

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Annual Report of Financial Impact of Videoconferencing Activities
Period Covered: July 2022 – December 2023

Date Prepared: January 12, 2024

During fiscal year 2023, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina conducted most hearings using videoconferencing as a means of all parties’ participation in the proceedings. The Commission had begun videoconferencing just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past three years as the pandemic has progressed, livestreaming of Commission hearings, business meetings, and consultant interviews has increased significantly. In addition to increasing the number of off-site participants through voice and video technology, livestreaming the Commission’s proceedings has doubled the visibility of the Commission’s business by allowing citizens and businesses to view proceedings as they occur and even watch later.

Live Streaming with Skype and WebEx Capabilities for Commission hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third-party consultants and experts saves businesses and citizens time as well as cost of traveling to and from the Commission located in Columbia. The savings will vary depending on how far a business or citizen would have to travel to attend a hearing, business meeting or public interview. The method of determining the savings would be at a rate of 65.5 cents per automobile mile plus the hourly rate of the business employee or citizen multiplied by the hours attending as well as traveling to and from the hearing/meeting.

In 2022-2023 livestreaming has remained high but has fallen slightly as onsite participation has begun to rise. Livestream data is compared in the table below for fiscal years 2019-2020 through 2022-2023:

PSC Livestream Viewer Traffic				
	Total Events (FY 2019- 2020)	Total Events (FY 2020- 2021)	Total Events (FY 2021- 2022)	Total Events (FY 2022- 2023)
July	767	877	977	480
August	740	517	517	828
September	399	518	518	791
October	1,913	1,228	1,228	1,096
November	570	1,550	1,550	580
December	771	777	747	178
January	375	3,433	3,443	1,176
February	832	1,541	1,541	287
March	777	2,742	2,742	2,177
April	346	2,467	2,467	2,145
May	559	1,046	1,046	857
June	567	655	493	2,341
TOTAL	8,616	17,351	17,269	12,936

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The Commission added WebEx in FY21 as another platform to allow more participation in the Commission's business affairs and continues to seek opportunities to enhance participation capabilities. The table below shows the number of virtual and audio participants in the Commission's proceedings for FY22-23 which includes, witnesses/other participants and counsel/representatives. These numbers are down from last FY21-22 since ExParte communication briefing panels have transitioned to in person.

Public Service Commission Proceedings Virtual & Audio Participants Fiscal Year 2022-23				
		Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)		
Month	Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops	Witnesses/ Other Participants	Counsel/ Rep's	Total
July 2022	2	6	10	18
August 2022	4	10	0	14
September 2022	2	25	2	29
October 2022	0	32	3	35
November 2022	6	21	4	31
December 2022	7	0	0	7
January 2023	0	61	11	72
February 2023	0	4	0	4
March 2023	4	8	5	17
April 2023	0	5	6	11
May 2023	1	0	0	1
June 2023	1	4	7	12
Totals	27	176	48	251

During FY2023, the Commission held 8 Customer Public Hearings. The table above is inclusive of testimony from customers.

The table below shows the number of virtual witnesses who testified in the 8 Customer Public Hearings.

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Public Service Commission Customer Public Hearings Testifying Participants Fiscal Year 2022-23					
Date	Event Docket	Event Name	# of Participants Called	# of Participants Testified	Total Participants
7/25/2022	2022-89-G	Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Incorporated for Adjustment of Rates and Charges (*This Filing May Include a Request for a Rate Increase*)		1	1
10/10/2022	2022-142-WS	Application of Daufuskie Island Utility Company, Incorporated for Approval to Adjust Its Rate Schedules and Increase Rates		5	5
11/28/2022	2022-259-E	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s Application for a Mid-Period Adjustment to Increase Base Rates for the Recovery of Electric Fuel Costs	25	18	18
12/08/2022	2022-254-E	Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Increase in Electric Rates, Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs, and Request for an Accounting Order Bishopville Customer Hearing In-Person		Participants were all present	
12/12/2022	2022-254-E	Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Increase in Electric Rates, Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs, and Request for an Accounting Order Sumter Customer Hearing In-Person		Participants were all present	
12/13/2022	2022-254-E	Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Increase in Electric Rates, Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs, and Request for an Accounting Order Florence Customer Hearing In-Person		Participants were all present	
01/03/2023	2022-254-E	Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Increase in Electric Rates, Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs, and Request for an Accounting Order	22	5	5
01/05/2023	2022-254-E	Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Increase in Electric Rates, Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs, and Request for an Accounting Order	22	12	12
Total Customer Public Hearing Participants			44	41	41

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The tables below include the same information as the tables above for the period July 2023 – December 2023:

PSC Livestream Viewer Traffic		
	Total Events (FY 2022-2023)	Total Events (FY 2023-2024 thru 12/2023)
July	480	2,230
August	828	6,375
September	791	4,145
October	1,096	2,511
November	580	1,116
December	178	3,130
TOTAL	3,953	19,607

Notes: 1. SCETV updated its livestream data portal during the year and is now reporting data for the entirety of FY 2022-2023. Numbers have been updated to reflect historical data.
2. In 2023, **the methods Google Analytics uses to collect and analyze data were modified**; this updated data methodology is reflected in our website traffic and audience behavior on the SCETV livestream page.

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		Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)		
Month	Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops	Witnesses/ Other Participants	Counsel/ Rep's	Total
July 2023	0	1	8	9
August 2023	0	33	8	41
September 2023	3	3	11	17
October 2023	0	7	2	9
November 2023	6	4	9	19
December 2023	0	3	8	11
Totals	9	51	46	106

Public Service Commission Customer Public Hearings Testifying Participants Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 2023-December 2023)					
Date	Event Docket	Event Name	# of Participants Called	# of Participants Testified	Total Participants
07/31/2023	2023-70-G	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s Application for Adjustments in Its Natural Gas Rate Schedules and Tariffs (This Application Includes a Request for a Rate Increase) Charleston Customer Hearing In-Person	N/A	0	0
08/01/2023	2023-70-G	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s Application for Adjustments in Its Natural Gas Rate Schedules and Tariffs (This Application Includes a Request for a Rate Increase) Aiken Customer Hearing In-Person	N/A	0	0

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08/03/2023	2023-70-G	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s Application for Adjustments in Its Natural Gas Rate Schedules and Tariffs (This Application Includes a Request for a Rate Increase) Florence Customer Hearing In-Person	N/A	1	1
08/21/2023	2023-70-G	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s Application for Adjustments in Its Natural Gas Rate Schedules and Tariffs (This Application Includes a Request for a Rate Increase) Columbia Customer Hearing In-Person	2	0	0
08/28/2023	2023-9-E	Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Columbia In-Person & Virtual	26	24	24
11/07/2023	2023-154-E	South Carolina Public Service Authority's (Santee Cooper) 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Columbia	6	4	4
11/08/2023	2023-154-E	South Carolina Public Service Authority's (Santee Cooper) 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Columbia	0	0	0
12/18/2023	2023-337-S	Ratepayer Complaints Regarding Sewage Rates in the Fairwood Subdivisions of the Blue Granite Water Company Service Area (Pursuant to Commission Directive Order No. 2023-740) Union Customer Hearing		Participants were all present	

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