



**NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC STAFF
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

January 17, 2024

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Re: Docket No. W-1263, Sub 4 – JPC Utilities, LLC's General Rate Increase Application

Dear Ms. Dunston:

On January 4, 2024, the Public Staff filed its Motion to Cancel Public Witness Hearing and informed the Commission that as of Wednesday, January 3, 2024, the deadline to submit significant protests, only one customer of JPC Utilities, LLC (Applicant), had submitted a statement of position, which identified concerns with the rate proposed. The Public Staff also stated that the Applicant and the Public Staff were not aware of any other customer protests or comments made in connection with this matter.

On January 12, 2024, the Public Staff received the attached letter from Clancy Laizure, a commercial customer of the Applicant, and an accompanying petition appearing to have been signed by 35 other individuals. Based on the postmark, it appears that the letter was received by the Post Office on or before December 22, 2023. While the Public Staff has not verified that each signor is a customer of the Applicant, the Public Staff notes that the Applicant provides water utility service to approximately 68 metered commercial customers and wastewater utility service to approximately 57 metered commercial customers.

The Public Staff contacted Mr. Laizure to confirm receipt of his letter and the petition, and to inform him that the Public Staff would address the proposed rate increase in its investigation. Mr. Laizure requested that an in-person public witness hearing be scheduled. He and others were planning to attend and would like to be heard. The Public Staff also contacted counsel for Applicant, who objects

Executive Director
(919) 733-2435

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(919) 733-4279

Consumer Services
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Economic Research
(919) 733-2267

Energy
(919) 733-2267

Legal
(919) 733-6110

Transportation
(919) 733-7766

Water/Telephone
(919) 733-5610

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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to the rescheduling of a public witness hearing if it delays resolution of this docket. The Public Staff recommends that a public witness hearing be rescheduled as soon as possible. Due to time concerns, the Public Staff suggests that the Commission consider holding the hearing remotely.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to all parties of record.

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted

/s/ James Bernier, Jr.

Staff Attorney

james.bernier@psncuc.nc.gov

Attachments

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Jan 17 2024

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of the following on all parties of record, the attorney of record of such parties, or both in accordance with Commission Rule R1-39, by United States mail, postage prepaid, first class; by hand delivery; or by means of facsimile or electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 17th day of January 2024.

Electronically submitted
/s/ James Bernier, Jr.

Clancy Laizure
2205-R Oak Ridge Rd
Oak Ridge, NC 27310
(336) 209-0517

State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission
Raleigh

Re: Docket NO. W-01263, Sub 4

As a business owner and in conjunction with other business owners in Oak Ridge, NC, I would ask that the Commission deny this exorbitant increase that is asked for.

This 114% increase will monetarily hurt many of the businesses in this area. It will particularly cause the smaller business owners to become financially strapped due to the increase. In my particular business I cannot increase my prices to compensate for this exorbitant amount asked for.

To ask for this great of an increase, I feel borders on profiteering. JPC Utilities has not incurred such an increase in their costs to warrant this outlandish increase in our costs.

I would ask that the Utility Commission deny such an increase, as it is exorbitant and will be detrimental to many of the small businesses who have to use JPC Utilities without the ability to change their service provider.

Thank you for your time in this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clancy Laizure', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Clancy Laizure

Clancy Laizure
2205-R Oak Ridge Rd.
Oak Ridge, NC 27310

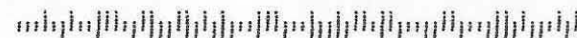
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Jan 17 2024



Mr. Christopher J. Myers
Executive Director
Public Staff
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC. 27699-4300

27699-432699



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Petition to NC Utilities Commission
Re: Docket NO. W-1263, Sub 4

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Jan 17 2024

The undersigned request that the proposed 114% increase in water and wastewater applied for by JPC Utilities be denied.

As a business owners in Oak Ridge NC, we are deeply concerned about the proposed 114% increase in water and wastewater service by JPC Utilities. Docket No. W - 1263, Sub 4 by the NC Utilities commission is not just an inconvenience, but will also threaten our livelihood. Our businesses, the backbone of our community will be severely impacted by this drastic hike.




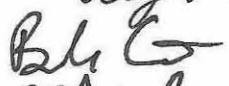
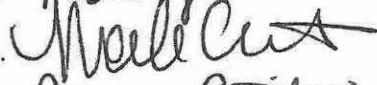


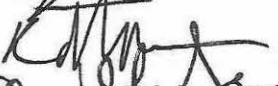





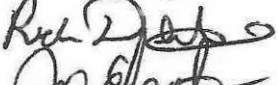



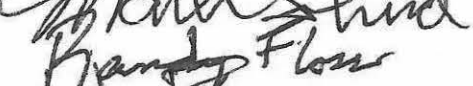







Our businesses are already grappling with economic challenges to recent events. A sudden doubling of utility costs would not only burden us financially, but could also lead to job losses and reduced services for our community members.

The average water bill for small businesses in Oak Ridge is currently around \$100 per month. If this proposal goes through , that cost could more than double to over \$200 per month - a financial burden many of us cannot bear. In a time when small business are already struggling due to economic uncertainties, this additional expense could force many to close their doors permanently.

We understand that utilities companies need to cover their costs and make necessary infrastructure improvements, however, such a significant increase seems excessive and unjustified without clear evidence of its necessity. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics the average annual inflation rate over the last decade has been around 1.8%. A sudden jump of utility rates by more than a hundred percent is far beyond any reasonable cost adjustments tied to inflation or operational costs

We urge the NC Utilities Commission to consider the impact on our community before approving such an extreme rate hike. We believe there must be other ways for JPC Utilities to meet its needs without imposing such a heavy burden on its customers.

Please stand with us-sign this petition urging the NC Utilities Commission to deny JPC Utilities application for a 114% increase in water and wastewater service rates.

Name	Address	Signature
CIANCY LARZANO	2205-R Oak Ridge Rd	
Cindy Abbott	2205 - Z Oak Ridge Rd.	Cynthia Abbott
Cameron Ligon	2205-X+P Oak Ridge Rd.	
Cong Jin Li	2205-O Oak Ridge Rd.	
Brandon Carty	2209 Oak Ridge Rd	
Nikki Taylor	8001-A Marketplace Dr	Nikki Taylor
Nicole Crites	1692 NCHWY 68 Suite F	
Corey Crites	1692 NCHWY 68 Suite I	Corey Crites
Jangmi Choi	1692 G NC 68 North	
Kim Du	1692 NC 68 North	
Keith Morgan		
Chen Geoghegan	7842 Eversfield Rd	
Michelle Brown	7494 Bethel View Ct.	Michelle Brown
Jim Rouais	629 NICKEL CREEK CT	
NoLan McDowell	6100 Friendly Ave	
Brian Privette	7615 Whitaker Dr.	
Joe Shuck	7726 PETERS GROVE RD	
Rich Dabo	3403 Annez Drive	
Joe Edgerton	6050 Shaw Hills Ct.	
Brian Pitcher	9301 Smoke Hollow Rd	
DONOVAN MCDONNELL	9000 QUIET RESERVE RD	
MARK SHINA	8400 PARKCHESTER PL	
Randy Floss	5914 Tarleton Dr	
Michael Tinger	8400 Crichton Ct	
Daniel O'Connor	7565 Garbeza Drive	
LISA JOYCE	5757 Bunch Rd. Oak Ridge	
Keith Pearman	141 Angle Pl Stokesdale NC	
Tracy Blevins	7712 Perthshire Dr.	
ROD BEESON	7388 Lees Ridge Rd OR.	

Name	Address	Signature
Amy Oglesby	4396 Hollow Hill Rd Kernersville NC 27284	Amy Oglesby
Nicole King	8805 Case Ridge Dr Oak Ridge NC 27310	Nicole King
Kathryn Gause	5700 Foxcroft Dr Oak Ridge, NC 27310	Kathryn Gause
Terri Harris	8216 Messenger Court Stokesdale NC 27357	Terri Harris
Cheryl Albright	7605 KERTING DR OAK RIDGE NC 27310	Cheryl Albright
Andrew Micheli	8216 Hunting Gap Rd Oak Ridge Physical Therapy	Andrew Micheli
JOHN ROCK	7614 BRAELANDS DR SUMMERFIELD, NC	John R. Rock

Clancy Laizure
7839 Spencer Brook Dr.
Summerfield, NC

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Executive Director
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