

Spring 2020 Internship: Office of Regulatory Staff

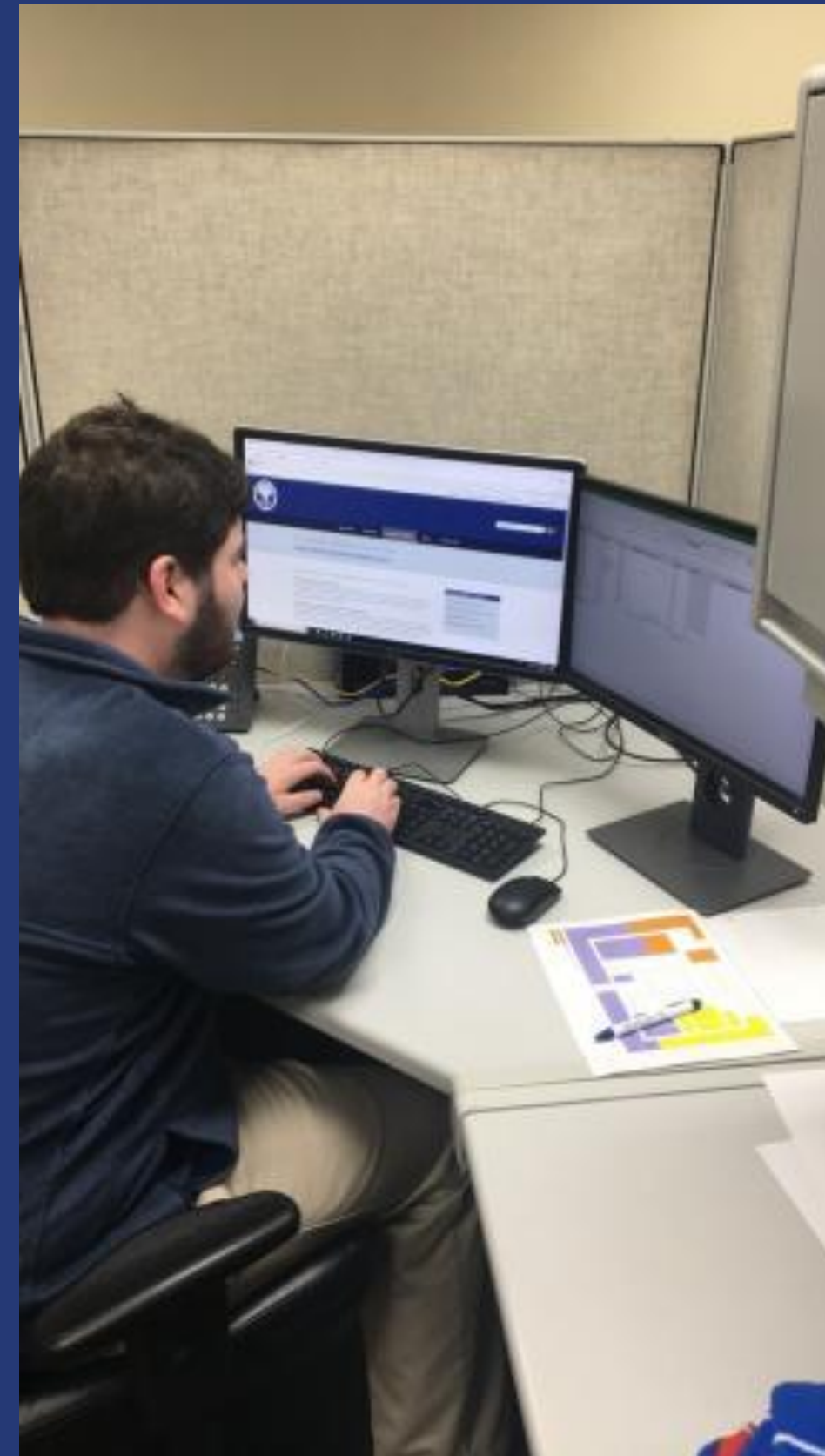
Department of Geography, GEOG 595

Ben Garris



Overview

I have the good fortune of working at the Office of Regulatory Staff, or ORS, an agency of the South Carolina state government.



I'm an intern in the Utilities, Rates, and Services division. We deal with the regulation of electric, water, and wastewater utilities. It's our job to represent the public interest in all matters regarding utility regulation.

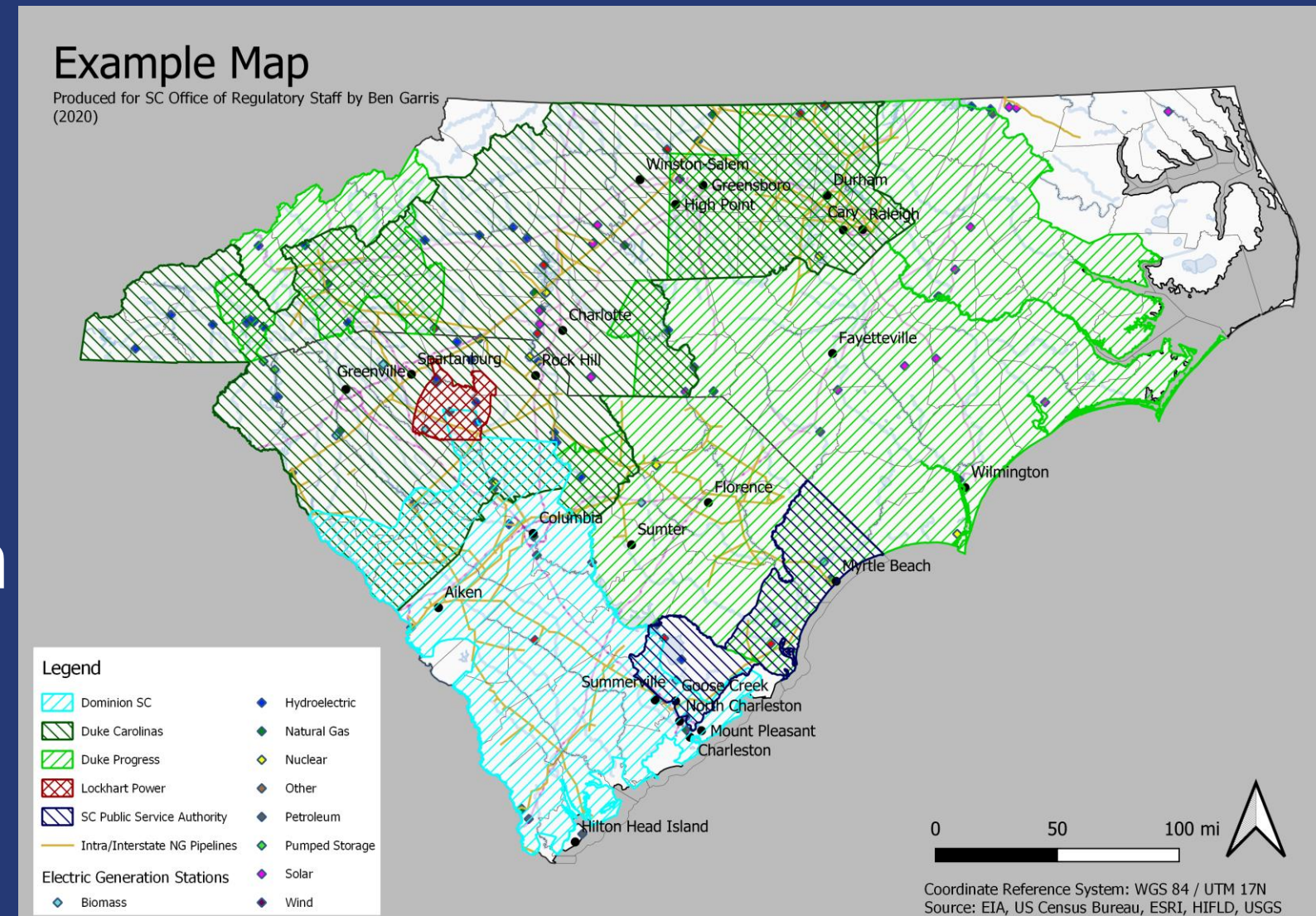
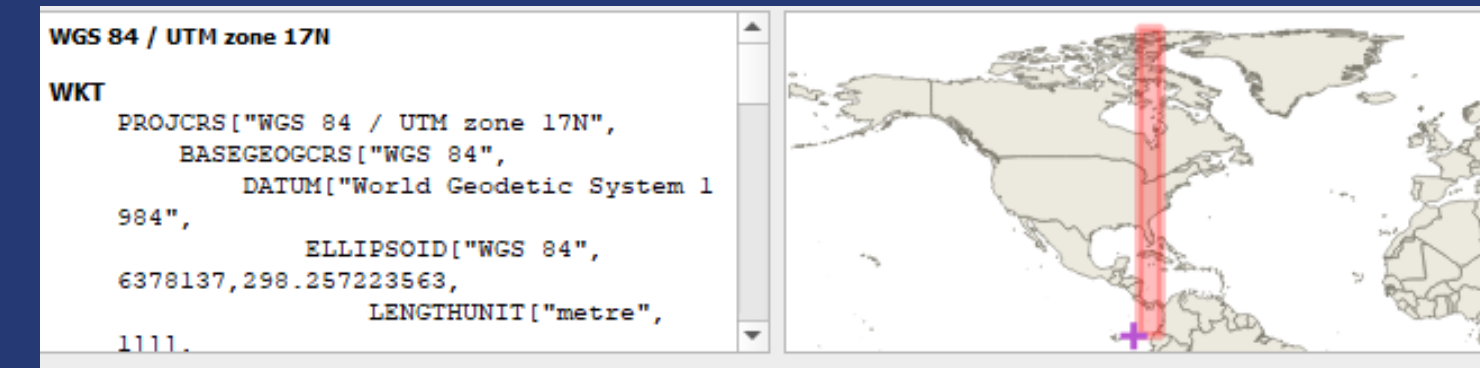
This opportunity has been incredibly informative for me. As an aspiring lawyer who is currently pursuing research in utility regulation, I have learned much about our state's utility system, and developed many critical skills in the process, including:

- **Technology & Research**
- **Professional Collaboration**
- **Communication & Organization**

I plan to continue this internship into the summer, and I would recommend it to any Geography majors with an interest in utility regulation.

Technology & Research

My internship at ORS has helped me develop skills in technology and research. Thanks to both my experience in GEOG 363, Intro to GIS, and my previous research in utility regulation, one of my biggest projects was creating a GIS of several utility-related features in the Carolinas, all of which I had to locate and then compile from multiple online databases.



Professional Collaboration

ORS is a community, with multiple divisions that span two office floors. A major part of this internship has been learning to work effectively with my colleagues, whether they were full-time employees or fellow interns. This included helping to plan and then attending the Utilities, Rates, and Services retreat, where we traveled to the McKissick Museum for a tour. Being able to succeed in this type of environment has required me to learn to work more effectively with other people, all from varying backgrounds and levels of experience.



Communication & Organization

A crucial skill to succeed at ORS is the ability to communicate. I was frequently asked to provide detailed, coherent summaries of requested information. This required me to succinctly synthesize large quantities of information in



short, written form—actual examples below! In addition to communicating information, I also had to organize it, whether it was sorting filing cabinets or digitizing documents.

84-E Review of Intervention

Witness Testimony—Ed Burgess

Notes: Avoided cost rates and been against solar. Do not support solar because solar QFT offset rates down and operate natural gas transmission and distribution. Have made various small but meaningful rates down incrementally. Using different rate methodologies for solar and transmission. Avoided cost filings are not "reasonably transparent." Questions for choosing criteria period.

Testimony

Location	Notes
Lake Wylie, SC	12/31/17
Lake Wylie, SC	Revised 1
Rock Hill, SC	Revised 1
Lexington, SC	
Lexington, SC	
Lexington, SC	Revised 4
Lexington, SC	(In the o)
Lowville, SC	Chattahoochee
Chattahoochee, SC	See Di

Site Visits

Amount
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duction

Bids

Rate Case Overview -- E-2, Sub 1219

ive -- September 1, 2020

-- 12/31/18; Pro-Forma through 1/31/20

increase -- \$585.9m - 15.6%

Rider Reduction -- \$120.2m - Panizza, N

! -- \$464.6m - 12.3%

E -- 10.30%, current ROE 2.54% (?)

ookwh -- \$17.29/month

Rate Cases