

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

**March 20, 2023**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Brown-Bland  
Commissioner Clodfelter  
Commissioner Duffley  
Commissioner Hughes  
Commissioner McKissick  
Commissioner Kemerait

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Duffy, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Webb-Shackleford, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Barber, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Mr. Ayers, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Josey, Mr. Felling, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Junis, Mr. Houser, Ms. Bhatta

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Vines

**ELECTRIC*****CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY*****Duke Energy Progress, LLC**

1. Docket No. E-2, Sub 1316 – Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC, for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity and motion for waiver of notice and hearing to relocate a transmission line in Beaufort County, North Carolina (*T. Williamson/Creech/Felling*)

On January 30, 2023, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 62-102, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or the Company) filed with the Commission a letter of intent to file for a waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104. On that same date, pursuant to Commission Rule R8-62(k), DEP prefiled with the Public Staff an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to relocate approximately 1.6 miles of the Aurora-New Bern 230-kV line (Line) for the purpose of accommodating an industrial development conflict near Aurora, Beaufort, County, North Carolina.

On February 20, 2023, DEP formally filed the application for a certificate and motion for waiver of notice and hearing and a separate motion to proceed with initial clearing, excavation, and construction for the Line.

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

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate. The Public Staff stated that the issuance of the requested certificate addresses the relief requested by the Company in its motion to proceed with initial clearing, excavation, and construction for the Line.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS***INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS***BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina (AT&T)**

2. Docket No. P-55, Sub 1437 – Amendment to the interconnection agreement with XO Communications Service, LLC, approved by the Commission on June 19, 2003 (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On January 4, 2023, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and XO Communications Services, LLC (collectively, the Parties), filed, for Commission approval, an amendment to their existing interconnection agreement, approved by the Commission on June 19, 2003, while XO Communications Services, LLC was operating as XO North Carolina, Inc.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendment be approved.

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

3. Docket No. P-474, Sub 14 – Amendments to the interconnection agreement with MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, approved by the Commission on November 1, 2006 (*Proffitt/Coxton*)

On December 29, 2022, BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, and MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC, formerly MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. (MCImetro) (collectively, the Parties), filed, for Commission approval, amendments to their existing interconnection agreement, approved by the Commission on November 1, 2006, while MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC was operating as MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp.

The Public Staff recommended that the amendments be approved.

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

**WATER AND WASTEWATER***ORDER INCREASING EMERGENCY OPERATOR'S PROVISIONAL RATES AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE***Edwin Worth White - Emergency Operator of McCullers Pines Subdivision**

4. Docket No. W-727, Sub 3 – Petition of the Public Staff to Increase emergency operator's provisional rate for water service at McCullers Pines Subdivision, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina (*Bhatta/Little*)

On March 13, 2023, in Docket No. W-727, Sub 3, the Public Staff filed a Petition requesting that the Commission issue an order approving an emergency rate increase on a provisional basis for the water system serving McCullers Pines in Wake County, North Carolina.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order approving an emergency rate increase on a provisional basis for the water system serving McCullers Pines in Wake County, North Carolina and requiring customer notice. The McCullers Pines system serves approximately 12 residential water customers in Wake County, North Carolina.

This item was taken to Executive Conference for further discussion and consideration.

*ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION***Old North State Water Company, Inc.**

5. Docket No. W-1300, Sub 90 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water from the Town of Stedman (*Houser/Akpom/Coxton*)

On January 31, 2023, Old North State Water Company, Inc. (ONSWC or Company) filed a verified request with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its metered water customers in the Blawell subdivision in Cumberland County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Town of Stedman. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Town of Stedman's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this order and require customer notice.

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

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of March 13, 2023, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.