5 me this morning are: Commissioners Daniel G.  
6 Clodfelter, Kimberly W. Duffley, Jeffrey A. Hughes,  
7 Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Karen M. Kemerait.

8 In compliance with the State Government  
9 Ethics Act, I remind Members of the Commission of our  
10 duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to  
11 whether any member of the Commission has a known  
12 conflict of interest with respect to any matters  
13 coming before us on this conference agenda.

14 COMMISSIONER KEMERAIT: Commissioner  
15 Brown-Bland, I have a conflict of interest on Item  
16 No. 1, Docket No. SP-2665, Sub 51. So I'll be recused  
17 from that one.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: So noted. Any  
19 other conflict?

20 (No response)

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Let  
22 the record reflect that Commissioner Kemerait will be  
23 recused from Item -- Electric Item No. 1, and she will  
24 not be participating in the vote. All right. We'll

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 start with Public Staff, Item 1.

2 MR. LAWRENCE: Good morning. I'm Evan  
3 Lawrence with the Public Staff's Energy Division.  
4 Item 1 consists of an Application to amend a CPCN.  
5 The Public Staff has reviewed the application and  
6 recommends the Commission issue the amended CPCN.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval.

8 COMMISSIONER McKISSICK: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. It's  
10 been moved and seconded that the Item 1 be approved as  
11 recommended by the Public Staff. Any discussion?

12 (No response)

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: There being none,  
14 all in favor, say aye.

15 (All Commissioners say aye)

16 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

17 (No Response)

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And that motion  
19 carries. All right. We'll no have Item 2.

20 MR. WILLIAMSON: Good morning,  
21 Commissioners. I'm Tommy Williamson with the Energy  
22 Division. Item 2 is an application from South River  
23 EMC for a CECPCN to construct a new 230-kV  
24 transmission line approximately 310 feet in length in

1 Sampson County. The Public Staff has reviewed the  
2 Application and has determined that it meets the  
3 requirements for a Certificate and the conditions for  
4 waiver of the Notice and Hearing. Public Staff  
5 recommends that the Commission grant the motion for  
6 waiver and issue the requested Certificate.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval as  
8 recommended.

9 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. It's  
11 been moved and seconded that Item 2 be approved as  
12 recommended by the Public Staff. Is there any  
13 discussion?

14 (No response)

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Hearing none, all  
16 those in favor?

17 (All Commissioners say aye)

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

19 (No response)

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And that motion  
21 carries as well.

22 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: The Commission  
23 has its minutes from October 3rd, 2022.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Move approval of

1 the minutes.

2 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All in favor?

4 (All Commissioners say aye)

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Any opposed?

6 (No response)

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: And that motion  
8 carries as well. Before we end, I think the Public  
9 Staff has requested an opportunity to make some  
10 introductions. And one thing I know is that the  
11 Public Staff is not shy. Good morning, Ms. Edmondson.

12 MS. EDMONDSON: Good morning, Commissioners.  
13 Lucy Edmondson, Chief Counsel of the Public Staff. We  
14 have two new staff members we would like to introduce  
15 to you. I'll let Robert Josey introduce the first  
16 one.

17 MR. JOSEY: Good morning, Commissioners.  
18 Robert Josey, Manager of the Electric Section of the  
19 Legal Division of Public Staff. I'm here to introduce  
20 Mr. Tom Felling who is an NC State undergrad and went  
21 to law school at Campbell. He did, I believe, two  
22 years in Belews Creek and one year in Raleigh, so he  
23 can tell you about the differences there. He and wife  
24 have two boys who are eight and five years old, live

1 in Raleigh, and he can play the drums, and he coaches  
2 both his boys' soccer teams. So with that, I'll let  
3 him say a few words.

4 MR. FELLING: I don't have much to say, but  
5 I'm happy to be here and I look forward to working  
6 with you-all and perhaps getting to know you as well.  
7 I'm trying to come up to speed as quickly as I can  
8 without prior energy or utility experience. Some of  
9 the terminology is a little advanced for me, but I'm  
10 trying to catch on as quickly as he can.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Well, we all  
12 start there. And we welcome you and they'll be plenty  
13 for you to do. I do want the record to reflect that  
14 certain members of the Public Staff were doing a happy  
15 dance at the mention of NC State.

16 MR. FELLING: So noted. Thank you.

17 MR. JOSEY: And I mentioned his personal  
18 attributes but forgot to mention he's coming from us  
19 from the A.G's office and he was in the insurance  
20 section, I believe?

21 MR. FELLING: Insurance section, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Again, great to  
23 have you, and that government knowledge is going to  
24 serve you well too.

1 MR. FELLING: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Thank you.

3 MS. EDMONDSON: And our other new employee  
4 is Erica Jones. She is a paralegal. She comes to us  
5 from bankruptcy practice. She lives in Benson. She's  
6 a graduate of Campbell University and received a  
7 paralegal certificate from Johnston Community College,  
8 and she has very interesting fun facts. I think  
9 she'll be able to relate to you. I hope we'll enjoy  
10 her.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Well, all right.  
12 Our curiosity has peaked, Ms. Jones.

13 MS. JONES: First of all, thank you for the  
14 opportunity to introduce us all. I'm very excited to  
15 be a part of this, of the Department of Commerce, and  
16 work with you-all. Some of the fun facts, I narrowed  
17 it down to two because my life is probably a side  
18 show. So I spent 10 years in Nashville, Tennessee.  
19 As soon as I graduated from Campbell University, I  
20 moved out there to pursue a record deal. It did not  
21 work out, so I moved back home. And another fun fact  
22 is that my boyfriend and I, we raise rodeo bulls. So  
23 we go to different rodeos, including some for the  
24 Professional Bullriding Association, and we take our

1 bulls and rodeo, so...

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: So is Nashville  
3 about being a vocalist? Were you the talent?

4 MS. JONES: I was.

5 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right.

6 MS. JONES: I prefer the traditional country  
7 music. My favorite artist is Dolly, so, but, you  
8 know --

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: We'll have some  
10 opportunity where we'll create one day waiting to hear  
11 from you.

12 MS. JONES: Absolutely. I'm your girl.  
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Thank  
15 you, and welcome.

16 MS. EDMONDSON: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Here comes the  
18 happy dancer.

19 MR. MCLAWHORN: Good morning, Commissioners.  
20 James McLawhorn with the Public Staff's Energy  
21 Division. I'm pleased to introduce to you today our  
22 newest engineer, starting today, Mr. Blaise Michna.  
23 Blaise comes to us from DTE Energy in Detroit. He has  
24 an engineering undergrad from Wayne State University

1 in Detroit and a Masters in Engineering from Penn  
2 State. I get that right?

3 MR. MICHNA: You did.

4 MR. MCLAWHORN: And his wife, you'll be  
5 pleased to note, Commissioner Brown-Bland, is a  
6 Tarheel, and that's what has brought him down here. I  
7 told him that was fine. He just couldn't wear any of  
8 the light blue shirts into work, but anyway...

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: But he didn't  
10 listen.

11 MR. MCLAWHORN: Well, you know, hey, we have  
12 to dress up for you. But anyway, so --

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: But see, there is  
14 something good because that brought him here.

15 MR. MCLAWHORN: That's right. That's right,  
16 and we're very excited to have him. He's got a lot of  
17 experience that will be very helpful to the Public  
18 Staff. And he is going to be assigned to the Natural  
19 Gas section, but as all of our engineers do, they will  
20 be working on all matters, both electric and natural  
21 gas, so I'll just -- I know he looks forward to  
22 appearing before you in the future.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Make sure you  
24 introduce him to our Natural Gas associates on the



1 Commission side.

2 MR. MCLAWHORN: Will do.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: But do you want  
4 to have a word, Mr. Michna?

5 MR. MICHNA: Not much. Just thank you for  
6 having me and I look forward to this opportunity to  
7 work with you-all.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Well,  
9 we look forward to working with you as well. Thank  
10 you.

11 MR. MICHNA: Thank you.

12 MS. BOSEELL: Good morning. Michelle  
13 Boswell with the Public Staff Accounting Division. We  
14 would like to introduce Mr. David Lentz, our newest  
15 financial analyst. He comes to us from DHHS and is a  
16 North Carolina State University graduate with 20 years  
17 in accounting and as a North Carolina CPA.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right.

19 MR. LENTZ: Good morning, everyone. I look  
20 forward to working with everyone. It's good be here.  
21 I just wanted to say briefly I'm a native of  
22 Winston-Salem, been married 20 years. Actually, this  
23 would mark our 20-year anniversary. For  
24 Winston-Salem, my wife, she's from Greensboro, and

1 I've been here in the Triangle area about seven, eight  
2 years now. But again, it's nice meeting everyone and  
3 I look forward to working with you in the future.

4 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Well, it's the  
5 same here. We look forward to working with you.  
6 Another Public Staff is happy to have you. And like  
7 me, you've kind of sampled what North Carolina has to  
8 offer, so that's good. That's good.

9 MR. LENTZ: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Does  
11 the Public Staff have anyone else?

12 MR. AYERS: Not today.

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Not today. Well  
14 soon, maybe the Commission Staff will be able to  
15 introduce a few. All right. Is there anything else  
16 to come before the Commission in conference, Staff  
17 Conference?

18 (No response)

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: If not, we'll be  
20 adjourned. Thank you, everybody.

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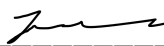
22 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, TONJA VINES, 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.



Tonja Vines