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August 11, 2022

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston Chief Clerk North Carolina Utilities Commission 430 N. Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27603 Via Electronic Submittal

Re: In the Matter of WLI Investments, LLC v. Old North State Water Company, Inc. and Pluris Hampstead, LLC Docket Nos. W-1300, Sub 77 and W-1305, Sub 35 Respondents' Joint Statement on Jurisdiction

Dear Ms. Dunston:

On behalf of Old North State Water Company, Inc. (ONSWC) and Pluris Hampstead, LLC ("Pluris") (Respondents), I am herewith submitting the attached Joint Statement on Jurisdiction in the above referenced dockets.

If you should have any questions concerning this filing, please let me know.

Thank you and your staff for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Isl David 7. Drooz

David T. Drooz Attorney for Old North State Water Company, Inc.

pbb Enclosure

cc: All parties and counsel of record NC Public Staff

A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership

California Colorado District of Columbia Delaware Florida Georgia Illinois Minnesota Nevada New Jersey New York North Carolina Pennsylvania South Carolina Texas Virginia Washington

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1305, Sub 35 DOCKET NO. W-1300, Sub 77

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

)
) JOINT STATEMENT ON
) JURISDICTION
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)

NOW COME Old North State Water Company, Inc. ("ONSWC") and Pluris Hampstead, LLC ("Pluris") (collectively "Respondents") and provide the following joint response to the Commission's August 2, 2022, Order Requiring Parties to File Statement on Jurisdiction.

1. If the Commission has subject matter jurisdiction as to the matters alleged in the Complaint, that jurisdiction should be exclusive. Complainant should be barred from filing any action Superior Court with regard to the terms and conditions of the Development Agreement.

2. The Development Agreement entered into by ONSWC and WLI on December 13, 2018, and upon which this Complaint is based, was filed with the Commission in Docket W-1300, Sub 56 on January 4, 2019, in connection with ONSWC's Notice of Contiguous Extension. The Notice of Contiguous extension was subsequently recognized by the Commission. 3. As noted by in the Commission's Order, the Development Agreement provides in Section 17.12 that the state and federal courts of North Carolina shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the Agreement. However, a judicial authority cannot be divested of subject matter jurisdiction by contract. In addition, no party has suggested that the Commission does not have jurisdiction.

4. The Complaint in these dockets is directed against two certificated public utilities that are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. It alleges that WLI is entitled under the Development Agreement to install a low-pressure collection system in the Lea Tract. It also alleges violations of the Public Utilities Act, including a claim that the Development Agreement is inconsistent with representations made in the Asset Purchase Agreement that is part of the Transfer Application pending in Dockets W-1300, Sub 69, and W-1305, Sub 29. In these circumstances, the Commission has subject matter jurisdiction to review the allegations in the Complaint.

ONSWC and Pluris hereby stipulate that they waive any objection based on
Section 17. 12 of the Development Agreement.

Respectfully submitted, this the 11th day of August, 2022.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

By:/s/ David T. Drooz David T. Drooz Fox Rothschild LLP 434 Fayetteville Street Suite 2800 Raleigh, NC 27601 (919) 755-8764 E-mail: DDrooz@foxrothschild.com Attorney for Old North State Water Company, Inc.

BURNS, DAY & PRESNELL, P.A.

By: <u>/s/ Daniel C. Higgins</u> Daniel C. Higgins P.O. Box 10867 Raleigh, North Carolina 27605 Telephone: (919)782-1441 E-mail: <u>dhiggins@bdppa.com</u> *Attorney for Pluris Hampstead, LLC*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing Joint Statement on Jurisdiction, has been served on all parties and counsel of record in these dockets by either depositing same in a depository of the United States Postal Service, first-class postage prepaid and mailed by the means specified below, or by electronic delivery.

This the 11th day of August, 2022.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

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