

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-34, SUB 52

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Petition of Appalachian State University,)
d/b/a New River Light and Power Company)
for Approval of Renewable Energy Rider)
	ORDER AMENDING RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 19, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Approving Renewable Energy Rider in the above-captioned docket approving the petition from Appalachian State University, d/b/a New River Light and Power Company (NRLP) to offer, on a voluntary basis, an option for customers to purchase a portion of their energy needs from renewable energy resources.

On October 17, 2025, NRLP filed a petition to amend its Renewable Energy Rider (RER) (Petition). In support of its Petition, NRLP stated that under the current RER, participants pay, on a voluntary basis, a fixed \$5.00 per month for a quantity, or Block, of renewable energy. NRLP further explained that the initial Block size was set to 250 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month and fluctuated depending on the costs to both purchase the renewable energy and administer the program. NRLP stated that the annual changes to Block sizes had proven to be administratively burdensome and, in response, NRLP is requesting to keep the Block size constant and vary the amount paid per block depending on changes in costs, as explained more fully below.

NRLP stated that the number of residential participants in RER had been lower than expected with most Blocks being purchased by Appalachian State University, the Town of Boone, and Watauga County. NRLP explained that NRLP's proposal allows the price to fluctuate, similar to the manner in which the Commission allows NRLP's purchased power adjustment (PPA) cost to fluctuate every year. NRLP stated that the Block cost would be the difference between the actual energy cost, pursuant to its current wholesale power purchase contract, and the renewable energy cost. Additionally, NRLP proposed to include any costs associated with the Extra Facilities Charge as defined in NRLP's Schedule MS, which would pay for extra facilities such as poles and wires necessary to connect a renewable energy facility to NRLP's distribution system. NRLP explained that participants would be notified of the annual true-up adjustment and new price per Block by separate line-items in the Retail Rate Schedule and Notice to the Public as ordered by the Commission in NRLP's annual PPA docket.

In support of its Petition, NRLP stated that it would continue to maintain a deferred account for the aggregate incremental difference between the cost of purchasing renewable energy, including administrative costs and any Extra Facilities Charges, and the actual cost of energy purchased pursuant to its power supply contract for all other energy delivered to its customers. NRLP further explained that any difference between

the revenues received and the actual costs paid per the amended RER would be applied as an annual true-up at the end of each calendar year to adjust the cost of the Block for the following year. NRLP stated that the annual true-up process would ensure that only revenue received from participants under the RER would be used to pay the actual administrative and renewable energy cost differential incurred by NRLP.

Finally, NRLP stated that it would file a report in this docket as part of the annual PPA true-up process that would provide: (1) the number of participants; (2) the number of Blocks purchased; (3) the cost per Block purchased; (4) the status of the deferred account and adjustment to the Block price; and (5) information regarding NRLP's wholesale purchases under the RER to meet the demand.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's November 17, 2025 Staff Conference. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve NRLP's request to modify its RER and that any of NRLP's marketing materials for the RER that reference an expected Block cost should clearly indicate that the expected Block cost may vary due to administrative costs and renewable energy costs.

Based on the foregoing, the recommendation of the Public Staff, and the entire record, the Commission finds that the request to amend the RER as filed by NRLP, consistent with the Public Staff's recommendations noted above, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That NRLP's request to amend the RER shall be, and is hereby, approved as filed;
2. That NRLP shall file an annual true-up for the amended RER at the same time it files for a purchased power adjustment, starting in 2026; and
3. That any of NRLP's marketing materials for the amended RER that reference an expected Block cost clearly indicate that the expected Block cost may vary due to administrative costs and renewable energy costs.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 17th day of November, 2025.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

Chairman William M. Brawley and Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. did not participate in this decision.