



**NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC STAFF
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

March 1, 2024

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

Re: Docket No. W-218, Sub 553 – Application by Aqua North Carolina, Inc., for
a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates
for Gardner Farms

Dear Ms. Dunston:

On July 28, 2022, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua) filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates (Application) to provide water utility service to Gardner Farms in Wake County, North Carolina in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110. On July 25, 2023, the Public Staff filed a letter outlining the deficiencies in the Application and indicating that the Public Staff considered the Application incomplete. On July 31, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Incomplete and Request for Additional Information. On January 31, 2024, Aqua filed additional information in response to the Public Staff's letter outlining deficiencies. On February 14, 2024, the Public Staff filed a letter with the Commission identifying one remaining deficiency in the Application and indicating that the Public Staff still considered the Application incomplete and the Commission issued a Second Order Findings Application Incomplete and Requesting Additional Information. Also on February 14, 2024, Aqua filed additional information in response to the Public Staff's letter of the same date. On February 21, 2024, the Public Staff filed a letter indicating that, as of February 14, 2024, the docket included all the information required for a complete application.

On February 23, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Complete and Requiring Public Staff to Provide Specific Application Data ordering the Public Staff to provide the Commission the information in the five paragraphs enumerated below. In response thereto, the Public Staff provides as follows:

Executive Director
(919) 733-2435

Accounting
(919) 733-4279

Consumer Services
(919) 733-9277

Economic Research
(919) 733-2267

Energy
(919) 733-2267

Legal
(919) 733-6110

Transportation
(919) 733-7766

Water/Telephone
(919) 733-5610

1. The number and type of customers to be served by Aqua:

Aqua proposes to serve 43 residential water customers.

2. The rates currently being charged to customers, including the docket number, if applicable, in which the current rates were approved by the Commission and the effective date(s) for the current rate:

There are currently no customers in the proposed service area.

3. The proposed rates Aqua seeks to charge if the Commission approves the issuance of a CPCN to Aqua for the provision of water utility service to The Sanctuary at Lake Wheeler in Wake County, North Carolina:

Aqua proposes to charge the same uniform rates approved in Docket No. W-218, Sub 573 (WSIP Rate Years 1-3) on July 31, 2023. As shown on page 1 of the Amended Application filed on January 31, 2024, the WSIP Rate Year 2 uniform base charge and usage charge are \$21.70 and \$8.86 per 1,000 gallons, respectively.

4. If an increase in rates is proposed, provide the impact on the average monthly residential sewer bill under the proposed rates compared to current rates. For metered rates, indicate the average monthly usage used in your calculations:

Aqua does not propose a rate increase. There are currently no customers in the proposed service area.

5. Briefly summarize any pertinent points from the application such as a description of any planned capital improvements, the related dollar amounts, the estimated total impact on annual revenue requirement, and the estimated impact on the average monthly residential sewer bill.

The Application proposes to serve a new service area in Wake County, North Carolina. According to the Water Utility System Agreement, Aqua will purchase the water system from the developer for \$1,750 per single family residential equivalent with no connection fee. The Application states that Aqua's planned improvements are limited to routine replacement of pumps, motors, and piping.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Electronically submitted
/s/ Megan Jost
Staff Attorney
megan.jost@psncuc.nc.gov