

From: [Casselberry, Gina](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: FW: Docket W-1305, Sub 12 position statement
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:44:44 PM

Gina Y. Casselberry
Utilities Engineer
Public Staff – Water and Sewer Division
Phone: 919-733-0890
Fax: 919-715-6704
gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov

From: Casselberry, Gina
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:42 PM
To: pescador78@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: Docket #W-1305, Sub 12 position statement

Mr. Fisher,

Thank you for your email concerning the request by Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Company) for a rate increase. A copy of your message and this response will be given to the Chief Clerk of the Commission for inclusion in the official file.

The Public Staff is responsible for representing the interests of the using and consuming public in utility matters, and we will participate on the public's behalf in this case. The Public Staff will review the books and records of the Company and present its views on the Company's request to the Commission. We will give consideration to your comments as we conduct our investigation.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Gina Casselberry

Gina Y. Casselberry
Utilities Engineer
Public Staff – Water and Sewer Division
Phone: 919-733-0890
Fax: 919-715-6704
gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov

From: PublicHearings <PublicHearings@psncuc.nc.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:15 PM

To: Casselberry, Gina <gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov>; Furr, David <david.furr@psncuc.nc.gov>
Cc: Creech, William <zeke.creech@psncuc.nc.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Request to present as a public witness at Pluris hearing (Docket #W-1305, Sub 12) on 8/17/2020

Fyi, regarding concerns expressed.

From: Dan Fisher <pescador78@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 4:28 PM
To: PublicHearings <PublicHearings@psncuc.nc.gov>
Subject: [External] Request to present as a public witness at Pluris hearing (Docket #W-1305, Sub 12) on 8/17/2020

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dan Fisher, and **I am interested in participating as a public witness during the Pluris Hampstead, LLC hearing scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (Docket #W-1305, Sub 12).** I live at 491 Aurora Place, Hampstead, NC 28443, in the Wyndwater Community. You can contact me at (502) 526-2314 or email me at pescador78@hotmail.com.

Topic of Testimony:

The Wyndwater Community receives sewer only services through Pluris Hampstead, LLC, while water is provided by Pender County Utilities. I recently moved here from Kentucky where our sewer bill was calculated based on our water usage, so I was confused when water and sewer were administered by 2 separate organizations, and the sewer bill was a flat rate. Additionally, our average monthly sewer bill in Kentucky was around \$30 per month. I was shocked at the exorbitant cost of \$63.95 per month for sewer only services here in Hampstead. When I received the notice that Pluris Hampstead, LLC was requesting an increase in their monthly rate from \$63.95 to \$84.21, a 32% increase, I was floored. Trying to be objective, I decided to do some research and determine if this increase was warranted or if it may be stepping over their bounds.

The EPA Affordability Threshold recommends the annual cost for water and wastewater (sewer) be no more than 2% - 2.5% of a household's income. Based on U.S. Census data from 2018 (the most recent data I could find), the average monthly income for Pender County North Carolina was \$52,989. Using these figures, I calculated that EPA's recommended annual cost for water and sewer services for Pender County residents should be \$1,059.78 - \$1,324.73. This breaks down to \$88.32 - \$110.39 per month for both water and sewer services. I've only lived here for a couple of months, but my water bill for just my house (I'm

not including my irrigation water bill as I don't use my irrigation system, but I know many people who do) has averaged about \$61 per month. When you combine my home water bill (~\$61) with my current Pluris sewer bill (\$63.95), I am currently paying almost \$125 per month. This is well over, 13.2% above, the EPA's Affordability Threshold range. **Increasing the sewer bill to \$84.42 per month will cause this disparity to increase even more (31.8% higher than EPA's recommended affordability range) and make water and sewer services unaffordable in my community.**

Additionally, because of the timing, with high unemployment and people struggling financially due to COVID-19, Pluris should be more transparent in their financial justification for increasing rates at this time. An extra \$20.47 a month equates to an added cost of \$245.64 annually for households. I request that you please consider me for participating as a public witness during the hearing. Please let me know if there is anything else I need to provide as a witness.

Thanks,

Dan Fisher

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