

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-34, SUB 54  
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BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-34, SUB 54	)	
	)	
In the Matter of	)	
Application for General Rate Case	)	
	)	
DOCKET NO. E-34, SUB 55	)	ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
	)	ADJUST SCHEDULE OF EXPERT
	)	WITNESS HEARING
In the Matter of	)	
Petition of Appalachian State University	)	
d/b/a New River Light and Power for an	)	
Accounting Order to Defer Certain Capital	)	
Costs and New Tax Expenses	)	

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On December 22, 2022, Appalachian State University d/b/a New River Light & Power Company (NRLP) filed an application with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-133 and 62-134 and Commission Rules R1-5, R1-17, and R8-27, seeking authority to increase its rates for electric service in its service area in Watauga County, North Carolina (Application for General Rate Case).

On January 11, 2023, the Commission issued its Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates.

On February 1, 2023, the Commission granted NRLP's Motion to Consolidate Dockets and issued its Order Granting Motion to Consolidate Dockets consolidating the general rate case proceeding initiated by NRLP's Application for General Rate Case, Docket No. E-34, Sub 54, with the proceedings NRLP initiated on November 8, 2022, when it filed a Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Certain Capital-Related Costs and Tax Expenses in Docket No. E-34, Sub 55.

Also on February 1, 2023, the Commission granted the Petition to Intervene of Appalachian Voices (App Voices).

On March 20, 2023, the Commission issued its Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Procedural and Filing Requirements, and Requiring Customer Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order, among other things, ordered that a hearing

for the purpose of receiving expert witness testimony on the application was scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. to continue as necessary until conclusion.

On April 25, 2023, App Voices filed its Motion to Adjust Schedule of Expert Witness Hearing (Motion). In its Motion, App Voices stated that it had recently learned that one of its expert witnesses has an unavoidable scheduling conflict from July 6 to July 11, 2023 and could appear on July 12, 2023 only virtually. Accordingly, App Voices requested that if the expert hearing would have otherwise concluded before July 12, 2023, that it remain open for App Voices' expert witness to appear and testify virtually on July 12 2023 or in person on July 13, 2023. No party opposes the Motion, but NRLP's non-objection is conditioned on the scheduling adjustment not delaying issuance of a final order.

The expert witness hearing in this matter has been scheduled since March 20, 2023. This provides ample time for the parties to retain expert witnesses who are available for the hearing as scheduled. The Commission has numerous proceedings, including this one, in which there are statutory deadlines that require the Commission and the parties to be diligent and efficient with respect to scheduling. Accordingly, the Presiding Commissioner does not find good cause to grant the Motion, and it is accordingly denied. The expert witness hearing will proceed as scheduled.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

This the 2nd day of May, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamika D. Conyers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk