

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA-SUPPLEMENTAL
August 16, 2021**

COMMISSION STAFF

NO AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC STAFF

D. ELECTRIC

- P1. [DOCKET NO. E-35, SUB 54 – WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE DECREASE TO PASS THROUGH AN OVERCOLLECTION REFUND FROM SUPPLIER EXHIBIT NO. P-1](#)

TO: Agenda – Commission Conference – August 16, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC STAFF – North Carolina Utilities Commission

D. ELECTRIC

P1. DOCKET NO. E-35, SUB 54 – WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE DECREASE TO PASS THROUGH AN OVERCOLLECTION REFUND FROM SUPPLIER

EXPLANATION: In its February 9, 2021 Order in Docket No. E-35, Sub 53, the Commission approved Western Carolina University's (WCU) request to file an application for a mid-year adjustment to adjust its rates to reflect the impact of the proposed DEC coal ash settlement.

On July 20, 2021, WCU filed a request to return to its customers a refund of \$464,959 received from Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) related to an overcollection attributable to coal ash and forecasted demand and energy charges for calendar year 2020. WCU seeks approval of a supplementary PPA EMF refund rate decrement of \$(0.02283) per kWh for utility bills generated between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

The Public Staff has reviewed WCU's filing, and recommends approval, subject to the inclusion of interest to customers to reflect the period of time for which WCU has had access to the overcollection. The Public Staff has calculated the interest payable to the ratepayers as \$15,499. The inclusion of the interest to customers increases the total refund to \$480,458, and increases the rate decrement from what the Company requests to \$(0.02359) per kWh. WCU has reviewed the Public Staff's calculation and agrees with the inclusion of interest and the Public Staff's calculation of the total refund and rate decrement.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-1](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Akpom/Boswell/Sailor/Little) That the Commission approve the total refund of \$480,458, and the supplemental PPA EMF refund rate decrement of \$(0.02359) per kWh for utility bills generated between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-35, SUB 54

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Request by Western Carolina University for) ORDER APPROVING RATE
Approval of a Rate Decrease to Pass Through a) DECREASE
Refund Overcollection From Supplier)

BY THE COMMISSION: In its Order in Docket No. E-35, Sub 53, dated February 9, 2021, the Commission approved Western Carolina University's (WCU) request to file an application for a mid-year adjustment to adjust rates to reflect the impact of the proposed DEC coal ash settlement.

On July 20, 2021, WCU filed a request to return to its customers a refund of \$464,959 received from Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) related to an overcollection attributable to coal ash and forecasted demand and energy charges for calendar year 2020. WCU seeks approval of a supplementary PPA EMF refund rate decrement of \$(0.02283) per kWh for bills rendered between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on August 16, 2021, and recommended approval of the supplemental PPA EMF refund rate decrement of \$(0.02359) per kWh for bills rendered between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022. The Public Staff stated that it has reviewed the filing by WCU, and recommended approval, subject to the inclusion of interest to customers to reflect the period of time for which WCU has had access to the overcollection. The Public Staff represented that WCU agreed with the Public Staff's recommendation.

After careful review of WCU's proposal and upon the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission concludes that the supplemental PPA EMF rate decrement of \$(0.02359) per kWh should be approved and customers should be notified.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That WCU's total refund to customers due to the overcollection by DEC is \$480,458;
2. That WCU shall implement the supplemental PPA EMF rate decrement of \$(0.02359) for bills rendered between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022; and

3. That WCU shall provide the attached notice to its retail customers for the supplemental PPA EMF rate decrement by bill insert in customer bills issued in August 2021.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of August, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
DOCKET NO. E-35, SUB 54

CUSTOMER NOTICE OF
SCHEDULE "CP"
PURCHASED POWER COST RIDER RATE DECREMENT

Each customer's monthly bill rendered on and after August 1, 2021 for each month between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022 shall be adjusted by an incremental charge of \$(0.02359) per kWh as determined to be appropriate by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

This rate is determined as follows:

	<u>\$/kWh</u>
Factor associated with a mid-year refund from WCU's power supplier, Duke Energy, associated with an overcollection of coal ash costs and 2020 yearly costs	(\$0.02283)
Interest on the Duke Energy wholesale power cost refund	<u>(\$.00076)</u>
 TOTAL RATE	 (\$0.02359)

Effective for bills rendered on and after August 1, 2021, for each month between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

*The above-stated factor of \$(0.02359) per kWh is a decrease whereby, for example, a customer that uses 1000 kWh per month will realize a monthly decrease in power bills of \$23.59.

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