

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 400

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 400	)	
	)	PUBLIC STAFF’S VERIFIED
In the Matter of	)	RESPONSE TO CAROLINA
Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.	)	WATER SERVICE, INC. OF
of North Carolina for Authority to Adjust	)	NORTH CAROLINA’S
and Increase Rates and Charges for	)	REPORT ON CUSTOMER
Water and Sewer Utility Service in All	)	COMMENTS FROM THE
Service Areas of North Carolina and	)	RALEIGH PUBLIC
Approval of a Three-Year Water and	)	HEARING
Sewer Investment Plan	)	

NOW COMES THE PUBLIC STAFF – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), by and through its Executive Director, Christopher J. Ayers, and pursuant to the Commission’s Order Scheduling Hearing, Establishing Intervention and Testimony Due Dates and Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Notice, submits its verified response to Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina’s Report on Customer Comments from Public Hearing Held in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 3, 2022.

The purpose of the Public Staff’s response is to provide the results of the Public Staff’s review of CWSNC’s report regarding the public hearing held on October 3, 2022, and whether CWSNC’s report adequately address the customers’ concerns.

On October 24, 2022, CWSNC filed a response to the concerns raised by Mr. Smoak and Mr. Roy during October 3, 2022, public hearing. The Company stated that the ratio of fixed revenue to volumetric revenue was not going to change, system specific notice would be expensive to prepare but would provide it in the future if Commission required it and that the three-year WSIP provides a longer term view of costs and investments for customers, regulators and stakeholders alike, provides some level of rate certainty over the rate years applicable to the plan and that it encourages a discussion about the utilities investment plan.

The Public Staff believes the Company adequately addressed the content of the public hearing. The Public Staff reviewed and investigated the rate increase requested by CWSNC and filed its testimony on October 26, 2022. The Public Staff's testimony addresses several of Mr. Smoak and Mr. Roy's concerns, including magnitude of the request, rate of return, and rate design. Therefore, this concludes the Public Staff's response.

VERIFICATION

Shashi M. Bhatta, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is a Engineer with the Water, Sewer and Telephone Division of the Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission and is acquainted with the facts set out in this pleading; that she has read the foregoing response and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of her own knowledge, except to those matters alleged on information and belief, and as to those, she believes it to be true.

  
Shashi M. Bhatta

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 8th day of November 2022.

  
Notary Public



My Commission expires: 2/13/2026