BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION DOCKET NO. W-1318, SUB 1

In the Matter of
Application by HH Water, LLC,
for Authority to Adjust and Increase
Rates for Water Utility Service in High
Hampton Service Areas in Jackson
County, North Carolina

SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY
OF SHASHI M. BHATTA
PUBLIC STAFF –
NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

July 2, 2024

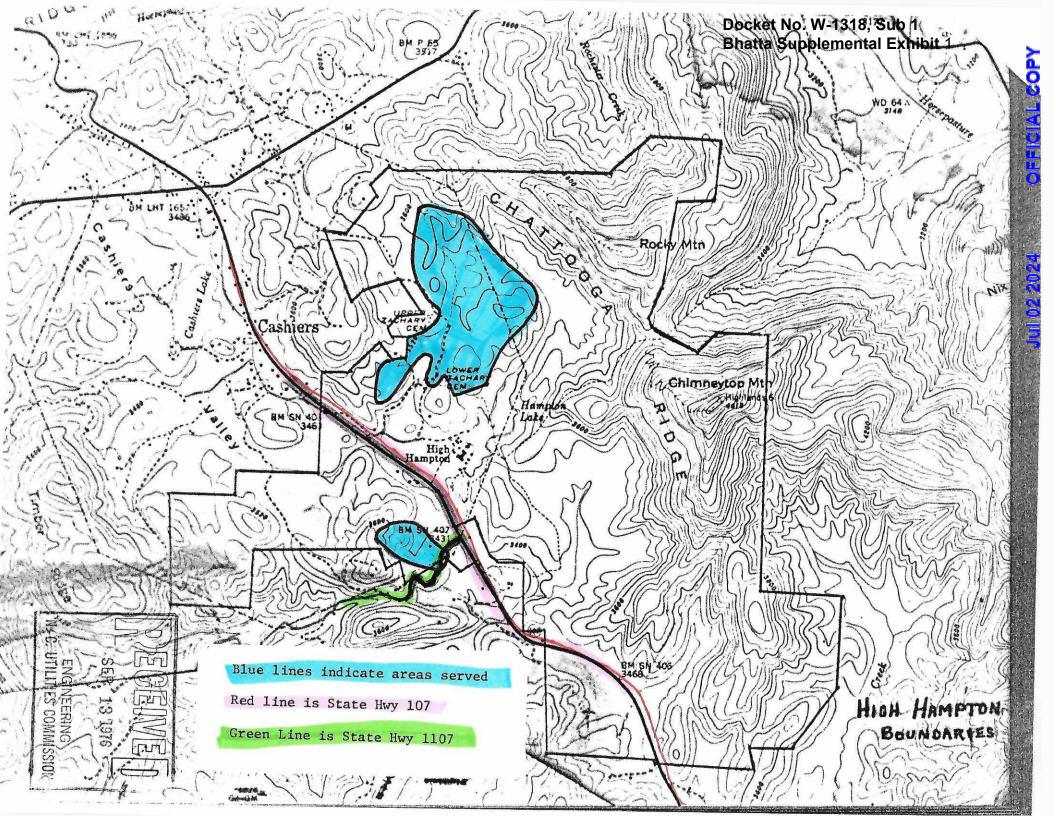
- 1 Q. Please state your name, business address, and present
- 2 **position**.
- 3 A. My name is Shashi M. Bhatta. My business address is 430 North
- 4 Salisbury Street, Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina. I am a
- 5 Public Utilities Engineer with the Water, Sewer, and Telephone
- 6 Division of the Public Staff North Carolina Utilities Commission
- 7 (Public Staff).
- 8 Q. Are you the same Shashi M. Bhatta who filed direct testimony
- on behalf of the Public Staff in this proceeding on June 7, 2024?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Are your qualifications and duties the same as stated in your
- 12 direct testimony?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What is the purpose of your supplemental testimony?
- 15 A. The purpose of my supplemental testimony is to update HH Water,
- 16 LLCs service area information and clarify the customer count
- provided in the billing records for the test year, and the customer
- 18 count used in the billing analysis.

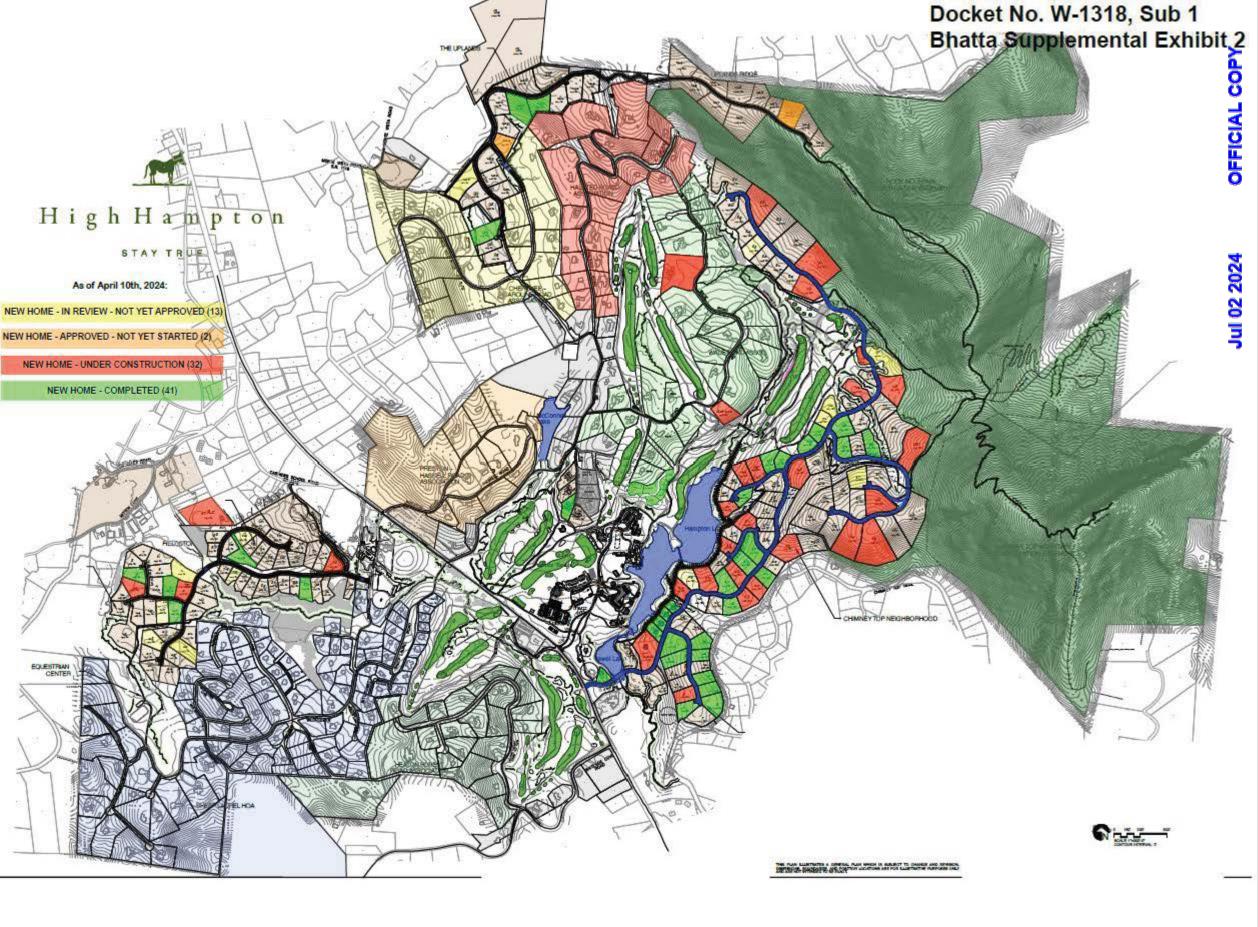
- Q. Please describe your update to the service area and the
 customer count since your initial testimony.
- 3 Α. After the filing of my direct testimony and exhibits on June 7, 2024, I 4 reviewed the service area map provided in High Hampton, Inc.'s 5 previous proceeding (W-574, Sub 0) (Bhatta Supplemental Exhibit 6 1), the service area map provided by the Company in response to 7 Public Staff data requests and email exchanges for this proceeding, 8 and the sewer CPCN proceeding (W-1318, Sub 2) (Bhatta 9 Supplemental Exhibit 2). After comparing the two water service area 10 maps, I have determined that almost the entirety of the Fieldstone 11 neighborhood, which is a newly constructed subdivision, is outside 12 of the Commission approved High Hampton development service 13 area. See Bhatta Supplemental Exhibit 3. HH Water, LLC does not 14 have authority to charge for water service outside of the approved 15 service area shown in Bhatta Supplemental Exhibit 1. Per my email 16 inquiry and Mr. Robert Burgin's response, two residential homes (lots 17 61 and 89) are outside the service area and are included in the billing 18 records for the test year and the total customer count in the Public 19 Staff's recommended billing analysis. Also, per Mr. Burgin's email, a 20 total of seven homes are currently being served within the Fieldstone 21 neighborhood. Additionally, the planned future service of two lots 22 within the Uplands neighborhood and the employee housing off 23 Mitten Lane will be outside of the approved service area.

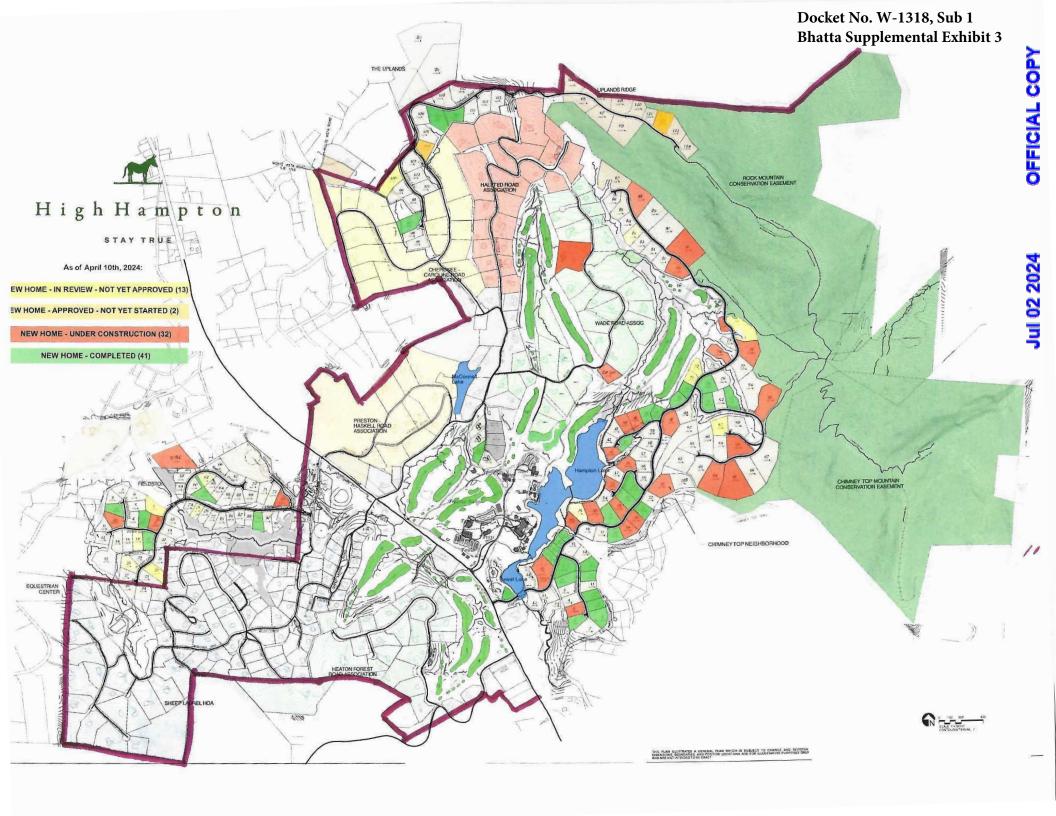
Service to areas outside of the approved service area, which is
shown in Bhatta Supplemental Exhibit 1, requires HH Water to file a
Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to
Present Service Area (Notification). HH Water, LLC will also need to
post a bond for those contiguous areas before HH Water, LLC
provides and charges for water service to customers in these areas.
The customers being served outside the service area have been
included in the customer count in the billing analysis of the Public
Staff. However, this analysis does not need to be revised and the
customers can be included in this rate case so long as HH Water,
LLC does not charge these customers before the Notification has
been filed and recognized by the Commission and a bond has been
posted. If the two customers in the Fieldstone neighborhood are not
included in the analysis, the recommended residential monthly flat
water rate would be \$61.30; monthly flat rate for the Club would be
\$3,917.07 and monthly flat rate for the Inn would be \$5,406.66, which
would result in a 0.46% increase in the residential monthly flat rate.
If the Company files the Notification and it is recognized by the
Commission, the Public Staff recommends that the Company be

required to post a bond of \$50,000.

- 1 Q. Does this conclude your supplemental testimony?
- 2 A. Yes.







CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing on all parties of record or to the attorney of record of such party 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 2nd day of July, 2024.

Electronically submitted /s/ James Bernier, Jr. Staff Attorney