



the Application). The Applicant provides water utility service to 304 customers (302 residential customers and two commercial customers).

- B. On February 19, 2024, the Commission declared the proceeding to be a general rate case and suspended rates for up to 270 days.
- C. On April 11, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Procedural and Filing Requirements, and Requiring Customer Notice, and on April 22, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Rescheduling Public Witness Hearing, Revising Dates for Filing Reports, and Requiring Customer Notice (collectively, the Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order required the Company to file its direct testimony and exhibits on or before May 10, 2024, Public Staff and intervenors to file direct testimony and exhibits on or before June 7, 2024, and the Company to file its rebuttal testimony and exhibits, if any, by June 25, 2024.
- D. A Public Witness Hearing was held on June 4, 2024, at the Jackson County Courthouse, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina 28779. Two customers testified at the hearing.
- E. The Applicant did not pre-file direct testimony or exhibits.
- F. On June 7, 2024, the Public Staff filed the Direct Testimony and Exhibit of Shashi M. Bhatta, Utilities Engineer; Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division; the Direct Joint Testimony and Exhibit of Darrus K. Cofield and Michelle Boswell, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst, Accounting Division, and

Director of the Accounting Division of the Public Staff, respectively; and the Affidavit of Patrick A. Fahey, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst, Economic Research Division.

- G. On June 18, 2024, the Applicant filed its Verified Report on Customer Complaints. On July 1, 2024, the Public Staff filed its Verified Response of the Public Staff to Verified Reports on Customer Complaints.
- H. On June 25, 2024, the Applicant filed the Joint Rebuttal Testimony of Peedin & Perry Consulting LLC, and Owen Schultz.
- I. The Applicant and the Public Staff (Stipulating Parties) participated in settlement discussions following the Public Staff's investigation of the Company's Application and the filing of the Company's rebuttal testimony.
- J. On July 10, 2024, the Stipulating Parties notified the Commission that they had agreed in principle to a settlement and filed their Settlement Agreement and Stipulation (Stipulation) resolving all issues between them.
- K. On or before Friday, July 12, 2024, the Public Staff intends to file the Joint Settlement Testimony of Shashi M. Bhatta, Darrus K. Cofield, and Michelle Boswell in support of the Stipulation (Joint Settlement Testimony).
- L. Pursuant to the Stipulation, the Stipulating Parties agreed that all pre-filed testimony and exhibits of the Stipulating Parties may be received in evidence without objection, along with the verified Application and the Stipulation, and the Joint Settlement Testimony, when filed, and that each

Stipulating Party waives all right to cross-examine any witnesses but reserves the right to examine witnesses as follow-up to any questions from the Commission or non-stipulating parties.

- M. The Public Staff has consulted with counsel for the Applicant, and the Parties seek excusal of witnesses from appearance at the scheduled evidentiary hearing of this matter.
- N. The Parties therefore respectfully move that HH Water witnesses Peedin & Perry Consulting LLC, and Owen Schultz; and Public Staff witnesses Bhatta, Cofield, Boswell, and Fahey be excused from attending the evidentiary hearing in this docket.
- O. The Parties further move that all pre-filed testimony of witnesses Peedin & Perry Consulting LLC, and Owen Schultz; and Public Staff witnesses Bhatta, Cofield, Boswell, and Fahey be entered into the record as if given orally from the stand, and that all the exhibits of these witnesses be admitted into evidence.
- P. The Parties further move that the verified Application, along with the supplemental and additional materials filed in support of the Application, and the Stipulation filed in this docket be admitted into evidence.
- Q. The Public Staff and HH Water further request that the evidentiary hearing scheduled for Thursday July 11, 2024 be cancelled.

Respectfully submitted, this the 10th day of July, 2024.

PUBLIC STAFF  
Christopher J. Ayers  
Executive Director

Lucy E. Edmondson  
Chief Counsel

Electronically submitted  
/s/ James Bernier, Jr.

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Electronically submitted  
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing Motion upon each of the parties of record in this proceeding or the attorney of record of such party, or both, in accordance with Commission Rule R1-39, by United States mail, first class or better; by hand delivery; or by means of facsimile or electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 10th day of July, 2024.

Electronically submitted  
/s/ James Bernier, Jr.