

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

**October 19, 2020**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell, presiding. The remote meeting was conducted by use of simultaneous communication (via Webex) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.24, streamed live online, and available to the public.

The following were present during the entirety of the remote meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

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

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Ms. Lowell, Mr. Watson, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Condie, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Eastwood, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Mr. Warren, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Cummings, Mr. Dodge, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Henry, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Saillor, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Furr, Ms. Darden

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**D. ELECTRIC****P1. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITIES**

The following applications seek certificates of public convenience and necessity for construction solar photovoltaic electric generating facilities, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Progress, LLC:

- Docket No. SP-8420, Sub 0 – Application of ATOOD Solar IV, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 4.99-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Brunswick County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously)

Dominion Energy North Carolina:

- Docket No. SP-26182, Sub 0 – Application of NC6 Ahoskie East, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 17.5-MW solar photovoltaic facility with a 1.0-MW battery storage system in Hertford County, North Carolina

The Public Staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Unless otherwise noted, each applicant has filed a registration statement for a new renewable energy facility. The registration statements include certified attestations, as required by Commission Rule R8-66(b), that: (1) the facility is in substantial compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules for the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources; (2) the facility will be operated as a new renewable energy facility; (3) the applicant will not remarket or otherwise resell any renewable energy certificates sold to an electric power supplier to comply with N.C.G.S. §. 62-133.8; and (4) the applicant will consent to the auditing of its books and records by the Public Staff insofar as those records relate to transactions with North Carolina electric power suppliers.

The projects associated with the applications do not plan to be CPRE program participants.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue orders approving the applications and issuing the requested certificates for these facilities.

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

## **E. WATER**

### **P1. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 380 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION**

On October 1, 2020, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a letter 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 water customers in the White Oak Plantation, Lee Forest, Winston Plantation, and Winston Pointe service areas in Johnston County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Johnston County Department of Public Utilities (Johnston County). CWSNC is also requesting authority to increase the water connection charge in the Winston Pointe service area due to the increase in Johnston County's bulk water capacity fee. 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 Company states that, effective October 1, 2020, Johnston County's bulk water commodity charge increases from \$2.65 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.85 per 1,000 gallons, and the County's bulk water capacity fee increases from \$6.00 per gallons per day (gpd) of average capacity to \$6.25 per gpd of average capacity. According to CWSNC, it charges a current connection charge per single family equivalent (SFE) in its Winston Pointe subdivision of \$1,080 based on the \$6.00 per gpd of average capacity, and the increase to \$6.25 per gpd of average capacity results in a new connection charge of \$1,125 per SFE.

The Public Staff has reviewed the Company's current rates and Johnston County's new rates and recommends that CWSNC be allowed to increase its bulk water commodity charge for water service by \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$2.65 to \$2.85 per 1,000 gallons and to increase its bulk water capacity fee by \$0.25 per gpd of average capacity, increasing the rate from \$6.00 to \$6.25 per gpd of average capacity. The Public Staff has also reviewed Winston Pointe's connection charge and recommends that the Company be allowed to increase Winston Pointe's connection charge from \$1,080 to \$1,125 per SFE.

The new rates would increase the average residential monthly bill from \$38.67 to \$39.40, based on an average usage of 3,678 gallons as found in Exhibits 4 and 6 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry filed on November 4, 2019, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

The Public Staff recommended that the proposed order be issued approving the recommended tariff revision.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for October 12, 2020, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.