

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

**August 17, 2020**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, August 17, 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 McKissick

Commissioner Hughes was present at the start of the meeting; however, due to technical difficulties, he was not present during the votes on the agenda items.

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Ms. Lowell, Ms. Lazo, Mr. Watson, Mr. Buffkin, Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Jones, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Zhang, Mr. Sessoms, Ms. Eastwood, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns, Mr. Wood, Mr. Barber, Ms. Needham, Mr. Hardy, Mr. McCoy

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Ms. Downey, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Dodge, Ms. Coxton-Shanaghan, Mr. McLawhorn, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Saillor, Mr. Furr, Ms. Darden, Ms. Patel

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**D. ELECTRIC****P1. APPLICATION 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 Carolinas, LLC

- Docket No. SP-8135, Sub 0 – Application of Quail Holdings, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 30MW solar photovoltaic facility in Davie County, North Carolina (amended registration statement)

(The above item was withdrawn.)

- Docket No. SP-8741, Sub 0 – Application of Lick Creek Solar, LLC, for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 50-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Stokes County, North Carolina (registration statement issued previously)
- Docket No. SP-22331, Sub 0 - Application of Hunters Cove Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 50-MW solar photovoltaic facility in Rutherford 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 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.

Commissioner Hughes did not participate in this decision.

## **E. WATER**

### **P1. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 372 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION**

On July 13, 2020, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Applicant), 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 sewer customers in White Oak Plantation, Lee Forest, and Winston Pointe systems in Johnston County an increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Johnston County Department of Public Utilities (Johnston County). N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 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 Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that the Applicant be allowed to increase its commodity charge for sewer service by \$0.58 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$5.57 to \$6.15 per 1,000 gallons.

The Public Staff has also evaluated the effect of the current regulatory fee of 0.13% on the proposed increase and determined that it is less than \$0.01 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly bill from \$78.71 to \$80.77, based on an average usage of 3,555 gallons as found in Exhibits 5 and 7 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry filed November 4, 2019 in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

The Public Staff stated that the Applicant agrees with the Public Staff's recommended rates.

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.

Commissioner Hughes did not participate in this decision.

**P2. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 374 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION**

On July 23, 2020, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Applicant), 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 its Riverpointe service area in Mecklenburg County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from Charlotte Water. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 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 Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that the Applicant be allowed to increase its usage charge for water service by \$0.26 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$6.48 to \$6.74 per 1,000 gallons.

The Public Staff has also evaluated the effect of the current regulatory fee of 0.13% on the proposed increase and determined that it is less than \$0.01 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly bill from \$70.26 to \$71.92 based on an average usage of 6,380 gallons as found in Exhibit 16 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry filed on November 4, 2019 in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

The Public Staff stated that the Applicant agrees with the Public Staff's recommended rates.

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.

Commissioner Hughes did not participate in this decision.

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for August 10, 2020, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.