



3. On March 18, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice which, among other things, scheduled a public witness hearing for June 11, 2020, and an evidentiary hearing for August 4, 2020. The Order also directed Pluris to mail notice to its customers of Pluris' application to increase rates and the proposed hearing dates, and directed Pluris to file with the Commission a Certificate of Service properly notifying the Commission that the notice, all as more particularly described in the Order.

4. The March 18, 2020 Order also provides "[t]hat the direct testimony and exhibits of the Public Staff and other intervenors on all subjects except the subject of the public witness hearing shall be filed on or before Thursday, June 25, 2020, and that the rebuttal testimony of Pluris, if any, shall be filed on or before Wednesday, July 15, 2020."

5. In March 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a progression of Executive Orders that declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). On May 5, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 138 easing some restrictions on business operations and mass gatherings, but still limiting face-to-face meetings to no more than ten people and requiring social distancing between individuals of at least six feet.

6. On June 2, 2020, based on the record and the current state of uncertainty regarding future requirements to assist in preventing the spread of

COVID-19, the Commission found good cause to cancel the public witness hearing scheduled for June 11, 2020. The evidentiary hearing is presently still scheduled for August 4, 2020, and the timing of the public witness hearing and customer notice has not yet been determined.

7. The Public Staff has worked diligently to meet the current June 25, 2020, deadline for the filing of its testimony. However, for a number of reasons, including other matters currently pending before the Commission and absence of customer notice, the Public Staff is in need of additional time to file its testimony.

8. Based on the foregoing, the Public Staff requests an extension of time to July 14, 2020, to file its testimony, and a corresponding extension to July 31, 2020, should be granted for Pluris to file its rebuttal testimony.

9. The undersigned counsel for the Public Staff has contacted counsel for Pluris and is authorized to represent that Pluris does not object to the extension requested by the Public Staff, provided the Commission grants a corresponding extension for Pluris to file the rebuttal testimony of its witnesses. In addition, in light of other constraints on the Commission's schedule, on behalf of the parties, the Public Staff respectfully requests that the Commission reschedule the public and evidentiary hearings at its convenience.

WHEREFORE, the Public Staff requests that the Commission enter an order (1) granting an extension until July 14, 2020, for the Public Staff to file its direct testimony and exhibits, (2) granting an equivalent extension to July 31, 2020, for Pluris to file its rebuttal testimony and exhibits.

This the 23rd day of June, 2020.

PUBLIC STAFF  
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Electronically submitted  
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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Motion on all parties of record 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 23rd day of June, 2020.

Electronically submitted  
/s/ William E. H. Creech