

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK

BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
BOARD HEARING

---

REPORTED BY:

CHERIE J. ANDERSON, RMR, CRR, Notary Public

AURELIA RUFFIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 2025

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-2025

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910-343-1035

DATE REPORTED: August 17, 2023

LOCATION: Supply, NC

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APPEARANCES

For the BEMC: DENNIS T. WORLEY  
WRIGHT WORLEY POPE EKSTER & MOSS  
200 South Lewis Street  
Tabor City, North Carolina 28463

- DAVID GORE, Board President
- JOSH WINSLOW, CEO/General Manager
- JANET SMITH, Executive Assistant
- GLENN HUMBERT, Board Director
- CALVIN DUNCAN, Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
- FRED TEDDER, Board Vice President
- LARRY FOWLER, Board Secretary/Treasurer
- DAN STRICKLAND, Board Director
- PERRY SELLERS, Board Director
- JOHN WARD, Board Director
- MOSES HERRING, Board Director
- DONNA WATERS, Wright Worley Pope Ekster & Moss
- PAUL EKSTER, Wright Worley Pope Ekster & Moss
- LISA FITZGERALD, CFO
- COREY THURLOW, COO
- MALLORY, intern with Wright Worley

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EXHIBIT LISTING

DESCRIPTION	MARKED & ENTERED
EXHIBIT NUMBER 1	14
BEMC Resolution Adopting Date of Hearing	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 2	14
2/1/23 Public Notice to Members	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 3	15
Rules for Conducting the Proceeding	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 4	15
BEMC Timeline/Outline of Dates	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 5	15
2/1/23 Affidavit of Donna Waters	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 6	16
6/26/23 Affidavit of Brookes Versaggi	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 6A	16
BEMC Insert/Carolina County Magazine	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 7A	17
8/8/23 Affidavit of Janet Smith with Addendum 4	
EXHIBIT NUMBER 7B	21
8/14/23 Affidavit of Janet Smith	
(All exhibits were premarked by Mr. Worley.)	

LAWYER'S NOTES

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1           DAVID GORE: We will start our meeting. This  
2 was a special-called meeting of the Brunswick  
3 Electric board members.

4           At this time, we'll ask our secretary to call  
5 roll.

6           LARRY FOWLER: [Inaudible].

7           Calvin Duncan?

8           CALVIN DUNCAN: Here.

9           LARRY FOWLER: David Gore?

10          DAVID GORE: Here.

11          LARRY FOWLER: Moses Herring?

12          MOSES HERRING: Here.

13          LARRY FOWLER: Glenn Humbert?

14          GLENN HUMBERT: Here.

15          LARRY FOWLER: Perry Sellers?

16          PERRY SELLERS: Here.

17          LARRY FOWLER: Dan Strickland?

18          DAN STRICKLAND: Here.

19          LARRY FOWLER: Fred Tedder?

20          FRED TEDDER: Here.

21          LARRY FOWLER: John Ward?

22          JOHN WARD: Here.

23          LARRY FOWLER: [Unintelligible] --

1 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.  
2 There was a phone in the background. Can everybody  
3 turn their phones off? It's going to be hard for  
4 me to hear if somebody is that far away from me  
5 with this many people in the room.

6 DAVID GORE: I will remind: We have a court  
7 reporter this morning. Please, everyone, speak up  
8 and talk slowly, as we can, around here. So --  
9 because she's trying to transcribe everything that  
10 we're saying, so please speak up where she can  
11 hear.

12 MR. WORLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like the  
13 record to show that Deborah Ahlers has attended  
14 practically every meeting, but she has some  
15 healthcare issues, and she was unable to attend  
16 today.

17 DAVID GORE: Thank you. I was getting there.  
18 Moses, would you give us our invitation  
19 [phonetic], please.

20 MOSES HERRING: Certainly. Shall we pray  
21 [inaudible].

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

23 MR. WORLEY: (Waves hand) Off the record.

1 (Off-the-record discussion.)

2 DAVID GORE: Thank you, Moses.

3 As you know, this is -- we're doing things a  
4 little differently this morning, and we are doing  
5 this for the very first time.

6 So we will make a mistake or two, but we're  
7 going to try to get through the -- Dennis has done  
8 a tremendous amount of work to put this proceeding  
9 together. I want to thank him for it and his  
10 staff. We'll get to them in just a minute.

11 But there is a lot involved, and this will be  
12 the first time we've ever done a regulatory  
13 hearing, so we're going to do the best we can. And  
14 if there's any questions -- if you have a  
15 question -- I will mention this again -- please  
16 state your name, wait until you are called on to  
17 speak, so that our court reporter can get it down.

18 That being said, the purpose of our meeting  
19 today is to convene as a regulatory body for the  
20 first time. We have done this for a PURPA hearing,  
21 and for those of you -- I'm sure everyone knows,  
22 and you have all of this in your folders -- PURPA  
23 is a Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978.

1       They come out with standards, and it's up to each  
2       group in our situation to decide whether to adopt  
3       or whether or not to not adopt the standards that  
4       they have put out.

5               We have been -- we have two standards that we  
6       will be looking at that have come to our attention.  
7       One is Demand Response. The statute for it is  
8       16 U.S.C. 2621(d)(20). And it has to do with --  
9       that we will promote -- each electric utility shall  
10      promote the use of demand response and demand  
11      flexibility practices by commercial, residential,  
12      and industrial customers to reduce electricity  
13      consumption upon periods of high demand.

14             We all -- and there's -- part of that is that  
15      we have the ability to recover our -- through  
16      rates, to recover these costs.

17             The second one is the Electric Vehicle  
18      Charging Programs, 16 U.S.C. 2621(d)(21), and it  
19      states that each state shall consider measures to  
20      promote greater electrification of transportation  
21      sector, including the establishments of rates that  
22      promote affordable and equitable electric vehicle  
23      charging options for residential, commercial, and

1 public electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

2 And there again, we will have rates that will  
3 recover those costs for us.

4 We can adopt these standards. We do not have  
5 to. There will be evidence presented by our  
6 general counsel to determine whether or not we  
7 choose to do that. Once we hear the evidence, we  
8 will deliberate just like in a courtroom.

9 At this time I am going to introduce, for our  
10 court reporter, each one of our members. I'm going  
11 to start with our CEO, Josh Winslow; Moses Herring;  
12 John Ward; Perry Sellers; Dan Strickland; Larry  
13 Fowler; Fred Tedder; Calvin Duncan; Glenn Humbert;  
14 Dennis Worley, our general counsel; and I'm David  
15 Gore.

16 In addition, we also have BEMC staff: We  
17 have Lisa Fitzgerald, our CFO. I think that is  
18 right. And Corey is our C --

19 COREY THURLOW: Chief operating officer.

20 DAVID GORE: And Janet Smith is our  
21 administrative assistant.

22 Our court reporter, for those of you who  
23 don't know, is Cherie Anderson, and she is with, I

1 think, Aurelia --

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Ruffin, yes.

3 DAVID GORE: -- out of Wilmington. Aurelia  
4 Ruffin & Associates. And Dennis contacted her, and  
5 we thank him for that.

6 And then we come to our attorney and his  
7 staff. Today he has Paul Ekster, who has been here  
8 before. He has kind of taken the reigns from  
9 Dennis in a small way at this point, but wants to  
10 keep up.

11 And Donna Waters: For those of you who don't  
12 know, Donna has been doing all of the things that  
13 we have read and looked at for over 40 years, and  
14 [inaudible] other people, I don't know.

15 (Laughter.)

16 DAVID GORE: But she has been with -- she was  
17 here before Dennis started, when Frank was here as  
18 the attorney. So we thank you for being here.

19 And Mallory Hayes is shadowing Dennis, I  
20 think, for this month.

21 So welcome to all of you for that.

22 Is there anyone I have failed to recognize?

23 Again, we are here pursuant to the statute

1 requirements -- statutory requirements set forth in  
2 the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act of  
3 2021, and we, as the Brunswick board of directors,  
4 sitting as a regulatory body, must consider whether  
5 or not to adopt or not to adopt the standards  
6 identified. And we have gone over those. You all  
7 have them in your packets.

8 Please keep an open mind. We're sitting as a  
9 regulatory body, and we're trying to determine  
10 whether or not we should adopt these standards, and  
11 we will be following these protocols. The Rules of  
12 Evidence applicable to trials in the General Court  
13 of Justice will be applied.

14 And this will be a paper proceeding which the  
15 board of directors, sitting as a regulatory body,  
16 will review the written submissions and thereafter  
17 decide whether or not to adopt or not to adopt each  
18 of the two PURPA standards that have been  
19 previously identified.

20 Again, one person speak at a time. Please  
21 raise your hand in order to be recognized and speak  
22 clearly and identify yourself so the court reporter  
23 can transcribe your question.

1           The findings and the decision by the board of  
2           directors will adhere to the burden-of-proof  
3           standard applied in North Carolina Civil Court  
4           based upon the greater weight of the evidence. The  
5           greater weight of the evidence establishes the  
6           existence of those facts which entitle a favorable  
7           answer to the issue. The greater weight of the  
8           evidence does not refer to the quantity, but  
9           rather, to the quality and convincing force of the  
10          evidence.

11           In other words, we must be persuaded,  
12          considering all of the evidence, that the necessary  
13          facts are more likely to exist than not to exist.

14           Are there any questions before we start  
15          proceeding?

16           Being none, I am going to recognize our  
17          general counsel to present the evidence of record.

18           MR. WORLEY: Thank you, Mr. Gore. I'm going  
19          to approach Madam Court Reporter.

20           I hope you can hear me?

21           THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir.

22           MR. WORLEY: A lot of times when I'm trying  
23          cases, the judges call me down and tell me I'm too

1       loud, so generally, I don't have a problem.

2               I have got a notebook, and I will present  
3       this notebook to you in total, but I have premarked  
4       the exhibits. Each one of you board members have a  
5       red folder in front of you. If you do not have a  
6       red folder, Mallory has -- what? -- two more  
7       folders.

8               MALLORY HAYES: Three.

9               MR. WORLEY: Three.

10              So Corey, you want one of the folders? Bring  
11      two over here.

12              MALLORY HAYES: Sure.

13              MR. WORLEY: And Madam Court Reporter, I have  
14      an exhibit list in this notebook. It has not been  
15      marked, but I have premarked all of my exhibits.

16              Exhibit Number 1, Mr. Chairman, is the board  
17      resolution that was adopted on August 17th, 2023  
18      [sic], where, pursuant to the federal law, we  
19      agreed to consider and conduct a public regulatory  
20      hearing -- well, a public regulatory proceeding for  
21      the purpose of addressing these two standards. So  
22      I will introduce Exhibit Number 1 into the record.

23              Exhibit Number 2 is the public notice dated

1 February 1, 2023, consisting of four pages that was  
2 published in various publications. So I would  
3 introduce Exhibit Number 2 into the record.

4 Exhibit Number 3 is the rules for conducting  
5 the PURPA proceeding and the hearing of today's  
6 date, and it consists of four pages. And this was  
7 adopted whereby we would conduct this hearing  
8 pursuant to the terms of these rules. And I will  
9 move that that be part of the record, Madam Court  
10 Reporter.

11 Exhibit Number 4 is the timeline that we  
12 followed in this proceeding. So at this time, I  
13 would introduce Exhibit Number 4 into the record.

14 Exhibit Number 5 is the Affidavit of Donna  
15 Waters. And as soon as we started the proceedings  
16 and got ready to publish our notice, Exhibit  
17 Number 5 captures Donna's efforts to go to the four  
18 county courthouses and post this notice on the  
19 bulletin boards at Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, and  
20 Robeson Counties.

21 So at this time, I would introduce Exhibit  
22 Number 5, consisting of pages 1 through 9, that  
23 shows her efforts to document the posting of those

1 notices.

2 Exhibit Number 6: Brookes Versaggi was in  
3 charge of ensuring that the ads were placed in the  
4 appropriate papers, and the affidavit details his  
5 efforts and when that publication began. And  
6 Exhibit Number 6 consists of pages 1 through 17,  
7 and at this time, I would move to introduce that  
8 into the record, Madam Court Reporter.

9 Now, you-all do not have this in your -- the  
10 complete copy of the Carolina Country. I've  
11 identified this as Exhibit 6A, and within the  
12 Carolina Country, which is a statewide publication,  
13 but within that publication is the Brunswick  
14 Electric pages. And as part of that publication,  
15 the notice was published to the members on two  
16 pages within that publication. So I would  
17 introduce that document also into the record.

18 Pursuant to the rules, we appointed Janet  
19 Smith, our executive assistant, to serve as the CC  
20 of this proceeding, and she was responsible for  
21 filing all documentation within the appropriate  
22 proceeding at BEMC.org file, and Ms. Janet has  
23 filed an affidavit setting forth what she did as

1 part of her duties and responsibilities.

2 And Exhibit Number 7A, consisting of 12  
3 pages, contains the record and document submission  
4 that you will consider here today.

5 So if you will take a second and locate  
6 Exhibit Number 7A, and I would ask you to turn to  
7 page 6. Has everyone found that? You should see a  
8 little sticky at the top that says J. Smith  
9 Affidavit Number 4, and you'll see the BEMC  
10 position.

11 Now, without telling you how to consider  
12 that, I will pause for a second, and I would ask  
13 you-all take a moment or the necessary time to read  
14 this.

15 And if you-all, when you finish reading that  
16 section, just give me a nod. Let me know when  
17 you're ready to proceed on.

18 Unless I read that section -- it's page 6 and  
19 page 7 of Exhibit 7A.

20 FRED TEDDER: Dennis, this is really a  
21 statement of what we're doing now?

22 MR. WORLEY: It's a statement of BEMC's  
23 position as filed within the BEMC.org file.

1           DAVID GORE: Any other questions or concerns  
2           pertaining to what we just read? And if there are,  
3           please raise your hand and state your name.

4           Being none, Dennis.

5           MR. WORLEY: All right. As part of  
6           Exhibit 7A, in accordance with Janet Smith's  
7           affidavit, if you look at the next four pages,  
8           pages 8 through 12, this contains comments that we  
9           received from some BEMC members.

10          So I would ask you to take the occasion to  
11          read through and study pages 8 through 12 as to the  
12          statements and comments submitted by BEMC members.

13          FRED TEDDER: Just a matter of clarification.  
14          I know two of these members commented that they  
15          were opposed to supporting the demands of the EV  
16          charging stations, but we're not talking about  
17          establishing the EV charging stations. This is the  
18          rate that --

19          THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. The rate? I  
20          couldn't hear the last --

21          MR. WORLEY: We need you-all's loud-person's  
22          voices in here today. So when you speak, please --

23          FRED TEDDER: My comment was that I noticed

1       that a couple of these member comments dealt with  
2       their opposition to us being involved in EV  
3       charging stations, per se, when, really, what we're  
4       dealing with is the relative rates for the EV  
5       charging stations. We're not -- this is not a  
6       standard for us to be in the EV-charging-station  
7       business.

8               MR. WORLEY: All right. All of you had  
9       occasions to read and consider pages 8 through 12?

10              I got the eye from Perry, so I know he's read  
11      it. Just sort of raise your hand if you read and  
12      considered those.

13              Just a few of you still looking.

14              DAVID GORE: Once we -- I'll say this: Once  
15      we go through the process of Dennis presenting the  
16      evidence, then we will go into a deliberation stage  
17      and discuss all of these things, what we want to do  
18      and what we choose to do. We're just going to do  
19      it based on the evidence that Dennis presents?

20              MR. WORLEY: Yes, sir.

21              And again, I'd remind you that your decision  
22      today will be based upon the written submissions.  
23      There will be no oral statements or comments from

1 any other persons in that our notice required this  
2 to be a written proceeding based upon written  
3 submissions, and there will not be any oral  
4 comments to augment/modify these positions.

5 You-all will base your decision on the  
6 written submissions and the record proper.

7 DAVID GORE: And these written submissions  
8 are the four that we just read?

9 MR. WORLEY: The four that we read --

10 DAVID GORE: Right.

11 MR. WORLEY: -- and the one from the -- in  
12 order to keep the record straight, Exhibit 7A,  
13 Addendum 4, consisting of pages 6 through 12, being  
14 the BEMC stated position, and the four member  
15 comments, Mr. Gore.

16 DAVID GORE: Yeah. So that's what we will be  
17 deliberating on and basing our decisions on will be  
18 these four documents that we received, and also the  
19 document Brunswick Electric has been aware of where  
20 we stand today.

21 MR. WORLEY: All right. And I have one more  
22 exhibit. I will take it that you-all have read  
23 those written submissions, and if you need

1 additional time during deliberations, we can take  
2 as much time as you-all feel you need because we  
3 want you to have the best understanding and  
4 comprehension of the facts and documents that have  
5 been submitted.

6 Madam Court Reporter, one more exhibit is 7B,  
7 an additional affidavit of Janet Smith dated  
8 August 14th, 2023, consisting of seven pages,  
9 pages 1 through 7. And this contains the  
10 documentation regarding the resolution, the rules,  
11 and the BEMC timeline. So at this time, I move  
12 Exhibit 7B into the record.

13 And with that being said, I will present to  
14 Madam Court Reporter so that she can include as  
15 part of the record the notebook entitled Brunswick  
16 Electric Corporation August 17th, 2023 Public  
17 Hearing in re: the PURPA 2 Standards.

18 If you would make that part of your  
19 transcript.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. Yes, sir.

21 MR. WORLEY: And Mr. Chairman, that will  
22 conclude the presentation of the written  
23 submissions received from Brunswick Electric, made

1 part of the records, and received from the members,  
2 and placed into the record that Ms. Janet Smith  
3 maintains at the PURPA website.

4 DAVID GORE: Thank you, Mr. Worley. There  
5 will be no more written submissions. Those five, I  
6 think, are the total. At this time, we will close  
7 the presentation of the written submissions for the  
8 BEMC PURPA proceeding, and we will go take a brief  
9 recess to allow those that will not remain with us  
10 while we deliberate, leave.

11 We will take a ten-minute recess at this  
12 time.

13 (A recess transpired from 10:24 a.m. to  
14 11:31 a.m.)

15 MR. WORLEY: Are you back on the record,  
16 Madam Court Reporter?

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir. Thank you.

18 MR. WORLEY: Number one, we appreciate you  
19 coming today.

20 Number two, we would ask that you prepare an  
21 expedited transcript. I'm aware that that would be  
22 some additional cost, but we're trying to meet  
23 certain timelines, so if you would be kind enough

1 to do that.

2 We have concluded the hearing phase of it,  
3 and as the general counsel, I'm going to yield back  
4 to our chairman.

5 DAVID GORE: Madam Reporter, again, thank you  
6 for being here.

7 The decision of this regulatory body on both  
8 general statutes pertaining to the PURPA standards:  
9 They agreed to not adopt the standards. It was a  
10 roll-call vote. Each member was called, voted, and  
11 each one -- it was a unanimous decision.

12 So if you would let that reflect in the  
13 record.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir. Thank you.

15 DAVID GORE: Anything else?

16 MR. WORLEY: And with that, we will conclude  
17 the transcript. I would request you show that we  
18 started at 10 o'clock, and we're concluding at  
19 11:35 a.m.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

21 DAVID GORE: Thank you. We're adjourned.

22 (Hearing adjourned.)

23 (Hearing was concluded at 11:35 a.m.)

1 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )

2 COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER )

3 CERTIFICATION OF REPORTER

4 I, Cherie J. Anderson, Registered Merit  
5 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, Certified  
6 Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public and Court  
7 Reporter for the firm of AURELIA RUFFIN & ASSOCIATES,  
8 INC., have read the foregoing transcript, which was  
9 taken down and transcribed by me, and I find the  
10 contents of the same to be true and correct to the  
11 best of my knowledge and belief.

12 This the 17th day of August, 2023.

13

14 \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_

15 Cherie J. Anderson, RMR, CRR

16 Notary Public #201932500176

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1 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )

2 COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER )

3 CERTIFICATION

4 I, PETER BROWNE RUFFIN, III, Notary Public,  
5 Court Reporter, and President of AURELIA RUFFIN &  
6 ASSOCIATES, INC., do hereby certify that the foregoing  
7 transcript constitutes a true and correct record of  
8 the hearing before the Brunswick Electric Membership,  
9 the same having been taken down by Cherie J. Anderson,  
10 RMR, CRR, on the date and at the place set forth in  
11 the record and before those persons named therein;

12 FURTHER, that Peter Browne Ruffin, III and  
13 Cherie J. Anderson are not related to any of counsel;  
14 we are not employed by any of counsel or parties to  
15 this action, save and except for the explicit purpose  
16 of taking down the statements and presentations herein  
17 and transcribing same; and that we, in no way, are  
18 interested in the outcome of said litigation;

19 This the 17th day of August, 2023.

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23



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Notary Public #19971470080

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