

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1318, SUB 1

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Application by HH Water, LLC, for)	
Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates)	ORDER POSTPONING
for Water Utility Service in High Hampton)	EXPERT WITNESS HEARING
Service Areas in Jackson County,)	
North Carolina)	

BY THE HEARING EXAMINER: On January 26, 2024, in the above-captioned docket, HH Water, LLC (Company), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing water utility service in the High Hampton service area in Jackson County, North Carolina (Application). On February 2, 2024, the Applicant filed an amended application.

On April 11, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Procedural and Filing Requirements, and Requiring Customer Notice, which among other things, scheduled the above-captioned matter for expert witness hearing beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 11, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina and continuing as necessary until conclusion.

On July 10, 2024, the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) and Company (together, the Stipulating Parties) filed a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation (Stipulation), a Joint Motion to Excuse Witnesses, Waive Cross-Examination, and Admit Testimony (Joint Motion). In support of its Motion, the Stipulating Parties stated that (1) they had agreed in principle to a settlement and resolved all issues between them; (2) on or before Friday, July 12, 2024, the Public Staff intended to file the Joint Settlement Testimony of Darrus K. Cofield, Shashi M. Bhatta, and Michelle Boswell in support of the Stipulation (Joint Settlement Testimony); (3) the Stipulating Parties requested that the Company's witnesses Peedin & Perry Consulting LLC, and Owen Schultz; and the Public Staff witnesses Bhatta, Cofield, Boswell, and Fahey be excused from attending the expert witness hearing; (4) each Stipulating Party waived all right to cross-examine any witnesses but reserves the right to examine witnesses as follow-up to any questions from the Commission or non-stipulating parties; (5) the Stipulating Parties further requested that all prefiled testimony and exhibits of the Stipulating Parties be received in evidence without objection, along with the verified Application, the supplemental and additional materials filed in support of the Application, and the Stipulation, and the Joint Settlement Testimony, when filed; (6) the Stipulating Parties further requested the expert witness hearing scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024 be canceled.

Based upon the foregoing, the Hearing Examiner finds that good cause exists to postpone the expert witness hearing currently scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. pending further order of the Commission. Additionally, the Hearing Examiner

defers its decision on the Joint Motion pending review of the Stipulation and Joint Settlement Testimony.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 11th day of July, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk