

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<u>August 31, 2020</u>
MOTOR CARRIER MATTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCKET NO.	<u>2019-290-WS</u>
UTILITIES MATTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORDER NO.	_____

SUBJECT:

[DOCKET NO. 2019-290-WS](#) - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval of Adjustment in Rates - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration (1) the Request Dated August 7, 2020, of the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs for Clarification and Alternatives, Including but not Limited to, the Company’s Conditional Petition for Approval of Accounting Order, and Request for Expedited Consideration to the Proposed Rate Implementation, and (2) Oral Arguments Held on August 27, 2020.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation to the parties in this matter for the quality of the oral arguments presented on August 27. I thought they were able to describe very well the untenable situation that Blue Granite’s customers face because of a pending rate increase under bond, while at the same time experiencing the troubling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have before us a request from the Consumer Advocate for clarification and alternative to proposed rate implementation under bond and a filing by Blue Granite entitled “Conditional Petition for Approval of Accounting Order, and Request for Expedited Review.”

With the consent of the parties, this Commission took judicial notice of the Governor’s Order Declaring a State of Emergency dated August 25, 2020, and the Order on Statewide Evictions and Foreclosures of April 30, 2020, issued by South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty. Blue Granite also described its desire to proceed with putting its rate increase under bond in effect, despite the fact that Blue Granite had indicated in its letter dated March 19, 2020 that the Company would put into effect whatever rates that the Commission approved, and the Company obviously has not.

Based upon the information before us, I would like to make a Motion:

I move that the Stay of the proposed increase in rates under bond ordered by Commission Order No. 2020-549 remain in effect.

To protect its interests, Blue Granite filed a Conditional Petition for Approval of an Accounting Order and requested expedited review. I also move that we grant Blue Granite’s request for expedited review and also grant the request for an accounting order as provided herein.

I further move that the implementation of the Company’s rate increase under bond be stayed through December 31, 2020, due to the immediate adverse financial impacts that would be suffered by residential and commercial ratepayers during the Governor’s declared health care emergency in South Carolina, and that the Conditional Petition for Approval of an Accounting Order also be granted until December 31, 2020.

The Commission will consider renewal of the Accounting Order at a later date. This accounting order will not involve a change to any of the Company’s rates at this time or require any change in any Commission rule, regulation, or policy. Further, the issuance of this accounting order will not prejudice the right of any party to address or challenge the recovery of these costs in a subsequent rate proceeding. Finally, the parties will have further opportunity to be heard on the Company’s conditional Petition for Approval of Accounting Order before the Commission’s preliminary stay has expired.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this Motion is the best way to protect the interest of all parties in this case in this era of the

COVID-19 pandemic, and I so move.

Also Mr. Chairman, a full written order will be forthcoming and shall be issued. I further move that the order will address today's directive and the Commission's directive of July 15, 2020 addressing the Company's bond request.

PRESIDING: Williams

SESSION: Special

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER	
BELSER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Present in hearing room
ERVIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Voting via videoconference
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Physically present, voting via skype
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Voting via videoconference
RANDALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Physically present, voting via skype
WHITFIELD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Present in hearing room
WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Recused</u>	Present in hearing room

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

