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PLACE: Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina  
DATE: June 23, 2020  
DOCKET NO: W-218, Sub 526  
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.  
BEFORE: Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application by Aqua North Carolina, Inc.,  
202 MacKenan Court, Cary, North Carolina 27511,  
for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for  
Water and Sewer Utility Service in All of Its  
Service Areas in North Carolina

VOLUME 1

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A P P E A R A N C E S:  
FOR AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC.:  
No attorney present  
  
FOR THE USING AND CONSUMING PUBLIC:  
William E. Grantmyre, Esq.  
Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning.  
3 Let's come to order and go on the record. I am  
4 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland, the presiding  
5 Commissioner for this hearing.

6 I now call for hearing Docket Number W-218,  
7 Sub 526, In the Matter of Application by Aqua North  
8 Carolina, Inc., 202 MacKenan Court, Cary, North  
9 Carolina 27511, for Authority to Increase Rates for  
10 Water and Sewer Utility Service in All of Its Service  
11 Areas in North Carolina.

12 Pursuant to the State Government Ethics Act,  
13 I am aware of the duty of Commissioners to avoid  
14 conflicts of interest, and I state for the record that  
15 I have no known conflict of interest with respect to  
16 this docket.

17 On December 31st, 2019, Aqua North Carolina,  
18 Inc., Aqua or Company, filed an Application with the  
19 Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for  
20 water and sewer utility service in all of its service  
21 areas in North Carolina.

22 On February 14th, 2020, the Commission  
23 issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case,  
24 Scheduling Hearings and Requiring Customer Notice.

1 The Order scheduled six public hearings throughout the  
2 Company's service territory for the purpose of hearing  
3 from customers regarding the Company's Application and  
4 quality of service, and scheduled a hearing in Raleigh  
5 to begin on June 23rd, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. for the  
6 purpose of receiving testimony from the parties'  
7 expert witnesses.

8 By Order of the Commission issued on  
9 March 31, 2020, the public hearings were postponed  
10 following issuance of Governor Roy Cooper's Executive  
11 Order No. 116 which declared a State of Emergency in  
12 North Carolina to coordinate responsive and protective  
13 actions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus,  
14 COVID-19, and which restricted public gatherings in an  
15 effort to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. The  
16 postponed public hearings will be rescheduled in the  
17 near future by Order of the Commission.

18 In the continuing effort to comply with the  
19 March 31 Executive Order and subsequent Executive  
20 Orders designed to have state residents and state  
21 agencies limit unnecessary person-to-person contact in  
22 work places and other locations where people gather,  
23 the Presiding Commissioner has excused the witnesses  
24 and counsel for the Company and the intervening party

1 in this docket from attending the hearing today.

2 Intervening parties are the Public Staff and the

3 Attorney General's Office.

4 Before I proceed further, one counsel has  
5 made an appearance and for the record he may state his  
6 appearance at this time.

7 MR. GRANTMYRE: Good morning, Commissioner  
8 Brown-Bland. My name is William Grantmyre, Public  
9 Staff, Legal. We represent the Using and Consuming  
10 Public. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: Good morning,  
12 Mr. Grantmyre. It's good to see you here.

13 At this time, due to the State of Emergency  
14 relating to COVID-19, this proceeding is now recessed  
15 and will resume on Monday, July 6th, 2020, at 1:30  
16 p.m. for the receipt of expert witness testimony by  
17 virtual means using the WebEx electronic platform.  
18 The link and any necessary instruction, which will  
19 allow the public to view and follow the hearing, will  
20 be posted on the Commission's website at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net)  
21 prior to the resumption of the proceeding.

22 Mr. Grantmyre, do you have anything to bring  
23 to the Commission's attention prior to it's --

24 MR. GRANTMYRE: No.

1                   COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: So at this moment  
2 this hearing is recessed and we will resume on  
3 July 6th.

4           (The hearing was adjourned at 9:40 a.m., and set to  
5 reconvene on Monday, July 6th, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM T. MITCHELL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that  
the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were  
taken before me, that I did report in stenographic  
shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the  
foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription  
to the best of my ability.

*Kim T. Mitchell*\_\_\_\_\_

Kim T. Mitchell  
Court Reporter