

**NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE**

**June 6, 2022**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Brown-Bland  
Commissioner Clodfelter  
Commissioner Duffley  
Commissioner Hughes  
Commissioner McKissick  
Commissioner Kemerait

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Jayasheela, Mr. Gajda, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Culpepper, Ms. Holt, Mr. Creech, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Keyworth, Mr. Maness, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Boswell, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Lucas, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Nader, Ms. Patel, Mr. Hinton

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Vines

**ELECTRIC***AFFILIATE ELECTRIC SERVICE AGREEMENT (Floyd/Boswell/Holt)***Duke Energy Carolinas**

1. Docket No. E-7, Sub 1100A and G-9, Sub 682A – Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for Approval of an Affiliate Agreement.

On May 23, 2022, DEC and Piedmont filed a revised Electric Service Agreement, which provides updated charges that reflect the current approved rates and minimum billing as approved by the Commission in DEC's most recent general rate case.

The Public Staff reviewed the Electric Service Agreement as originally filed and as revised.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission approve the revised Electric Service Agreement between DEC and Piedmont to service the Huntersville LNG facility.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

*CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND MOTION FOR WAIVER OF NOTICE AND HEARING (T. Williamson/Creech)***Duke Energy Carolinas**

2. Docket No. E-7, Sub 1267 – Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity and Motion for Waiver of Notice and Hearing Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-100 et seq. to Relocate a Transmission Line in Randolph County, North Carolina.

On May 11, 2022, DEC formally filed an application for a certificate and motion for waiver of notice and hearing.

The Public Staff stated that the application meets the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-102 and Commission Rule R8-62 for a certificate and the conditions of N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104.

The Public Staff recommends that 1) pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-101, the requirement for publication of notice and hearing is waived and 2) pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-102, a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to relocate approximately 3.19 miles of the Parkwood 525-kV line in Randolph County, North Carolina, as described in DEC's application is issued, and the same is attached as Appendix A.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

## **NATURAL GAS**

*WAIVER FOR SUSPENSION OF ROUTINE METER TESTING (Nader/Patel/Culpepper)*

### **Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

3. Docket No. G-9, Sub 803 – Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., to Suspend Routine Meter Testing for the Remainder of 2022.

On April 27, 2022, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or Company) filed a petition requesting expedited approval for suspension of its routine meter testing activities for its residential and commercial meters for calendar year 2022.

The Public Staff stated that during its investigation, Piedmont stated that its supply of ERTs has been temporarily halted, and that its meter testing requires recycling of the entire meter unit, including the ERT, regardless of test outcome. The Public Staff confirmed that Piedmont will file with the Commission quarterly updates on its inventory status in this docket, and if a temporary waiver of routine meter testing is granted by the Commission, Piedmont will continue to respond to customer requests for meter testing and evaluation in cases where customers suspect problems exist with their meters.

The Public Staff recommends that Piedmont be granted a temporary waiver to suspend routine sample program testing of its customers' residential and commercial natural gas meters pursuant to its Statistical Meter Sampling Program for the remainder of calendar year 2022.

Pia Powers, Managing Director - Gas Rates and Regulatory at Duke Energy Corporation, responded to questions from the Commission related to the Applicant's petition.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of May 31, 2022 were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.