STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1318, SUB 1

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by HH Water, LLC, for)
Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates	ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
for Water Utility Service in High Hampton) LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL
Service Areas in Jackson County,	TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS
North Carolina	ĺ

BY THE HEARING EXAMINER: On July 2, 2024, in the above-captioned docket, the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) filed a Motion for Leave to File Supplemental Testimony (Motion) requesting leave from the Commission to accept for filing the proposed supplemental testimony and exhibits of Shashi M. Bhatta, Public Utilities Engineer, Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division filed contemporaneously with its Motion.

In support of its Motion, the Public Staff stated that based on an inquiry from a couple of existing HH Water, LLC (Company) customers on June 14, 2024, the Public Staff reviewed the Company's service area map in its files from High Hampton, Incorporated's (the former water utility service provider's) 2005 rate case in Docket No. W-574, Sub 0, which bore the Commission's date stamp of 1976 (1976 Map); and compared the 1976 Map to the map provided by the Company in this docket (2024 Map) and identified an inconsistency. The Public Staff explained that the inconsistency in the service area impacts the customer count in witness Bhatta's direct testimony and the Company's certificated service area, which is now at issue in this docket. The Public Staff commented that the Company and the Public Staff have initiated efforts to research the certificated boundaries of the Company's service area and reconcile any differences. The Public Staff stated that it wishes to file supplemental testimony to (1) identify the service area(s) at issue in this rate case; (2) identify service area(s) for which the Company might need to file a contiguous extension application; and (3) offer further guidance, as discussed with the Company, on how to address the service areas.

Additionally, the Public Staff stated that it takes no position with respect to whether the Commission may allow the Company to file a rebuttal to the Public Staff's supplemental testimony, but would respectfully request that, if the Company is afforded an opportunity to file supplemental rebuttal testimony to the Public Staff's supplemental testimony, the Public Staff be granted an opportunity to serve discovery on the Company regarding the Company's supplemental rebuttal testimony and that the Company be required to respond to such discovery as promptly as possible. Finally, the Public Staff

stated it is authorized to inform the Commission that the Company does not object to its Motion.

After careful consideration of the Public Staff's Motion, the Hearing Examiner finds good cause to grant the Motion and that doing so will not prejudice any other party to this proceeding. Therefore, the Hearing Examiner (1) grants the Public Staff leave to file the supplemental testimony and exhibits of witness Shashi M. Bhatta; (2) accepts the filing of the Public Staff's proposed supplemental testimony and exhibits of Shashi M. Bhatta; (3) grants the Company an opportunity to file supplemental rebuttal testimony; (4) grants the Public Staff an opportunity to serve discovery on the Company's supplemental rebuttal testimony; and (5) requires the Company to respond to the Public Staff's discovery as promptly as possible.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 9th day of July, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

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