

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 12

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC, )  
5950 Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas,) ORDER RESCHEDULING  
75225 for Authority to Increase Rates for ) HEARINGS AND REQUIRING  
Sewer Utility Service in All of Its Service Areas ) CUSTOMER NOTICE  
in Pender County, North Carolina. )

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On January 22, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead or the Company), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing sewer utility service in all of its service areas in Pender County, North Carolina. Pluris Hampstead serves approximately 524 residential flat-rate sewer customers and 58 metered commercial sewer customers in Pender County, North Carolina.

On February 17, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates.

On March 18, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice.

On April 15, 2020, Pluris Hampstead filed an Update to Operating Expenses and Rate Base.

On June 2, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Cancelling the Public Witness Hearing scheduled in the Commission's March 18, 2020 Order.

Pluris Hampstead is proposing to increase the monthly flat rate for residential customers from \$63.95 to \$84.42 and to change the monthly base rate for commercial customers from \$25.24 for all meter sizes to a monthly base rate based on the size of the meter.

In addition, Pluris Hampstead is proposing to increase the commercial customers' commodity charge per 1,000 gallons from \$9.68 to \$16.50.

Pluris Hampstead's present and proposed rates are as follows:

	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
<u>Monthly Residential Flat Rate:</u>	\$ 63.95	\$ 84.42 (1)

(1) All residential flat rate customers

Monthly Commercial Metered Rates:  
Base charge, zero usage (minimum charge)

< 1"	\$ 25.24	\$ 10.00
1"	\$ 25.24	\$ 25.00
1.5"	\$ 25.24	\$ 50.00
2"	\$ 25.24	\$ 80.00
4"	\$ 25.24	\$250.00
6"	\$ 25.24	\$500.00
Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 9.68	\$ 16.50

In March 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a progression of Executive Orders that declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). On May 5, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 138 easing some restrictions on business operations and mass gatherings, but still limiting face-to-face meetings to no more than ten people and requiring social distancing between individuals of at least six feet.

Based on the record and the current state of uncertainty regarding future requirements to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to reschedule the expert witness hearing currently scheduled in this docket and to schedule a remote hearing for the purpose of receiving public witness testimony.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the expert witness hearing currently scheduled for August 4, 2020 is cancelled;
2. That the Application is scheduled for expert witness hearing beginning at 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and continuing as necessary until conclusion. The hearing will be either held remotely via WebEx, or in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina;
3. That the Commission will issue an order by August 11, 2020, setting forth the procedures for a remote expert witness hearing or confirming that the expert witness hearing will be held in the Commission Hearing Room;

4. That a hearing is scheduled for public witness testimony beginning at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, August 17, 2020, to be held remotely via WebEx. A link to view the hearing will be available at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net). Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020, by contacting the Public Staff via email at [PlurisHampsteadPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:PlurisHampsteadPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov) or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (W-1305, Sub 12), subdivision in which you are receiving service, telephone number, and the topic of your testimony. Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020, will be allowed to testify at the public witness hearing;

5. The hearing scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. The hearing scheduled for September 8, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving expert witness testimony from Pluris Hampstead, the Public Staff, and any other parties of record;

6. That the Company shall consult with all other parties and file, no later than September 1, 2020, a list of witnesses to be called at the hearing, the order of witnesses, and the estimated time for cross-examination. If the parties cannot agree, the remaining parties shall, no later than September 3, 2020, make a filing indicating their points of disagreement with the Company's filing;

7. That Pluris Hampstead is required to file reports addressing all customer service and/or service quality complaints expressed at the public witness hearing, being held via WebEx, on or before August 31, 2020. The Public Staff shall and other intervenors may file supplemental testimony on the subject of the public witness hearing only on or before September 4, 2020; and

8. That the Notice to Customers, attached as Appendix A, shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by Pluris Hampstead to all affected customers no later than 20 days after the date of this Order; and Pluris Hampstead shall submit to the Commission the attached Certificate of Service properly signed and notarized no later than 30 days after the date of this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 1st day of July, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 12

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC,  
5950 Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas,  
Texas, 75225 for Authority to Adjust and  
Increase Rates for Sewer Utility Service in All  
of Its Service Areas in Pender County,  
North Carolina.

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS**

Notice is hereby given that Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead or the Company), 5950 Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas Texas has filed an Application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission for authority to increase its rates for providing sewer utility service in all of its service areas in Pender County, North Carolina.

Pluris Hampstead is proposing to increase the monthly flat rate for residential customers from \$63.95 to \$84.42 and to change the monthly base rate for commercial customers from \$25.24 for all meter sizes to a monthly base rate based on the size of the meter.

In addition, Pluris Hampstead is proposing to increase the commercial customers' commodity charge per 1,000 gallons from \$9.68 to \$16.50.

Pluris Hampstead's present and proposed rates are as follows:

	<u>Present</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Rates</u>
<u>Monthly Residential Flat Rate:</u>	\$ 63.95	\$ 84.42 (1)

(1) All residential flat rate customers

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2"	\$ 25.24	\$ 80.00
4"	\$ 25.24	\$250.00
6"	\$ 25.24	\$500.00

	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 9.68	\$ 16.50

The Commission may consider additional or alternative rate design proposals which were not included or proposed in the original Application and may order increases or decreases in the utility rate schedules which differ from those proposed by Pluris Hampstead. However, any rate structure considered will not generate more overall revenues than requested.

### *HEARINGS*

The Commission has scheduled the following hearings on the Application:

*Expert Witness Hearing:* Beginning at 2:00 p.m., on Monday, September 8, 2020, and continuing as necessary until conclusion, either remotely via WebEx, or in the Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Commission will issue an order by August 11, 2020, setting forth the procedure for a remote hearing or confirming that the hearing will be held in the Commission Hearing Room.

*Public Witness Hearing* at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, August 17, 2020, to be held remotely via WebEx. A link to view the hearing will be available at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net). Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020, by contacting the Public Staff via email at [PlurisHampsteadPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:PlurisHampsteadPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov) or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (W-1305, Sub 12), subdivision in which you are receiving service, telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

**Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020, will be allowed to testify at the hearings.**

The hearing scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. The hearing scheduled for September 8, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving expert witness testimony from Pluris Hampstead, the Public Staff, and any other parties of record.

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include the customer's name, subdivision, contact information, and any information that the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter; and these statements should be addressed to Ms. Dianna Downey, Chief Counsel, Public Staff-North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

Written statements can also be faxed to Public Staff Utilities Engineer, Gina Casselberry, at 919-715-6704 or e-mailed to Ms. Casselberry at [gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov).

Written statements will be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision but do not receive the same consideration as testimony provided by public witnesses at a hearing.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements/protests to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may also be e-mailed to [utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov](mailto:utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov).

Persons desiring to present testimony concerning their opinions on this Application, or on any service problems they may be experiencing, may appear at a public hearing and give such testimony.

Information regarding this proceeding can also be accessed from the Commission's website at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net).

This the 1st day of July, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joann R. Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers the attached Notice to Customers issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, and the Notice was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the Order.

This the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Utility Company

The above-named Company, \_\_\_\_\_, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the required Notice to Customers was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated \_\_\_\_\_ in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or Typed Name

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date