



**NORTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC STAFF  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

November 22, 2022

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Re: Docket No. W-354, Sub 400 – Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Utility Service in All Service Areas of North Carolina and Approval of a Three-Year Water and Sewer Investment Plan

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Attached for filing on behalf of the Public Staff in the above-referenced docket is the Motion to Excuse Witnesses.

By copy of this letter, I am forwarding a copy to all parties of record by electronic delivery.

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted

/s/ Gina C. Holt

Manager, Legal Division, Water, Sewer,  
Telephone, & Transportation Sections

[gina.holt@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:gina.holt@psncuc.nc.gov)

/s/ John D. Little

Staff Attorney

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**Attachment**

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**BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 400**

In the Matter of  
Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc. of )  
North Carolina for Authority to Adjust and Increase )  
Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Utility )  
Service in All Service Areas of North Carolina and )  
Approval of a Three-Year Water and Sewer )  
Investment Plan )

**PUBLIC STAFF'S MOTION TO  
EXCUSE WITNESSES**

NOW COMES THE PUBLIC STAFF - North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), by and through its Executive Director, Chris Ayers, and respectfully requests the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) enter an order excusing certain Public Staff witnesses from appearing at the evidentiary hearing in this matter, set to begin Monday, November 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. In support of this Motion, the Public Staff states:

1. On May 25, 2022, Carolina Water Service of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company) filed a 30-day notice of its intent to file a general rate case. CWSNC filed its Application for a General Rate Increase and Approval of Multi-Year Rate Plan Increase in Rates and Charges (Application) on July 1, 2022.
2. The Commission entered an order on September 2, 2022, that among other things directed the Public Staff to file its testimony and exhibits on or before October 26, 2022, and file a witness list on or before November 21, 2022.
3. On October 26, 2022, the Public Staff filed the testimony and exhibits of:
  - a. Darrell Brown, Financial Analyst III, Public Staff Accounting Division;
  - b. Lynn Feasel, Financial Manager, Water, Sewer, and Telecommunications Division, Public Staff Accounting Division;

- c. Lindsay Q. Darden, Engineer, Public Staff Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division;
  - d. D. Michael Franklin, Engineer, Public Staff Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division;
  - e. Shashi M. Bhatta, Engineer, Public Staff Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division;
  - f. Evan M. Houser, Engineer, Public Staff Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division;
  - g. Jay B. Lucas, Manager, Electric Section – Operations and Planning, Energy Division of the Public Staff;
  - h. John R. Hinton, Director, Public Staff Economic Research Division;
4. Also on October 26, 2022, the Public Staff filed the Joint Testimony and Exhibits of:
- a. John R. Hinton, Director, Public Staff Economic Research Division;
  - b. Charles M. Junis, Director, Public Staff Water, Sewer and Telephone Division;
  - c. Fenge Zhang, Financial Manager – Electric Section, Public Staff Accounting Division;
  - d. Kuei Fen Sun, Financial Analyst, Public Staff Accounting Division.
5. On November 22, 2022, CWSNC and the Public Staff (Parties) filed a Joint Partial Settlement Agreement and Stipulation (Stipulation). This Stipulation settles all the issues in this docket except for (1) the return on equity to be authorized for CWSNC during the term of the WSIP; and (2) whether the 5% revenue requirement increase

cap required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.1B(c) should be applied on a per company or per rate division basis.

6. On November 22, 2022, the Public Staff filed the joint testimony of Darrell Brown and Fenge Zhange supporting the Stipulation.
7. Also on November 22, 2022, CWSNC filed testimony of Matthew Schellinger II, Regional Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, East Region, supporting the Stipulation.
8. The Stipulation provides that the prefiled testimony and exhibits of the Parties may be received in evidence without objection, and each Party waives all right to cross-examine any witness with respect to such prefiled testimony and exhibits, except for Company witnesses DeStefano and D'Ascendis, on issues relating to the return on equity and 5% cap, respectively; and except for Public Staff witness Zhang (regarding the 5% cap) and Hinton (regarding ROE).
9. Per the September 2, 2022, order, the Parties filed a witness list on November 21, 2022. This list states that the Public Staff has one hour of cross-examination for CWSNC witness Dylan D'Ascendis and that CWSNC has one hour of cross examination of Public Staff witness Bob Hinton.
10. Therefore, the Public Staff respectfully requests that the Commission enter an Order excusing Public Staff witnesses Lindsay Q. Darden, D. Michael Franklin, Shashi M. Bhatta, Lynn Feasel Evan M. Houser, Jay B. Lucas, and Kuei Fen Sun from appearing at the evidentiary hearing and allowing their testimony and exhibits to be entered into the record as if given orally from the stand.

11. The Public Staff has contacted counsel for CWSNC, and they do not object to excusing these Witnesses.

**WHEREFORE**, the Public Staff respectfully requests that its witnesses listed above be excused from the evidentiary hearing beginning on November 28, 2022, and that their prefiled testimony and exhibits be copied into the record and received into evidence as if given under oath from the stand.

Respectfully submitted, this the 22nd day of November 2022.

PUBLIC STAFF  
Lucy D. Edmondson  
Chief Counsel

Electronically submitted  
/s/John D. Little  
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this Motion to Excuse Public Staff Witnesses has been served on all parties of record or their attorneys, or both, by electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 22nd day of November 2022.

Electronically submitted  
/s/ John D. Little