

From: John Gumbel W-354 Sub 384
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 4:38 PM
To: lj Jarvis
Cc: Darden, Lindsay Q
Subject: [External] Withdrawal of motion to intervene Docket No. W-354, SUB 384

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Lynn,

I withdraw my motion to intervene in the subject docket. There is no point in wasting any more of my time or yours if the settlement is done. I will leave it to the commissioners to contemplate how families living at or near the poverty line will pay \$1000 a year for sewer. And since we're talking about sewer service, this literally does not pass the sniff test.

The system is broken if it allows for 53.5% in increases over a 24 month period. (\$54.64 Feb 2020 to \$83.88 Feb 2022 is a \$29.24 or 53.5% increase.) Certainly a 53.5% increase in just a 24 month period must violate some NCUC guideline? If it doesn't, it should. But the NCUC would never know it was a 53.5% increase in just 24 month if they never look back. History always repeats itself for those who don't know their history. CWS understands that the NCUC doesn't examine its history of rate increases and they take advantage of that. That 53.5% increase will have crossed over one of the most economically challenging periods for families and businesses since the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Counsel for CWS in one of their filings states that the NCUC Public Staff includes a highly skilled team of accountants, economists, attorneys, and financial analysts. I question how skilled these economists are if they aren't taking issue with the economic impact a \$1000/yr sewer bill will have on the average North Carolina family. The Public Staff should be outraged over the request for 53.5% in increases over 24 months. The only outrage I see is from the consumers.

Thanks for conversation this afternoon.

John Gumbel
