

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1034, SUB 13

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application by Water Resources, Inc., for )  
Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for )  
Water Utility Service in Rocky River ) ORDER GRANTING MOTION  
Plantation Subdivision in Cabarrus County ) TO EXCUSE WITNESS  
and River Walk Subdivision in )  
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina )

BY THE HEARING EXAMINER: On December 29, 2023, Water Resources, Inc. (Applicant or WRI), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing water utility service in the Rocky River Plantation Subdivision (Rocky River) in Cabarrus County and the River Walk Subdivision (River Walk) in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Application). On January 3, 2024, the Applicant filed an amended application. On January 22, 2024, the Applicant filed a letter with the Commission updating the proposed effective date of the rates requested in its amended application. The Applicant provides water utility service to approximately 115 residential customers in the Rocky River service area and approximately 39 residential customers in the River Walk service area.

On March 1, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Procedural and Filing Requirements, and Requiring Customer Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order, among other things, required that the Public Staff and other intervenors shall file direct testimony on or before April 12, 2024, and scheduled the expert witness hearing to begin on Monday, May 13, 2024. In addition, the Scheduling Order required that WRI consult with all other parties to file, not later than May 6, 2024, a list of witnesses to be called at the expert witness hearing, and each party's estimated time for cross-examination of each witness.

On April 12, 2024, the Public Staff filed the affidavit of witness Gregory J. Reger, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst, Economic Research Division.

On May 6, 2024, the Public Staff and WRI filed a list of witnesses scheduled to appear at the expert witness hearing on May 13, 2024, the order in which they will be presented, and the estimated time of cross-examination for each witness. WRI did not include Public Staff witness Reger on the list of witnesses it intends to cross-examine.

On May 8, 2024, the Public Staff filed a motion to excuse Public Staff witness Reger from attending the expert witness hearing and requested that the prefiled affidavit

of witness Reger be admitted into evidence. The Public Staff stated that it has contacted WRI's counsel and has been authorized to represent that the Applicant does not object to the Public Staff's motion.

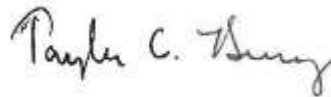
Based on the foregoing and the entire record herein, the Hearing Examiner finds good cause to grant the Public Staff's motion to excuse witness Reger from attending the expert witness hearing and to allow witness Reger's prefiled affidavit into the record without requiring his appearance at the May 13, 2024 hearing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 9th day of May, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor C. Berry".

Taylor C. Berry Deputy Clerk