

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 595

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Aqua, North Carolina, Inc.,)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity to Provide Water Utility)
Service to Choplin Farms in Nash County,)
North Carolina, and for Approval of Rates)
	ORDER CANCELING PREFILING OF TESTIMONY AND EXPERT WITNESS HEARING

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On May 19, 2023, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua) filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates (Application) to provide water utility service to Choplin Farms in Nash County, North Carolina. Aqua filed amended and supplemental information on January 31, 2024, February 14, 2024, and February 15, 2024.

On February 29, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearing and Establishing Discovery Guidelines (Scheduling Order), which among other things, scheduled a hearing for the purpose of receiving expert witness testimony on the Application to begin on May 28, 2024. The Scheduling Order also required Aqua to prefile direct testimony and exhibits by April 15, 2024, required the Public Staff and intervenors to prefile direct testimony and exhibits by April 29, 2024, and required Aqua to file any rebuttal testimony and exhibits by May 13, 2024.

On March 15, 2024, Aqua and the Public Staff (collectively, the Parties) filed a joint motion to cancel the requirement for prefiled testimony and cancel the expert witness hearing in this proceeding. In support of the motion, the Parties state that they have reached an agreement to recommend approval of the Application and, therefore, there are no issues to be resolved through the presentation of prefiled expert witness testimony. The Parties further state that the verified Application, as amended, provides a factual background sufficient to support approval without expert witness testimony. The Parties indicate that the Public Staff plans to submit this matter as an agenda item for the Commission's regular Staff Conference in lieu of a hearing. The Parties represent that excusing the requirement to prefile expert witness testimony will serve administrative efficiency and save time and costs.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to cancel the requirement for prefiled testimony in this matter and cancel the expert witness hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 18th day of March, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamika D. Conyers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk