

1 STAFF CONFERENCE

September 13, 2021

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Let's start from the top.
3 I'm Charlotte Mitchell, Chair of the Utilities
4 Commission, and with me this morning are the following
5 Commissioners. When I call your name, please announce
6 your presence. Commissioner Brown-Bland.

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray.

9 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Good morning.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, good morning.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley.

13 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Good morning.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Hughes.

15 Actually, Commissioner Hughes is not with us, just for
16 the record.

17 And Commissioner McKissick.

18 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Good morning.

19 Present.

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 at this time as to whether any
24 member of the Commission has a known conflict of

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1 interest with respect to matters coming before us this
2 morning?

3 (No response)

4 The record will reflect that no conflicts
5 have been identified, so we will proceed with Public
6 Staff, Communications Item P1. Ms. Proffitt?

7 MS. PROFFITT: Good morning. My name is
8 Karen Proffitt with the Public Staff - Water, Sewer
9 and Telephone Division. I do have a correction to my
10 agenda item, if you would please make a note of it.
11 The second paragraph contains -- is right of -- is
12 above the list, it says, *The Commission has received*
13 *affidavits from 24 eligible telecommunications*
14 *carriers*. It should be 23 as indicated further on
15 down in the agenda item. I just had a little typo I
16 missed. I'm so sorry about that.

17 So, Item P1 concerns the annual
18 certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers
19 to continue to receive Federal Universal Service
20 High-Cost Support for the calendar year 2022.

21 In order to receive Federal Universal
22 Service High-cost Support for the next calendar year,
23 a carrier must submit to the North Carolina Utilities
24 Commission a sworn affidavit executed by a corporate

1 officer attesting that Federal High-Cost Support to be
2 received by the carrier for the next calendar year
3 will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and
4 upgrading of facilities and services for which the
5 support is intended.

6 Based on the filings that were submitted to
7 the Commission, the Public Staff recommends that the
8 Commission send appropriate letters to the FCC and
9 USAC certifying that 23 high-cost telephone companies
10 in North Carolina that submitted affidavits that are
11 listed in this agenda item are in compliance with
12 Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
13 and are eligible to receive high-cost support for the
14 year of 2022.

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: I move approval
16 of the recommendation as corrected.

17 MS. PROFFITT: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

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

23 (No response)

24 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.

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1 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and
2 your opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland?

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

5 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

9 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick?

11 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I
13 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

14 (MOTION PASSES)

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Proffitt.

16 We'll proceed next with Public Staff,
17 Electric Item P1.

18 MR. SAILLOR: Scott Saillor with the Energy
19 Division. Item P1 consists of an Application to renew
20 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and
21 an Application to Amend a Certificate of Public
22 Convenience and Necessity for solar PV electric
23 generating facilities.

24 The Public Staff recommends that the

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1 Commission approve the Applications and issue the
2 renewed Certificate and amended Certificate.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of
4 the recommendation of the Public Staff.

5 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
7 seconded that the recommendation of the Public Staff
8 be approved. Any questions or discussion on the
9 motion?

10 (No response)

11 Hearing none, I'll call the roll for a vote.
12 Indicate your support for the motion with an aye and
13 your opposition to the motion with a no. Commissioner
14 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 McKissick?

23 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: And for the record I

1 support the motion as well and the motion carries.

2 (MOTION PASSES)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Saillor.

4 We'll proceed now to Public Staff, Electric
5 Item P2.

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: Good morning,
7 Commissioners. I'm Tommy Williamson with the Energy
8 Division, Electric Section. Item P2 is a filing made
9 by Duke Energy Progress for a Certificate of -- to
10 construct approximately 250 feet of a new 230-kV
11 transmission tap line in Nash County, North Carolina.
12 This line will connect to a new bank in the Bailey
13 230-kV substation to avoid projected overloads.

14 DEP also filed a motion for waiver of the
15 notice and hearing.

16 The Public Staff has determined that the
17 Application meets the requirement for a certificate
18 and the conditions for a waiver of the notice and
19 hearing requirements.

20 The Public Staff recommends that the
21 Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the
22 requested Certificate to construct the line. Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Move approval of

1 the recommendation.

2 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Second.

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

6 (No response)

7 Hearing none, one last roll call for the
8 vote. Indicate your support with an aye and your
9 opposition with a no. Commissioner Brown-Bland?

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Aye.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Gray?

12 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Aye.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Clodfelter?

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Aye.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

16 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Aye.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner McKissick?

18 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: Aye.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: For the record, I support
20 the motion as well and the motion carries.

21 (MOTION PASSES)

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Williamson.

23 The Commission has before it for approval
24 our minutes of September 7th Staff Conference.

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1 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Move approval.

2 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Second.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: It's been moved and
4 seconded that the minutes be approved. Any questions
5 or discussion?

6 (No response)

7 Hearing none, all in favor of approving the
8 minutes indicate with an aye.

9 (All Commissioners say aye)

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Anyone opposed?

11 (No response)

12 The minutes from September 7th are approved.

13 We have some additional business this
14 morning. I'd like to make a few introductions of new
15 additions to the Commission team.

16 Brandi and Tonja, if y'all would please make
17 your way to the witness stand. I hate to do it to
18 them but we're putting them on the hot seat on their
19 very first day.

20 This morning, we have joining us Tonja
21 Vines. Tonja, would you waive your hand so everybody
22 knows who you are. Tonja will be our new addition to
23 the Court Reporting staff. Originally from New York,
24 she now lives in Wake Forest. Early in her career she

1 worked as an Official Court Reporter in the New York
2 Judicial System and later in the North Carolina
3 Judicial System in Forsyth County, and she has
4 freelanced as a court reporter for many years.

5 We are absolutely delighted to have her with
6 us and welcome her to the Commission.

7 Tonja, would you like to say anything this
8 morning?

9 MS. VINES: I just thank you very much.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Well, we're glad to have
11 you.

12 Also joining us this morning is Brandi
13 McMillen. Brandi joins us from the North Carolina
14 Department of Justice. Brandi has an undergraduate
15 degree from Indiana University Fort Wayne and she also
16 has a Paralegal Certification from Meredith College.

17 Before joining us here at the Commission,
18 she worked at the North Carolina Department of Justice
19 most recently in the Criminal Appeals Section of the
20 Criminal Division. Prior to working in that section,
21 she worked in the Appellate Section. And prior to
22 working for the Appellate Section, she worked in the
23 Health and Public Assistance Section.

24 She joins us as assistant to the Chair in

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1 the Commissioners' suite, and we are absolutely
2 delighted that she is here to help bring some order to
3 our organization.

4 Brandi lives in Raleigh with her family.

5 Welcome, Brandi. Anything you want to say
6 this morning?

7 MS. McMILLEN: I'm just excited to be here.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Well, we're happy to have
9 you.

10 Before we call it a morning, any additional
11 business for the Commission?

12 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Do we have a calendar
13 check this week on Thursday?

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: We will -- I will get the
15 Commissioners together later this morning and we'll
16 talk about calendar.

17 Anything else for the Commission this
18 morning?

19 (No response)

20 With that, we will be adjourned. Thank you
21 very much, everybody. Let's go off the record.

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23 WHEREUPON, this conference is adjourned.

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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

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