



**NORTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC STAFF  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

March 27, 2020

Ms. Kimberley Campbell, Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

RE: Docket No. E-35, Sub 51

Dear Ms. Mount:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket is the proposed order establishing a general rate case, suspending rates, scheduling hearings, and requiring customer notice in the above referenced docket. On March 9, 2019, Western Carolina University (WCU) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for electrical service in its service area in Jackson County, North Carolina. WCU operates an off-campus electric distribution system that serves approximately 3,170 residential customers and 230 commercial customers. The present rates have been in effect since 2016, with annual purchased power adjustments. WCU's last general rate case was in 2017. Docket No. E-35 Sub 45, *Application of Western Carolina University for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges for Electric Service in North Carolina*, Order Approving Rates Schedules and Notice to Customers, July 11, 2016.

WCU is going to file an amendment to its Application. This amendment has different revenue requirements and may require an increase in WCU's proposed rates. The Public Staff has not had an opportunity to thoroughly review the amendment. Thus the Public Staff is only requesting the Commission issue an order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates. The Public Staff will make a separate filing with a proposed order scheduling hearings and requiring customer notice.

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The Public Staff recommends the Commission issue the attached proposed order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates.

Sincerely,

Electronically Submitted  
/s/John D. Little  
Staff Attorney  
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Enclosures

c: Parties of Record