

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA
July 31, 2023
Commission Hearing Room 2115, 10:00 a.m.

ELECTRIC

*CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
AND NECESSITY*

Roanoke Electric Cooperative

1. Docket No. EC-31, Sub 51 – Application of Roanoke EC for a CECPCN to construct 2,026 feet of 230 kV transmission line in Hertford County, North Carolina (*T. Williamson/Creech*)

NATURAL GAS

DEMAND CHARGE REDUCTION

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

2. Docket No. G-9, Sub 830 – Application of PNG for approval of a reduction in the demand charge component of its rates (*Patel/Johnson/Culpepper*)

WATER AND WASTEWATER

ORDER ESTABLISHING GENERAL RATE CASE AND SUSPENDING RATES

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC

3. Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 – Application for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for Wastewater Utility Service in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina (*Houser/Morgan/Creech*)

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Bell South Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina (AT&T)

4. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1722—Amendment to the interconnection agreement with PNG Telecommunications, Inc. (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

The Public Staff recommends approval of the preceding agenda items as described above and reflected in proposed orders provided to the Commission Staff.

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EC-31, SUB 51

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Roanoke Electric Cooperative for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) ORDER WAIVING NOTICE
Convenience and Necessity and Motion for Waiver) AND HEARING
of Notice and Hearing Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §) REQUIREMENT AND
62-100 et seq. to Construct Approximately 2,026 feet) ISSUING CERTIFICATE
of New 230-kV Transmission Line in Hertford)
County, North Carolina)

BY THE COMMISSION: On June 16, 2023, Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Roanoke EC or Applicant), filed its letter of intent to file for a waiver of the hearing and notice requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-102 and 104, and Commission Rule R8-62, as provided for in N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1). On that same date, the Applicant prefiled a completed application and waiver request with the Public Staff for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a new 230-kV transmission line (Line) in Hertford County, North Carolina. The application stated that this Line would allow Roanoke EC to assist Piedmont Natural Gas in constructing a new pressurization facility which will provide the required pressure and capacity to an existing pipeline to guarantee service to current and future customers in Hertford County.

On July 7, 2023, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 102, the Applicant, filed its application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct the Line and request for waiver of the hearing and notice requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104, and Commission Rule R8-62, as provided for in N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1). The application is also supported by Exhibits 1 through 3.

On July 21, 2023, the Applicant filed supplemental information stating that Roanoke EC will tap into the existing Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC) Suffolk-Earleys 230-kV transmission line to serve a new Roanoke EC substation that will provide service to the new gas pressurization facility.

N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) authorizes the Commission to waive the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104 when it finds that the owners of the land to be crossed by the proposed transmission line do not object to the waiver and either the transmission line is less than one mile long or will connect an existing transmission line to a substation, to another public utility, or to a public utility customer when any of these is in proximity to the existing transmission line. The Applicant indicates in its application that: 1) the Line will be constructed on land owned by Roanoke EC or on

which Roanoke EC has acquired easement rights; 2) the property owner does not object to the waiver of notice or hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104; and 3) the total length of the Line is approximately 2,026 feet. Thus, the conditions of N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) for a waiver of notice and hearing have been met.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on July 31, 2023. 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 G.S. 62-101(d)(1) for waiver of the 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.

Based on the foregoing and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission finds and concludes that the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104 should be waived as allowed by N.C.G. S. § 62-101(d)(1) and that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity should be issued for the proposed construction of a new 230-kV transmission line.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-101, the requirement for publication of notice and hearing is waived;

2. That, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-102, a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity shall be, and is hereby, issued to construct approximately 2,026 feet of new 230-kV transmission line in Hertford County, North Carolina, as described in Roanoke EC's application; and

3. That Appendix A attached hereto shall constitute the certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity issued for the facility.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EC-31, SUB 51

Know All People by These Presents, That

Roanoke Electric Cooperative

is hereby issued this

**CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PURSUANT TO GEN. STAT. § 62-102**

to construct approximately 2,026 feet of new 230-kV transmission line to connect the proposed Roanoke EC substation to DENC’s Suffolk-Earleys 230-kV transmission line in Hertford County, North Carolina

subject to receipt of all federal and state permits as required by existing and future regulations prior to beginning construction and further subject to all other orders, rules, regulations, and conditions as are now or may hereafter be lawfully made by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ___ day of _____, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 830

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| In the Matter of | | |
| Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., for Approval of a Reduction in the Demand Charge Component of its Rates |) | ORDER APPROVING RATE ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2023 |

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont or Company), filed a petition, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4 and Commission Rule R1-17(k), requesting authority to reduce the demand charge component of its rates.

Piedmont’s filing complies with Appendix A – Procedure for Rate Adjustments under G.S. 62-133.4 – to its North Carolina Service Regulations, which permits Piedmont to implement temporaries to refund or collect balances in its cost of gas deferred accounts.

Piedmont states that due to a combination of several factors, most notably a forecasted increase in secondary marketing gains, it will materially over-collect in its All Customer’s Cost of Gas deferred account at its current approved rates. The Company’s current approved Cost of Gas Demand Temporaries were rate decrements as approved by the Commission effective April 1, 2023,¹ to refund to customers \$92.6 million of projected over-collections in the All Customers’ Cost of Gas deferred account. Based on updated information, Piedmont now projects \$108 million in over-collections in the next 12-month period, during which it proposes to replace the current approved Cost of Gas Demand Temporaries.

The proposed downward adjustment to Piedmont’s rates is shown on Schedule A of the petition and varies by rate schedule and season based upon the Commission-approved allocation of fixed gas cost apportionments to the various step and seasonal rates as established in Piedmont’s last general rate case, Docket No. G-9, Sub 781. The temporary decrements, as reflected in Schedule B of the petition, would replace the existing temporaries approved in Docket No. G-9, Sub 826.

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its July 31, 2023, Staff Conference. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the proposed temporary rate decrements and recommended approval as filed.

¹ Docket No. G-9, Sub 826, Order Approving Rate Adjustments Effective April 1, 2023.

Based on the review of the petition and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission finds good cause to approve the proposed rate adjustments.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Piedmont is authorized to remove the existing temporaries that were implemented in Docket No. G-9, Sub 826, and implement the temporary rate decrements contained in Schedule A of its petition, effective for service rendered on and after August 1, 2023.

2. That Piedmont shall file its revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraph 1 within five days of the date of this Order.

3. That Piedmont shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes authorized in this Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1141, SUB 8

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| In the Matter of | | |
| Application by 904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC, 800 N. Sandpiper Club Drive, Sunset Beach, North Carolina 28468, for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for Wastewater Utility Service (Application) in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | ORDER ESTABLISHING |
| |) | GENERAL RATE CASE AND |
| |) | SUSPENDING RATES |
| |) | |

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 7, 2023, 904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC (Applicant), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing wastewater utility service in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina. The Applicant provides wastewater utility service to approximately 795 residential customers.

The present wastewater utility rates have been in effect since January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission’s Order in Docket Nos. W-1141, Sub 6, and M-100, Sub 138.

The Commission finds that the application constitutes a general rate case and concludes that the proposed new rates should be suspended pending investigation.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That this proceeding is declared a general rate case pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-137;
2. That the proposed new rates are suspended for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-134;
3. That the test year period is established as the 12-month period ending October 31, 2022; and
4. That the Commission shall issue an order establishing discovery guidelines, scheduling hearings, and requiring customer notice at a later date.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of _____, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. P-55, SUB 1722

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Interconnection Agreement between BellSouth)
Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North) ORDER APPROVING
Carolina, and PNG Telecommunications, Inc.) AMENDMENT

BY THE COMMISSION: On May 26, 2023, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and PNG Telecommunications, Inc. (collectively, the Parties), filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement approved by the Commission on December 27, 2007.

The amendment implements the changes mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in WC Docket No. 18-141, by FCC 19-66 and FCC 19-72 (FCC UNE and Resale Forbearance Orders) and reflects name changes, identified in Exhibit B of the amendment.

The filing was made in compliance with Commission Rule R17-4(d) and Sections 252(e) and 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission considered the matter at its Regular Staff Conference on July 31, 2023. The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved, and the Commission approved the recommendation.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the amendment, filed on May 26, 2023, to the existing agreement between the Parties is hereby approved effective on the date of filing.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of _____, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk