

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 25

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| In the Matter of                            |                             |
| Application by NC Utilities Commission, for | )                           |
| a Certificate of Public Convenience and     | )                           |
| Necessity to Provide Sewer Utility Service  | )                           |
| to the Highlands Business Park in Pender    | )                           |
| County, North Carolina, and for Approval    | )                           |
| of Rates                                    | )                           |
|   | ORDER FINDING APPLICATION   |
|   | COMPLETE AND REQUIRING      |
|   | THE PUBLIC STAFF TO PROVIDE |
|   | SPECIFIC APPLICATION DATA   |

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On February 5, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris) filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates (Application) to provide sewer utility service to the Highlands Business Park in Pender County, North Carolina.

On June 30, 2023, North Carolina Session Law 2023-67, entitled "An Act to Expedite Transfer of Water or Wastewater Public Utilities" (the Act), was signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper, having been previously ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly. The Act provides timelines for the Commission's consideration of applications for the grant or transfer of certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for certain water and wastewater systems. Section 1.(b) of the Act applies to applications for the grant or transfer of CPCNs for water and wastewater systems currently pending before the Commission as of June 30, 2023. Among other things, this section requires the Commission to provide notice whether any pending application is complete.

On July 24, 2023, the Public Staff filed a letter stating that it deemed the Application filed in this docket incomplete because the information included in the Application and on file with the Commission is too outdated for the Public Staff to make a recommendation and for the Commission to make a determination as to whether the application should be approved. The Public Staff further stated that it recommended the Commission determine that the Application is incomplete and direct Pluris to file an amended application form and all required exhibits with information current as of no earlier than December 31, 2022.

On July 28, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Incomplete which, in part, directed Pluris to file an amended application form and all required exhibits with information current as of no earlier than December 31, 2022.

On February 20, 2024, Pluris filed an amended Application.

On February 27, 2024, the Public Staff filed a letter outlining deficiencies in the Application and recommended that the Commission find the Application incomplete.

On February 28, 2024, the Commission issued its Second Order Finding Application Incomplete.

On March 6, 2024, Pluris filed financial documents in support its Application, and on March 14, 2024, Pluris filed an amended Application.

On March 20, 2024, the Public Staff filed a second deficiency letter and recommended that the Commission find the Application incomplete.

On March 21, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Incomplete.

On March 21, 2024, Pluris filed an amended Application and additional exhibits to address the issues identified in the Public Staff's March 20, 2024 letter.

On April 5, 2024, the Public Staff filed a letter with the Commission indicating that this docket now includes all the information required for a complete Application.

Based on the foregoing, the recommendation of the Public Staff, and the entire record in this proceeding, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to determine that the Application in this matter is complete, and that the Public Staff shall provide to the Commission, within five business days of the date of this Order, the following information regarding the Application:

1. The number and type of customers to be served by Pluris;
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 for the current rates;
3. The proposed rates Pluris seeks to charge if the Commission approves the issuance of a CPCN to Pluris for the provision of sewer utility service to the Highlands Business Park in Pender County, North Carolina;
4. If an increase in rates is proposed, provide the impact on the average monthly sewer bill under the proposed rates compared to current rates. For metered rates, indicate the average monthly usage used in your calculations; and

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 sewer bill.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 9th day of April, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tamika D. Conyers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk