

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 400

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.)	
of North Carolina, 4944 Parkway Plaza)	ORDER APPROVING
Boulevard, Suite 375, Charlotte, North)	CUSTOMER NOTICE OF
Carolina 28217, for Authority to Adjust and)	TEMPORARY RATES SUBJECT
Increase Rates for Water and Sewer Utility)	TO AN UNDERTAKING TO
Service in All Its Service Areas in North)	REFUND
Carolina and for Approval of a Water and)	
Sewer Investment Plan)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 1, 2022, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or the Company) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to adjust and increase its rates for providing water and sewer utility service in all of its North Carolina service areas and for approval to establish and implement a three-year Water and Sewer Investment Plan (WSIP) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.1B and Commission Rule R1-17A. On July 26, 2022, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates, which declared this proceeding to be a general rate case and suspended the proposed rates for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-134.

On September 2, 2022, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearing, Establishing Intervention and Testimony Due Dates and Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Notice (Scheduling Order) which, among other things, set this matter for expert witness hearing to begin on Monday, November 28, 2022, and acknowledged CWSNC's intent to implement temporary rates on an interim basis, under bond and subject to refund, for water and sewer utility service rendered on and after January 31, 2023.

The hearing was held as scheduled. Briefs and proposed orders are due on or before January 31, 2023.

On January 13, 2023, CWSNC filed Notice of Intent to Place Temporary Rates in Effect Subject to an Undertaking to Refund Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-135 (Notice). In summary, the Notice states that CWSNC intends to exercise its statutory right to place into effect temporary rates pending a final order by the Commission approving permanent rates. CWSNC states that its proposed temporary rates will be implemented subject to an Undertaking to Refund and that by these rates, the Company will increase its current rates and charges for its CWSNC Uniform Water, CWSNC Uniform Sewer, Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour/Treasure Cove Water, and Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour

Sewer Rate Divisions by \$2,166,142, which represents temporary rate increases of 3.501%, 6.323%, 6.978% and 5.653%, respectively. CWSNC also states that it commits to make refunds, including interest at a rate specified by the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-130(e). CWSNC attaches to its Notice, as Appendices A and B, its proposed notices to customers and, as Appendix C, its undertaking to refund.

Based upon the foregoing and the entire record, the Commission concludes that good cause exists to approve the Notices to Customers, attached to this Order as Appendices A and B, and accept CWSNC's undertaking to refund, attached to the Notice as Appendix C.

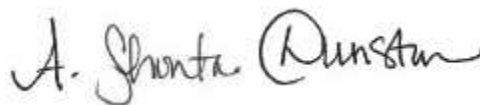
IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Notices to Customers, attached to this Order as Appendices A and B, shall be approved, effective for service rendered on and after January 31, 2023;
2. That the Undertaking to Refund, attached to CWSNC's Notice as Appendix C, shall be, and is hereby, accepted;
3. That CWSNC shall be, and is hereby, obligated to refund to its customers any amount of temporary rates made effective on and after January 31, 2023, that are finally determined by the Commission to be excessive, plus up to 10% interest per annum, and to make any refunds in a manner consistent with any additional terms and conditions imposed by the Commission in subsequent orders; and
4. That CWSNC shall mail or hand deliver to each of its customers copies of the applicable Notices to Customers, attached to this Order as Appendices A and B, within five days from the date of this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of January, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell did not participate in this decision.

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In the Matter of		
Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.)	
of North Carolina, 4944 Parkway Plaza)	
Boulevard, Suite 375, Charlotte, North)	
Carolina 28217, for Authority to Adjust and)	NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF
Increase Rates for Water and Sewer Utility)	TEMPORARY RATES SUBJECT
Service in All Its Service Areas in North)	TO AN UNDERTAKING TO
Carolina and for Approval of a Water and)	REFUND
Sewer Investment Plan)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 1, 2022, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or the Company) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to adjust and increase its rates for providing water and sewer utility service in all of its North Carolina service areas and for approval to establish and implement a three-year Water and Sewer Investment Plan (WSIP) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.1B and Commission Rule R1-17A. Pending a final decision on the Company's request for a permanent rate increase, the Company has the legal option to increase its rates and charges, on a temporary basis, subject to refund with interest, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-135.

On January 13, 2023, CWSNC filed Notice of Intent to Place Temporary Rates in Effect Subject to an Undertaking to Refund Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-135 (Notice). In summary, the Notice states that CWSNC intends to exercise its statutory right to place into effect temporary rates pending a final order by the Commission approving permanent rates. CWSNC states that its proposed temporary rates will increase its current rates and charges for its CWSNC Uniform Water, CWSNC Uniform Sewer, Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour/Treasure Cove Water, and Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour Sewer Rate Divisions by \$2,166,142, which represents temporary rate increases of 3.501%, 6.323%, 6.978% and 5.653%, respectively. CWSNC also states that it commits to make refunds, including interest at a rate specified by the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-130(e).

The Company's choice on whether to implement temporary rates for water utility service, as allowed pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-135, is determined by the Company and is not a decision by the Commission. However, the Commission finds that the Company has satisfied the statutory requirements necessary to place new rates into effect, on a partial, temporary basis and subject to refund with interest at a rate of up to 10% per annum, effective on and after January 31, 2023. In approving this Notice to Customers, the

Commission takes no position on whether the Company should or should not invoke the temporary rates under bond authorized by statute and notes that the decision of whether to implement temporary rates under bond lies solely with the Company.

The temporary rates that the Company is placing into effect on January 31, 2023, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-135 and subject to refund, are as follows:

ALL OF ITS SERVICE AREAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(excluding Fairfield Harbour Service Area, Treasure Cove, Register Place Estates, North Hills, Glen Arbor/North Bend, Bradfield Farms, Silverton, Woodland Farms, Larkhaven (Sewer) Subdivisions, and Hawthorne at the Green Apartments)

WATER RATES AND CHARGES

<u>Monthly Metered Water Service (Residential and Commercial):</u>		<u>Existing Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Base Facility Charge (based on meter size with zero usage)			
	< 1" meter	\$ 24.53	\$ 25.55
	1" meter	\$ 61.33	\$ 63.88
	1 1/2" meter	\$ 122.65	\$ 127.75
	2" meter	\$ 196.24	\$ 204.40
	3" meter	\$ 367.95	\$ 383.25
	4" meter	\$ 613.25	\$ 638.75
	6" meter	\$ 1,226.50	\$ 1,277.50
	8" meter	\$ 1,962.40	\$ 2,044.00
<u>Usage Charge:</u>			
A.	Treated Water/1,000 gallons	\$ 11.71	\$ 12.10
B.	Untreated Water/1,000 gallons (Brandywine Bay Irrigation Water)	\$ 5.99	\$ 6.19
C.	Purchased Water for Resale, per 1,000 gallons:		
	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Bulk Provider</u>	
	Carolina Forest	Montgomery County	\$ 3.19 \$ 3.19
	Eastgate	Fayetteville PWC	\$ 5.46 \$ 5.46
	Tanglewood South	Fayetteville PWC	\$ 5.46 \$ 5.46
	High Vista Estates	City of Hendersonville	\$ 5.27 \$ 5.27
	Riverbend	Town of Franklin	\$ 8.40 \$ 8.40
	Riverpointe	Charlotte Water	\$ 4.12 \$ 4.12
	Whispering Pines	Town of Southern Pines	\$ 3.70 \$ 3.70
	White Oak Plantation/ Lee Forest	Johnston County	\$ 3.20 \$ 3.20
	Winston Plantation	Johnston County	\$ 3.20 \$ 3.20
	Winston Point	Johnston County	\$ 3.20 \$ 3.20
	Willowbrook	Johnston County	\$ 3.20 \$ 3.20
	Woodrun	Montgomery County	\$ 3.19 \$ 3.19

Yorktown	City of Winston Salem	\$	5.79	\$	5.79
Zemosa Acres	City of Concord	\$	5.52	\$	5.52
Carolina Trace	City of Sanford	\$	2.21	\$	2.21

Commercial customers, including condominiums or other property owner associations who bill their members directly, shall have a separate account set up for each meter and each meter shall be billed separately based on the size of the meter and usage associated with the meter.

When because of the method of water line installation utilized by the developer or owner, it is impractical to meter each unit or other structure separately, the following will apply:

Sugar Mountain Service Area:

Where service to multiple units or other structures is provided through a single meter, the average usage for each unit or structure served by that meter will be calculated. Each unit or structure will be billed based upon that average usage plus the base monthly charge for a <1" meter.

Mount Mitchell Service Area:

Service will be billed based upon the Commission-approved monthly flat rate.

<u>Monthly Flat Rate Service:</u> (Billed in Arrears)	\$	68.71	\$	71.65
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Availability Rate: (Semiannual)

Applicable only to property owners in Carolina Forest and Woodrun Subdivisions in Montgomery County	\$	29.60	\$	30.87
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Availability Rate: (Monthly)

Applicable only to property owners in Linville Ridge Subdivision	\$	14.83	\$	15.46
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Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)

Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Sapphire Valley Service Area	\$	10.96	\$	11.43
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Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed quarterly)

Applicable only to property owners in Connestee Falls	\$	5.78	\$	6.03
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SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

Monthly Metered Sewer Service:

A. Base Facility Charge:

Residential (zero usage)	\$	41.03	\$	44.26
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Commercial (based on meter size with zero usage)

< 1" meter	\$	41.03	\$	44.26
1" meter	\$	102.58	\$	110.65
1 1/2" meter	\$	205.15	\$	221.30
2" meter	\$	328.24	\$	354.08
3" meter	\$	615.45	\$	663.90
4" meter	\$	1,025.75	\$	1,106.50
6" meter	\$	2,051.50	\$	2,213.00
8" meter	\$	3,282.40	\$	3,540.80
B. Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$	11.69	\$	12.70

Commercial customers, including condominiums or other property owner associations who bill their members directly, shall have a separate account set up for each meter and each meter shall be billed separately based on the size of the meter and usage associated with the meter.

Monthly Metered Purchased Sewer Service:

Collection Charge (Residential and Commercial)	\$	28.72	\$	30.98
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Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons
(based on water consumption)

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Bulk Provider</u>				
White Oak Plantation/ Lee Forest/Winston Pt.	Johnston County	\$	6.77	\$	6.77
Kings Grant	Two Rivers Utilities	\$	4.61	\$	4.61
College Park	Town of Dallas	\$	7.77	\$	7.77

<u>Monthly Flat Rate Service, per SFE or REU:</u>	\$	85.12	\$	85.12
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Multi-residential customers who are served by a master meter shall be charged the flat rate per unit.	\$	85.12	\$	85.12
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Mt. Carmel Subdivision Service Area:

Monthly Base Facility Charge	\$	7.72	\$	7.72
Monthly Collection Charge (Residential and Commercial)	\$	28.72	\$	30.98
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons (based on metered water from the water supplier)	\$	6.71	\$	6.71

Regalwood and White Oak Estates Subdivision Service Area:

Monthly Flat Rate Sewer Service				
Residential Service	\$	85.12	\$	85.12
White Oak High School	\$	2,525.23	\$	2,525.23
Child Castle Daycare	\$	323.73	\$	323.73
Pantry	\$	177.51	\$	177.51

Fairfield Mountain/Apple Valley (a.k.a. Rumbling Bald) Service Area, and Highland Shores Subdivision:

Monthly Sewer Rates:

Residential		
Collection charge/dwelling unit	\$ 28.72	\$ 30.98
Treatment charge/dwelling unit	<u>\$ 90.00</u>	<u>\$ 90.00</u>
Total monthly flat rate/dwelling unit	<u>\$ 118.72</u>	<u>\$ 120.98</u>
Commercial and Other:		
Minimum monthly collection and treatment charge	\$ 118.72	\$ 120.98
Monthly collection and treatment charge for customers who do not take water service	\$ 118.72	\$ 120.98
Treatment charge per dwelling unit		
Small (less than 2,500 gallons per month)	\$ 103.00	\$ 103.00
Medium (2,500 to 10,000 gallons per month)	\$ 182.00	\$ 182.00
Large (over 10,000 gallons per month)	\$ 286.00	\$ 286.00
Collection Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 13.93	\$ 13.93

The Ridges at Mountain Harbour:

Monthly Sewer Rates:

Collection charge (Residential and Commercial)	\$ 28.72	\$ 30.98
Treatment charge (Residential and Commercial)		
< 1" meter	\$ 16.95	\$ 16.95
2" meter	\$ 135.60	\$ 135.60

Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)

Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Sapphire Valley Service Area	\$ 11.05	\$ 11.05
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Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed quarterly)

Applicable only to property owners in Connestee Falls	\$ 6.23	\$ 6.23
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of January, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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The temporary rates that the Company is placing into effect on January 31, 2023, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-135 and subject to refund, are as follows:

TREASURE COVE, REGISTER PLACE ESTATES, NORTH HILLS, GLEN ARBOR/NORTH BEND
SUBDIVISIONS, FAIRFIELD HARBOUR SERVICE AREA, BRADFIELD FARMS SUBDIVISION,
LARKHAVEN (SEWER) SUBDIVISION, SILVERTON, AND WOODLAND FARMS SUBDIVISIONS, AND
HAWTHORNE AT THE GREEN APARTMENTS

WATER RATES AND CHARGES

<u>Monthly Metered Water Service (Residential and Commercial):</u>	<u>Existing Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Base Facility Charge (based on meter size with zero usage)		
< 1" meter	\$ 17.08	\$ 18.38
1" meter	\$ 42.70	\$ 45.95
1 1/2" meter	\$ 85.40	\$ 91.90
2" meter	\$ 136.64	\$ 147.04
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 6.68	\$ 7.12
<u>Availability Rate:</u> (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)		
Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Harbour Service Area	\$ 4.57	\$ 4.89

SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

<u>Monthly Sewer Service:</u>	<u>Existing Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
<u>Residential:</u>		
Flat Rate, per dwelling unit	\$ 61.58	\$ 65.06
Bulk Flat Rate, per REU	\$ 61.58	\$ 65.06
<u>Commercial and Other:</u>		
Monthly Flat Rate, per REU (Customers who do not take water service)	\$ 61.58	\$ 65.06
Monthly Metered Rates (based on meter size with zero usage)		
<1" meter	\$ 50.97	\$ 53.85
1" meter	\$ 127.42	\$ 134.63
1 1/2" meter	\$ 254.84	\$ 269.25
2" meter	\$ 407.75	\$ 430.80

Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$	2.65	\$	3.42
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Bulk Sewer Service for Hawthorne at the Green Apartments: ^{4/}

Bulk Flat Rate, per REU	\$	61.58	\$	65.06
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(To be collected from Hawthorne and delivered to Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina for treatment of the Hawthorne wastewater pursuant to Docket No. W-218, Sub 291)

Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)

Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Harbour Service Area	\$	3.23	\$	3.42
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ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of January, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk