

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

December 7, 2020

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, December 7, 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, Ms. Lazo, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Condie, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Ms. Needham, Mr. Hardy

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Downey, Ms. Jost, Ms. Coxton, Ms. Perry, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Saillor, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Furr, Ms. Darden, Mr. Junis

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

D. ELECTRIC**P1. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR FACILITY**

The following application seeks an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity for construction of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Progress:

- Docket Nos. SP-2665, Subs 4 and 41 and SP-4891, Sub 0 – Application of Fresh Air Energy XXIII, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 23.4-MW solar PV facility in Nash County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously)

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

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order approving the application and issuing the requested amended certificate for the facility.

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

E. WATER**P1. DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 545 – AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC. – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION**

On November 17, 2020, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua), filed a verified petition 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 water customers in Chapel Ridge, Laurel Ridge, and The Parks at Meadowview in Chatham County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Town of Pittsboro (the Town).

Effective July 1, 2020, the Town increased its rates charged to Aqua by \$0.71 per 1,000 gallons, from \$13.67 per 1,000 gallons to \$14.38 per 1,000 gallons.

Aqua's current water usage rates have been in effect since August 20, 2015, when they were approved by the Commission in its Order Approving Tariff Revision and Requiring Customer Notice issued in Docket No. W-218, Sub 272. After taking into account the effect of the 0.13% regulatory fee, Aqua has requested authority to increase its water

usage rates from \$13.69 to \$14.40 per 1,000 gallons to reflect the increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the County. Under the new water usage rates, the average residential customer's monthly water bill will increase by \$3.55, from \$89.15 to \$92.70 based upon 5,000 gallons usage.

The Public Staff has reviewed Aqua's petition and recommends that the requested tariff revision be approved. The Public Staff is of the opinion that the tariff revision will allow Aqua to recover additional revenues that do not exceed the additional expenses.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the Public Staff's proposed order approving the requested tariff revision.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for November 30, 2020, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.