



## *The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina*

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### **PSC DISCUSSES AGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Public Service Commission (PSC) of South Carolina held their weekly Commission Business Meeting, during which they discussed the agency's response to the outbreak of COVID-19. Among Commission action taken and decisions made at this meeting:

- Chairman Randy Randall moved to grant waivers of the regulations related to late payment charges and the procedures for termination of services, to apply to all regulated utilities.
- Chairman Randall also moved to direct all regulated utilities to suspend the disconnection of service during the State of Emergency declared during the outbreak.
- In a separate matter, Chairman Randall moved to request that Palmetto Utilities, Inc. and Blue Granite Water Company voluntarily stay all deadlines related to SC Code Ann. 58-5-240, including the six-month deadline for issuance of final orders, thus staying all increases in service charges related to Dockets No. 2019-281-S and 2019-290-WS.
- The Commission filed a letter to Governor Henry McMaster, the President of the South Carolina Senate, the Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the South Carolina Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the Members of the Public Utilities Review Committee, and the Members of the Senate and House LCI, requesting to stay all pending rate cases.

Randall noted, "I want to commend all utilities which have already informed the Commission, ORS, customers, and the media of suspension of disconnection of services for nonpayment during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This current State of Emergency is unprecedented, and we commend and appreciate all utilities, ORS, and customers in working through the issues presented daily."

These decisions come the day before the Commission’s virtual public night hearing in Docket No. 2019-281-S, the first hearing for which the agency’s virtual protocol for public comment will be put into place to protect the safety and security of the public. A recording of today’s meeting is available to watch at [this link](#) and dockets can be reviewed through the Commission’s Docket Management System on [their website](#). Docket No. 2020-106-A, “Actions in Response to COVID-19,” can be accessed at [this link](#).

For more information, please contact Chief Clerk Jocelyn Boyd at 803.896.5100 or follow the PSC on Twitter ([@PSCofSC](#)) or [Facebook](#) and the SC Utility Consumer public outreach brand on Twitter ([@UtilityConsumer](#)) and [Facebook](#) for updates.

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