

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

**April 22, 2024**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Duffley  
Commissioner Hughes  
Commissioner McKissick  
Commissioner Kemerait  
Commissioner Brawley  
Commissioner Tucker

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Mr. Watson, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Jarvis, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Walker, Ms. Olive Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Barber, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Winstead, Ms. Ziegler, Ms. Cooke, Ms. Miller; Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Holt, Ms. Jost, Mr. Creech, Ms. Luhr, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Zhang, Mr. Brown, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. Lucas, Mr. T. Williamson, Ms. Patel

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**ELECTRIC***ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM***Dominion Energy North Carolina**

1. Docket No. E-22, Sub 693 – Application for Approval of Residential Efficient Products Marketplace Program (*T. Williamson/Freeman*)

On March 4, 2024, Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC or the Company), filed an application (Application) seeking approval of its Phase XI Residential Efficient Products Marketplace Program (Program) and requesting that the Program become effective in the second quarter of 2024. The Application states that the Program was filed in accordance with Commission Rule R8-68 and the Cost Recovery and Incentive Mechanism for new demand-side management (DSM) and energy-efficiency (EE) programs, as most recently approved by the Commission on March 22, 2022, in Docket No. E-22, Sub 464 (Mechanism).

The Public Staff stated that based on its investigation and review of the Application, it recommended that the Commission approve the Residential Efficient Products Marketplace Program for implementation in the second quarter of 2024 in North Carolina, find that the Program meets the requirements of a “new” DSM/EE program consistent with Rule R8-68, find that all costs incurred by the Company associated with the Program will be eligible for consideration for cost recovery through the Company’s annual DSM/EE Riders filed in accordance with Rule R8-69 and the Mechanism, and authorize the Company to receive utility incentives associated with implementation of the Program through the Company’s annual DSM/EE Riders in accordance with Rule R8-69 and the Mechanism.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue its proposed order concerning the Company’s Application.

Andrea Kells, counsel for DENC, responded to questions from the Commission.

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

**NATURAL GAS***GENERAL RATE CASE***Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**

2. Docket No. G-9, Sub 837 – Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates (*Patel/Jost*)

On April 1, 2024, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or the Company), filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to adjust and increase its rates for customers in North Carolina effective May 1, 2024, and other relief. Piedmont stated that it intends to make supplemental filings to update its application with actual amounts as of June 30, 2024, and with actual amounts for the new primary customer information system that will be placed into service in July 2024 and two energy reliability centers that will be placed into service in August 2024 as part of the Company's Eastern Carolina Economic Expansion Project.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission declare the proceeding a general rate case and suspend Piedmont's requested rates for up to 270 days.

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTRIC***ORDER ACCEPTING NOTICE OF TRANSFER***Dominion Energy North Carolina**

3. Docket No. E-22, Sub 703 – Notice of Affiliate Transfer of Emergency Sirens (Brown/Edmondson)

On April 15, 2024, Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC or the Company), filed pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-153(a) and Regulatory Condition 3.1(a) as approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission's (Commission) Order Approving Merger Subject to Regulatory Conditions and Code of Conduct issued November 19, 2018, in Docket Nos. E-22, Sub 551 and G-5, Sub 585 (Merger Order) notice (Notice) of a planned sale (Transfer) of two unused emergency sirens (Siren Equipment) from the Company to Dominion Energy Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC) for use at Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut.

The Public Staff stated that based on its investigation and review of the Application, it recommended that the Commission accept the Notice of the Emergency Sirens Transfer subject to conditions.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of April 15, 2024, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.