

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 573

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application by Aqua North Carolina, Inc., 202 MacKenan Court, Cary, North Carolina 27511, for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for Water and Sewer Utility Service in All Service Areas in North Carolina) AQUA NORTH CAROLINA,) INC. MOTION FOR) EXPEDITED APPROVAL) TO CHANGE DATES FOR) TEMPORARY RATES AND) THE RELATED CUSTOMER) NOTICES
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NOW COMES Aqua North Carolina, Inc. ("Aqua" or "Company"), by and through its undersigned counsel, and moves the Commission for a change in the effective date of temporary rates and for mailing of the customer notice for temporary rates. In support of this Motion, Aqua shows the following.

1. In its Application for a General Increase in Rates and Approval of a Water and Sewer Investment Plan, filed on June 30, 2022, Aqua gave notice pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-135 that it intended to implement increased rates on a temporary, partial, interim basis subject to refund, upon the expiration of six months after the date when such rates would have become effective, if not so suspended, assuming that the Commission: (a) suspends the operation of the Company's proposed rates requested in the Application; and (b) has not entered a final order by that date. *See Application of June 30, 2022, ¶ 19, pages 9-10.*
2. Consistent with the customer notice provision of N.C.G.S. § 62-135(a), Aqua also requested that the Notice to Customers attached to the scheduling order to be issued in

this docket include a specific provision which notified customers that the Company intends to implement temporary rates under bond effective upon the expiration of six months after July 30, 2022. The Notices to Customers contained such language under the heading of “Rates Under Bond.” See *Commission’s Scheduling Order*, issued September 8, 2022.

3. On January 26, 2023, Aqua filed Notice of Intent to Place Temporary Rates in Effect Subject to an Undertaking to Refund Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-135 and Request for Approval of Notice and Undertaking (Notice). The Notice indicated that temporary rates would be effective February 13, 2023.

4. The Public Staff subsequently filed a letter in opposition to temporary rates in this docket, which prompted a reply by Aqua, thereby adding to the content and time needed for Commission review of the Notice.

5. On February 6, 2023, the Commission issued its Order Approving Public Notice of Temporary Rates Subject to an Undertaking to Refund (Order). That Order specifies that Aqua must mail or hand deliver notices to customers within three days of the Order, meaning February 9, for temporary rates to be effective on February 13, 2023.

6. Aqua has investigated the time needed to prepare and mail approximately 90,000 notices to customers, and it is an 8 day process. If Aqua places the order for notices with its vendor by today, February 7, 2023, the mailing date would be February 15, 2023, according to the vendor.¹

7. Because initial and specific notice of the intention to place Rates Under Bond in effect under these circumstances was given to customers in September, 2022, Aqua

¹ For every day that the placement of the order with the vendor slips, the mailing date will slip by a day.

requests authority to implement these rates on February 15, 2023---the date of mailing of the Customer Notice. Alternatively, Aqua requests authority to implement the rates on February 19, 2023, which observes the same four-day interval from mailing to implementation that the Commission authorized in its order of February 6, 2023, approving the temporary rates.

8. The notices to customers must be revised to incorporate any new, proposed effective date of temporary rates; Aqua respectfully requests an expedited decision on this Motion in order to promptly proceed with implementation of temporary rates.

9. Aqua is informing the Public Staff of this Motion to determine whether the Staff will waive any objections, while simultaneously filing the Motion in the interest of time.

Respectfully submitted, this the 7th day of February 2023.

Electronically Submitted

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ATTORNEYS FOR AQUA NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing MOTION TO CHANGE DATES FOR TEMPORARY RATES AND THE RELATED CUSTOMER NOTICES filed by Aqua North Carolina, Inc. in Docket No. W-218, Sub 573, has been served on each of the parties to this proceeding.

This the 7th day of February, 2023.

Electronically Submitted

/s/ Jo Anne Sanford

North Carolina State Bar No. 6831