

STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EDITED PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE: The information requested herein is needed to assist the Committee in its investigation of candidates for the Public Service Commission. This questionnaire is the initial step in the investigation of your candidacy. A completed questionnaire should be returned to the Committee as soon as possible, but in any event no later than noon, 12:00 p.m., on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. (Use and attach separate sheets, if necessary.)

PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING (THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE): 2nd

1. Full Name: Mr. James Blake Atkins

Home Address: 2320 Duncan St., Columbia, SC 29205

Business Address: N/A

6. List each institution of higher learning you attended, including dates of attendance and degrees awarded. Please provide an official transcript prior to your screening hearing. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving.

- Univ of South Carolina, Aug 1972-Dec 1976, BS-Marine Science
- Univ of South Carolina, Jan 1978-May 1979, Post-baccalaureate
- Clemson University, Aug 1979-Dec 1981, MS-Environmental Systems Engineering
- Univ of South Carolina, Aug 1991-Aug 1998, Ph.D.-Marine Science

7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years. (Please note I made paper presentations at two of the training conferences listed below)

StormCon Aug 2014¹

StormCon July 2013

Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality, Review Course, July 2013

Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, Review Course, July 2013

¹ Hegler, T., J.B. Atkins, Q. Epps and P. Thebo, Stormwater and Development Benefits from Richland County South Carolina's New Open Space Design Ordinance, Proceedings and Presentation, 2014 StormCon Conference, Portland, OR., Aug. 2014.



8. Have you been employed or held any position in any of the following areas?

- ☒ (a) energy issues
- ☐ (b) telecommunications issues
- ☒ (c) consumer protection and advocacy issues
- ☒ (d) water and wastewater issues
- ☒ (e) finance, economics, and statistics
- ☐ (f) accounting
- ☒ (g) engineering
- ☐ (h) law

Please provide the duration of your employment or service and details about the nature of the work or the position.

All of the governmental and business employment listed in Items 12 and 13 below comprise my experience in energy, water, wastewater, statistics and engineering. **This experience is separate from my prior service on the SC PSC from 2000-2004. Including my SC PSC experience would encompass all of the above areas.**

9. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates of service, branch of service, highest rank, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release.

No

10. Have you ever held public office? If so, provide details, including the office, whether elected or appointed, the length and dates of your service. Also, state whether or not you timely filed reports with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty. If so, provide details, including dates.

Yes, 2nd Congressional District, SC Public Service Commission, 2000-2004
Ethics reports filed and on-time

11. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, provide details, including dates.

At-Large Seat, SC Public Service Commission, 1998
2nd Congressional District, SC Public Service Commission, 2004

12. Please list in chronological order any employment of you by any governmental agency (whether full time or part time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise). Provide

² Johnson, D, J.B. Atkins and Q. Epps, Jackson Creek Mitigation Bank: Challenges and Benefits of an Urban Mitigation Bank, Presentation at the SC Engineering Conference, June 2013.

dates of employment, name of employer, name of supervisor, and major job responsibilities.

- Refer to my resume for name of supervisor and detailed job responsibilities

Director, Richland County Conservation Department, Dec 2010-May 2014

Served as Director of the Richland County Conservation Department which staffed the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and the Richland County Conservation Commission. Responsibilities included managing the District's and Commission's budgets, project management for the County's first contract to establish a Stream-Wetland Mitigation Bank, oversight over the Commission's conservation and historic grants program and the conservation easement program. Provided environmental staff support to the County's Planning Department regarding Green Code development and master plans, and the Stormwater Division in support of MS4 Permit water quality monitoring efforts.

Program Manager *, SC Commission on Higher Education, March 2006-Jan 2007

Assisted in the management of the SC Research Centers of Economic Excellence Program which provided \$30 million dollars annually to fund cutting-edge research at the State's three research universities in the areas of energy, environment, materials engineering, nanotechnology and biomedicine. *This was a non-FTE, temporary position funded through Endowed Chair funds until a permanent Program Manager was hired. During this time, I actively maintained my consulting business through Regulatory Heuristics (See Item 13).

Commissioner, 2nd Congressional District

Public Service Commission of South Carolina, March 2000-March 2004

Represented the 2nd Congressional District as an elected member of the Commission. During my term, the Commission heard approximately 500 cases concerning electricity, gas, facility siting, and telecommunication matters. As a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), was involved in the formulation and implementation of national policies regarding energy, environmental and telecommunication issues.

Research Associate Professor, Earth Sciences & Resources Institute

University of South Carolina, September 1996 - February 2000

Research interests included water resources engineering, nonpoint source pollution assessments, reservoir operation and optimization models, and environmental/water resources policy and mediation. Served as the principal investigator or co-investigator on four grants totaling \$1.2M under contract to the USDA, EPA and SCDHEC.

Senior Scientist/Engineering Associate IV

South Carolina DHEC, July 1994 - September 1996

Responsible for assistance in the development of programs and policies concerned with water resources management, drinking water and water quality programs for the Bureau of Water within SCDHEC.

Chief, Surface Water Hydrology

South Carolina Water Resources Commission, April 1985 - June 1994

As the lead engineering staff for the Surface Water Division, responsibilities included both technical guidance to the Commission concerning surface water engineering and hydrology programs and assistance in the development of policy on surface water resource issues. Responsible for the supervision of three professionals in the administration of the Interbasin Transfer Permit Program, river basin and reservoir operation model development, and low-streamflow analysis. Other responsibilities included review and technical assistance on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydroelectric relicensing applications, the Budget and Control Board Permit Program for Construction in Navigable Waters, verification of surface water conditions under the Drought Response Program, engineering review of State Infrastructure Bank projects, instream flow studies and the cooperative streamflow gaging program with the US Geological Survey.

Section Chief, Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Section

North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation, May 1984 - March 1985

Responsible for the development, administration, and technical oversight of the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program for Nutrient Sensitive Waters which totaled \$2.165 million dollars annually and included 15 counties in the state.

Extension Specialist, Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department

North Carolina State University, June 1981 - April 1984

Responsible for developing and coordinating the statewide educational program and affiliated-research projects concerning agricultural nonpoint source pollution of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Also served as educational coordinator for the North Carolina Agricultural Nonpoint Source Task Force.

Graduate Research Assistant, **Environmental Systems Engineering Department**
Clemson University, May 1979-May 1981

Coordinated 3-6 other graduate research assistants on the EPA - USDA Broadway Lake Model Implementation Project and a Duke Power Funded study to monitor and evaluate the environmental effect of constructing the **Bad Creek Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Project** in Oconee County.

Hydrologist, **United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division**
Columbia, SC, October 1977-August 1979

Responsible for the collection and processing of streamflow measurements, groundwater conditions and water quality samples as part of the Basic Data Section. Participated in a number of projects including reconnaissance of the Ashley River estuary, field surveys for HUD National Flood Insurance Program, mass - balance study at the **Chem-Nuclear low-level radioactive burial site at Barnwell**, South Carolina and data collection on the Corps of Engineers Cooper River Rediversion Project.

13. Please list in chronological order any occupation, business, or profession in which you have been engaged or employed (other than serving in a public office or being employed by a governmental agency). Please briefly note the nature of your work during each period.

Regulatory Heuristics, LLC, March 2004-Dec 2010

Served as president and owner of Regulatory Heuristics, a consulting firm focused on technical and policy issues in the energy, water and environmental sectors. Regulatory Heuristics offered services including issue research and advocacy as well as technical-based facilitation and mediation.

- Under contract to Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, provided technical advocacy support to promote the inclusion of energy efficiency standards in the HR 2454-American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.
- Under contract to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Project at George Mason School of Law, provided consulting services on a NETL-DOE sponsored project to examine and compare State Energy Emergency Response Plans regarding consistency with State Energy Assurance Guidelines published by the National Association of State Energy Officials.
- Under contract to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Project at George Mason School of Law, provided consulting services on a NETL-DOE sponsored project to examine electric power infrastructure cost-recovery in four Gulf-coast states after the 2005 hurricane season.
- Under contract to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program at George Mason School of Law, provided consulting services, including issue research and workshop facilitation, on a NETL-DOE sponsored project to promote commercial insurance products in the electric sector.

- Under contract to the SC Public Service Commission, served as the Eastern US State Regulatory Representative on the Planning Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Council.
- Under contract to the Institute for Public Utilities at Michigan State University, served as co-investigator on a project to develop efficient policies for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners on critical infrastructure protection and energy assurance planning.

14. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain.

No

15. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships that you currently have or have had in the past that could pose a conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None

22. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(14)? If so, please provide the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No

23. Since your decision to seek a position on the Public Service Commission, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value, as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(1), from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal? If so, please specify the item(s) received, date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal providing the item(s).

No

27. Please list the amount and recipient of all contributions made to members of the General Assembly within six months of filing this questionnaire.

James Smith for Gov, \$250, May 14, 2018

28. Have you directly or indirectly requested a pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened?

No to both questions

29. Have you or has anyone on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy for the position of Public Service Commissioner? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor (if applicable), donor, and date of solicitation and/or receipt.

No

30. List all professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

- Vice-Chair, Surface Water Committee, Water Resources Division, 1999-2000
- Source Water Protection Committee, Water Resources Division, 1998-2000

31. List all civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five (5) years.

Gills Creek Watershed Association

- Board Member and Chair, Technical Committee, 2008-2010,
- Board Member, 2016-2018

Shandon Neighborhood Council, May 2018-Present

Founding Member, Midlands Local Food Collaborative, Richland County, 2011-2014

Main St. United Methodist Church

University of South Carolina Alumni Association (Life Member)

32. State any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on you, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for a position on the Public Service Commission.

I believe my formal training in engineering and science, as well as four decades of technical and managerial experience in federal, state and local government, academia and consulting will be invaluable to the Commission and our State as we deal with the fallout from SCE&G's failure to complete the VC Summer nuclear plant. As a Commissioner, I will seek to make sure that the Commission's decisions are technically-sound, based on an accurate and complete record consistent with industry best practices, and all applicable State and federal statutes and regulations.

I would also respectfully request the Committee take notice of my numerous technical reports, grant management and consulting in the energy, water and environmental sectors contained in my attached resume. As we move beyond addressing the current nuclear failure, broader and highly-technical issues such as foreign cybersecurity threats, energy planning, inter and intra-region electric reliability, grid modernization, drinking water and wastewater system compliance

and water supply planning on a river-basin scale will be at the forefront of Commission matters.

In addition, I have extensive experience as a member of local, State, regional and international committees and boards during both my previous tenure on the Commission and in government and academia. Specifically, during my tenure on the Commission from 2000-2004, I served on the NARUC Board of Directors and the Board of the National Regulatory Research Institute at Ohio State University. I was also the vice chair of the NARUC Energy Resources and Environment Committee and served on the Water Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Global Climate Change. Further, I represented NARUC on the North American Electric Reliability Council's Planning Committee, the Public Council for Drinking Water Research of the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, and at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP-8, in New Delhi, India, in 2002.

Lastly, I would also respectfully request the Committee take notice of the included files contained in two folders (1) Atkins Testimony to House Ratepayer Committee Sept 2017 and (2) Commission Orders and Opinions. The first includes my testimony to the House Utility Ratepayer Protection Committee which summarized my testimony to the PSC in Docket No. 2008-196-E. In that testimony, I questioned the need for the nuclear plant, warned of negative financial impacts to ratepayers and warned of potential financial peril to SCE&G. The second contains three PSC orders, with my attached opinions, concerning water systems, water supply for a merchant power plant and certification of merchant power plant. My opinions provide my insights to difficulties facing the PSC during my tenure, all of which remain relevant and timely.

33. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom references could be required. Also, provide this Committee with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature. A photocopy, facsimile, or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation will not be accepted.

- 1) Dr. Benjamin C. Dysart - Brentwood, TN
- 2) Dr. Janice Beecher - East Lansing, MI
- 3) Mr. Sparty Hammett - Elizabeth City, NC
- 4) Ms. Chanda Cooper - Bishopville, SC
- 5) Banker Letter

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY RECORD INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE
AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: _____

Date: