

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

**March 1, 2021**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, March 1, 2021, 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. Lazo, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Watson, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Condie, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Zhang, Mr. Wood, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Mr. Hardy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Ms. Downey, Ms. Jost, Mr. Creech, Ms. Luhr, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Henry, Ms. Perry, Ms. Morgan, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Saillor, Mr. Metz, Mr. T. Williamson, Ms. Patel, Mr. Furr, Mr. Junis

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**D. ELECTRIC****P1. DOCKET NO. EC-47, SUB 46 – WAKE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION – APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT A 230-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

On October 2, 2020, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 102, Wake Electric Membership Corporation (Wake EMC) filed an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a new 230-kV transmission line approximately 1,426 feet in length (Line) in Wake County, North Carolina. The application states that this Line would allow Wake EMC to improve electric service and reliability in an area that has a large residential development. Wake EMC will tap into an existing Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP) 230-kV transmission line and install a new Wake EMC owned and operated substation. Included in the application is a motion for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 104 as provided for in N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1). As detailed in the application, Wake EMC will construct the Line on property for which it has negotiated an easement from the property owner, and the property owner does not object to a waiver of the notice and hearing requirements.

N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) authorizes the Commission to waive the notice and hearing requirements 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 (1) the transmission line is less than one mile long, or (2) the transmission line is for the purpose of connecting 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 conditions of N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) for a waiver of notice and hearing have been met. The application is also supported by Exhibits 1 through 7.

The Public Staff filed a letter and proposed order in this docket on November 17, 2020. 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 of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity, and the conditions of N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate. No party has made any filings on this matter since the Public Staff's November 17, 2020 filing.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the Public Staff's proposed order waiving notice and hearing and issuing the certificate.

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

**E. WATER****P1. DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 462 – AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC. – NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN CONTIGUOUS SERVICE AREA**

This Item was tabled for consideration at a future date.

**P2. DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 509 – AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC. – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

This Item was tabled for consideration at a future date.

**P3. DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 532 – AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC. – NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN CONTIGUOUS SERVICE AREA**

This Item was tabled for consideration at a future date.

**P4. DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 534 – AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC. – NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN CONTIGUOUS SERVICE AREA**

This Item was tabled for consideration at a future date.

Representatives of Aqua N. C., Bob Bennink and Ruffin Poole addressed the Commission requesting extra time to review the specific language of the revised orders in Water Items P1., P3., and P4.

Presentations were given by Kendrick Fentress and Jared Lawrence, representatives of Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, and Mary Lynne Grigg, Frank Hinckle, and Sam Dozier, representatives of Dominion Energy N.C. and Public Service North Carolina to update the Commission on Postal Service bill delays.

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for February 22, 2021, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.