

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

**January 11, 2021**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, January 11, 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. Lowell, Ms. Lazo, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Buffkin, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Condie, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Blue, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Ms. Needham, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Ms. Culpepper, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Ms. Coxton, Mr. Maness, Ms. Perry, Ms. Boswell, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Sailor, Mr. D. Williamson, Mr. T. Williamson, Mr. Metz

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**D. ELECTRIC****P1. DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1266 – DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND MOTION FOR WAIVER OF NOTICE AND HEARING**

On November 19, 2020, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 62-101 and 62-102, and Commission Rule R8-62(k), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or the Company), prefiled with the Commission an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to relocate a transmission line near Holly Springs, North Carolina to avoid conflicts with highway construction on the proposed NC Highway 540 Project, as requested by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The prefiled application stated that the relocation would affect 1,700 feet of the Harris Plant – Wake 230 kV transmission line (Line).

Included in the prefiled application was a letter indicating the Company's intent to file a motion for waiver of the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104 and Commission Rule R8-62(e), as provided for in N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1).

On December 9, 2020, DEP formally filed the application for a certificate and motion for waiver of notice and hearing.

N.C.G.S. § 62-101(d)(1) authorizes the Commission to waive the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104 when it finds that the owners of the land to be crossed by the proposed transmission line do not object to the waiver and the transmission line is for the purpose of relocating an existing transmission line segment to resolve a highway or other public project conflict. The application states that the Company will relocate the Line on property for which it has acquired an easement from the property owner whose land will be crossed by the Line, and the property owners do not object to the waiver of notice or hearing. Thus, 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 a Certificate Application Report. This report satisfies the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-102(a).

Based on its review, the Public Staff has determined 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, therefore, recommends that the Commission grant the motion for waiver and issue the requested certificate.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order waiving the notice and hearing requirements of N.C.G.S. §§ 62-102 and 62-104 and issue the requested certificate for the proposed relocation of the Line for the purpose of avoiding conflicts with a NCDOT highway project.

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

**P2. DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 90 – NC GREENPOWER – REQUEST TO MODIFY THE SOLAR+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

On December 23, 2020, NC GreenPower filed a request to expand the solar array offerings allowed under the Solar+ Schools program. The current solar array offerings include top-of-pole mounted and roof-mounted systems. NC GreenPower requested that in addition to the top-of-pole mounted and roof-mounted systems it currently offers, it be allowed to offer solar awnings and other designs that would better accommodate the needs of the different styles of buildings encountered.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order approving the requested modifications.

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

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for January 4, 2021, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.