

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1995 SESSION

CHAPTER 216
HOUSE BILL 366

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE FOR ALL AREAS OF THE STATE FOR WHICH CERTIFICATES HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 62-36A is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(b1) The Commission shall issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of this Chapter for natural gas service for all areas of the State for which certificates have not been issued. Issuance of certificates shall be completed by January 1, 1997, and shall be made after a hearing process in which any person capable of providing natural gas service to an area of the State for which no certificate has been issued or for which no application has been made by July 1, 1995, may apply to the Commission to be considered for the issuance of a certificate under the provisions of this subsection. In issuing a certificate for any unfranchised area of the State, the Commission shall consider the timeliness with which each applicant could begin providing adequate, reliable, and economical service to that area, as well as any other criteria the Commission finds to be relevant, and the Commission may issue a certificate covering less than the total area applied for by an applicant. If the Commission issues a certificate covering less than the total area applied for by the applicant, the applicant may refuse the certificate. In the event that the Commission receives no application for issuance of a certificate for service to a particular area of the State, or in the event a certificate for service to a particular area is not awarded for any reason, the Commission shall issue a certificate for that area to a person or persons to whom a certificate has already been issued."

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12th day of June, 1995.

Dennis A. Wicker
President of the Senate

Harold J. Brubaker
Speaker of the House of Representatives