

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 29
DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 69

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Joint Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC, 5950 Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas 75225, for Authority to Acquire the Sewer Utility Systems Serving Majestic Oaks and Hampstead Shopping Center, Southside Commons (formerly Grey Bull), Majestic Oaks West, and Salters Haven at Lea Marina in Pender County, North Carolina from Old North State Water Company, LLC, and Approval of Rates) PUBLIC STAFF) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR) INFILTRATION POND DECOMMISSIONING AND BOND
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NOW COMES THE PUBLIC STAFF – and files for the applied for the transfer of the wastewater utility systems from Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC) to Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), serving Majestic Oaks and Hampstead Shopping Center, Majestic Oaks West, Southside Commons, and Salters Haven at Lea Marina Phases I and II, Docket No. 1305, Sub 29, and Docket No. W-1300, Sub 69, the Public Staff Recommendations for the Infiltration Pond Decommissioning and Bond.

1. One of the wastewater effluent infiltration ponds to be decommissioned by (ONSWC), which previously served the Majestic Oaks service area is located on the land owned by the Majestic Oaks of Hampstead HOA, Inc. (HOA) located beside Majestic Oaks Drive. The HOA requested the

following conditions in the Commission's Order approving the transfer to Pluris Hampstead. The Public Staff fully supports these conditions and ONSWC has agreed to these conditions by email dated June 8, 2021 to the Public Staff.

2. The Decommissioning Conditions are: ONSWC at ONSWC's cost will within a reasonable time period:
 - (a) Totally removed the fence around the pond
 - (b) Bring down the dam or pond walls
 - (c) Level the land the pond is located on
 - (d) Have positive drainage to the easterly ditch
 - (e) Seed/straw over the pond site

Bond Recommendations

3. The Public Staff recommends a total bond increase by Pluris Hampstead of \$50,000 for the four service areas to be transferred being Majestic Oaks and Hampstead Shopping Center, Majestic Oaks West, Southside Commons, and Salters Haven at Lea Marina Phases I and II. The transferor ONSWC has Commission approved bonds totaling \$50,000 for these service areas.
4. Pluris Hampstead has already posted with its Commission a bond totaling \$500,000 for nearby Pluris Hampstead franchised areas, a

portion of which has not been assigned. Pluris Hampstead has constructed a 250,000 gallon per day (GPD) advanced membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment plant in Hampstead, which is currently being expanded to 500,000 GPD. Pluris Hampstead's operations, customer service, and environmental compliance have been good. The two affiliates of Pluris Hampstead being Pluris LLC (serving the North Topsail area) and Pluris Webb Creek LLC (serving the Webb Creek area) also have provided good operations, customer service, and environmental compliance in their respective franchised service areas. Pluris Hampstead, Pluris LLC, and Pluris Webb Creek LLC have the same management team. Pluris Webb Creek LLC also served as the Commission appointed emergency operator for the troubled wastewater utility system at Webb Creek and performed in an exemplary manner.

WHEREFORE, the Public Staff recommends:

1. The Commission approve and include in its Order approving the transfer to Pluris Hampstead, the infiltration pond decommissioning conditions in paragraph 2 (a)-(e).
2. The Commission approve the Public Staff's bond recommendation that Pluris Hampstead post a \$50,000 bond.

Respectfully submitted, this the 27th day of September, 2021.

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Electronically submitted
/s/ William E. Grantmyre
Staff Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing Public Staff Recommendations for Infiltration Pond Decommissioning Bond on Dan Higgins, the Attorney for Pluris Hampstead, LLC, and Karent Kemerait, the Attorney for Old North State Water Company, LLC, and Dwight Allen, Attorney for the intervener WLU Investments, LLC, by electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 27th day of September, 2021.

Electronically submitted
/s/ William E. Grantmyre