

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

October 10, 2022

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., with Commissioner Brown-Bland presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Jarvis, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Barber, Mr. Gajda, Mr. Hardy

PUBLIC STAFF: Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Mr. Josey, Ms. Keyworth, Mr. Tom Felling, Ms. Erica Jones, Ms. Boswell, Mr. Lentz, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Michna

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Vines

ELECTRIC***CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITIES*****Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC**

1. Docket No. SP-2665, Sub 51 – Application of Fresh Air Energy II, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 40 MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic facility in Stanly County, North Carolina (*Lawrence/Keyworth*)

On April 9, 2018, the Commission issued an Order granting Fresh Air Energy II, LLC (Applicant) a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the construction of a 30 MW_{AC} solar generating facility to be located approximately two miles from Highway 24 on Frog Pond Road, Oakboro, Stanly County, North Carolina. In addition, the Commission accepted registration of the facility as a new renewable energy facility. The Applicant plans to sell the electricity to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC).

On November 30, 2018, the Applicant filed an amendment to its application. The amendment states that additional land has been acquired to be used for construction and operation of the facility in order to increase the facility's capacity to 40 MW_{AC}. An updated map was also filed with the amended application.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Application and determined it to be in compliance with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1(a) and Commission Rule R8-64.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue a renewed amended certificate for the facility.

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

Commissioner Kemerait did not participate in this decision.

CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**South River Electric Membership Corporation**

2. Docket No. EC-52, Sub 51 – Application of South River EMC for certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a 230 kV transmission tap line in Sampson County, North Carolina (*T. Williamson/Creech*)

On August 17, 2022, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 102, South River Electric Membership Corporation (South River EMC or Applicant), filed an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a new 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Line) in Sampson County, North Carolina. The

application states that this Line would allow South River EMC to improve electric service and reliability to customers in the greater Benson area in Sampson and Johnston Counties. South River EMC will tap into the existing Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Clinton-Erwin 230 kV transmission line and install a new South River EMC-owned and operated substation.

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 notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of October 3, 2022 were approved.

The Public Staff introduced several new staff members. Chief Counsel Lucy Edmondson and Robert Josey, Manager of the Electric Section of the Legal Division, introduced Tom Felling, Staff Attorney, and Erica Jones, Paralegal. James McLawhorn, Director of the Energy Division, introduced Blaise Michna, Utilities Engineer. Michelle Boswell, Director of the Accounting Division, introduced David Lentz, Financial Analyst.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.