

## Commission Business Meeting Notes

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*Post-Meeting Summary Notes, Drafted and Presented by Rob Bockman*

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Thank you for joining us for today's post-meeting summary. These Commission Business Meetings are held each Wednesday at 2 p.m. and all agendas and materials are posted to the Docket Management System prior to each meeting. If you have questions about Commission business, we encourage you to reach out to us at [robert.bockman@psc.sc.gov](mailto:robert.bockman@psc.sc.gov) or via social media by following the SC Utility Consumer program on Twitter at @UtilityConsumer and on Facebook at SC Utility Consumer.

Today's business meeting started at 2:30 p.m. with Commissioners Howard and Ervin calling in, and began with item one on today's supplemental agenda, involving Commission response to the COVID-19 outbreak that is currently affecting the state. ORS is seeking expedited judgment from the Commission to issue waivers for all consumers of regulated providers to prevent the shutoff of service for nonpayment; Chairman Randall moved "that the Commission grant waivers of the regulations related to Late Payment Charges and Procedures for Termination of Service for all regulated utilities and direct that all regulated utilities suspend disconnection of service during the COVID-19 State of Emergency." Commission Randall also moved to encourage all regulated utilities to keep consumers informed, and that all materials related to this issue will be collected under Docket No. 2020-106-A. Commissioner Hamilton, speaking in support of the Chairman's motion, noted that a district he represents has a high poverty rate and asked that a subnote be added to ensure that non-regulated utilities be included in the Commission's request. Commissioner Whitfield noted his support and the similar impact this pandemic will have on his district.

This motion passed universally.

Subitem two on the supplemental agenda involved Dockets No. 2019-290-WS and Docket No. 2019-281-S—requests made by Blue Granite Water Company and Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated—and included a motion made by the Chairman to have requestors voluntarily stay all deadlines related to SC Code Annotated Section 58-5-240. Commissioner Ervin supported this motion, noting this would stay all increases in service until a later date.

This motion also carried.

Subitem three was a request for the approval of a filing from the Chair to the Governor, President of the South Carolina Senate, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Chairmen of the South Carolina Senate and House Judiciary Committees, and Members of the Public Utilities Review Committee to stay pending rate cases, including the rate cases of Blue Granite and Palmetto Utilities.

This motion carried.

Item two involved Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, and the suspension of their ability to drop customers for non-usage or failed re-certification. Commissioner Howard moved to suspend Lifeline ETCs

from dropping those customers for 9 months or until the national emergency is lifted, whichever is earlier. This motion carried.

Item three was an update from Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. on its response to COVID-19 and a request for authorization to waive any late-payment charges incurred by any customer beginning March 16, 2020. Commissioner Ervin moved to grant this; his motion carried.

Item four involved attendance at tomorrow's virtual public night hearing in Docket No. 2019-281-S. Palmetto Utilities and ORS request clarification on whether staff needs to be present, as is customary, to answer customer questions. Commissioner Ervin, who made the motion, noted: "it is at the discretion of the pro se intervenor about whether they attend. It is also at the discretion of ORS and Palmetto Utilities about whether to have personnel present to answer customer testimony, although I note that it seems unnecessary, since customers will be attending remotely." His motion carried.

Item five was a request to change the date of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s IRP to the week beginning of September 21<sup>st</sup>, rather than in October. Commissioner Belser made the motion to grant this request and her motion carried.

Items one through twelve on the utilities agenda were requests to withdraw local services tariffs and IXC Services Tariff as requested by these items, which were taken together. Commissioner Belser moved to grant this, and her motion carried.

Item thirteen was a request to approve an interconnection agreement, which carried following a motion made by Commissioner Hamilton.

Item fourteen was a request to change the name of a provider, along with a request for a waiver of notice. Commissioner Whitfield moved to grant this request; his motion carried.

Item fifteen was a request for an approval of an amendment to an agreement for transportation service with firm gas standby—Commissioner Howard moved to approve the amendment, which carried.

Item sixteen was a request for confidential treatment of a late-field exhibit, which carried following a motion made by Commissioner Hamilton.

Items seventeen through nineteen were three related requests in a power purchase agreement. Commissioner Whitfield made the motion to accept the filing of the agreement and to grant the requests for confidential treatment of all agreements. This motion carried.

Item twenty was a petition to intervene in Docket No. 2019-393-E, which was granted by a motion brought by Commissioner Ervin.

Item twenty-one was carried over.

Item twenty-two was a request for a sixty-day extension of time to file an annual report, which was granted following a motion made by Commissioner Howard.

Item twenty-three was a request for an additional sixty days of time to file responsive comments, which was granted following a motion made by Commissioner Ervin.

In addition to these items, Commissioners were also briefed on sixty-three other issues related to utilities in South Carolina. The complete list of these items, as well as links to dockets and all materials, is available on the Docket Management System at [dms.psc.sc.gov](https://dms.psc.sc.gov).

Moving on to the transportation agenda: items one through nine were requests for new applications, all of which were granted following a motion made by Commissioner Hamilton.

Item ten was a request to amend the name listed on a certificate, which was granted following a motion made by Commissioner Belser.

Item eleven was a request to that was withdrawn by the applicant. No Commission action was necessary.

Finally, item twelve was a request for an extension of time until December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to comply with Commission rules and regulations; this request was granted by a motion brought by Commissioner Whitfield.

In addition to the items discussed in detail, Commissioners were advised on five other transportation-related issues. The complete list of these, as well as links to dockets and materials, can be found on the Docket Management System at [dms.psc.sc.gov](https://dms.psc.sc.gov).

The next regular Commission Business Meeting is set for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. You can access the livestream broadcast of that meeting by visiting our site at [www.psc.sc.gov](https://www.psc.sc.gov) and clicking on "livestream." If you have questions about today's proceedings, please follow us on social media—on Twitter at @PSCofSC and at @UtilityConsumer or on Facebook at Public Service Commission of South Carolina or SC Utility Consumer—or call the offices of the PSC at 803.896.5100. Thank you.