

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE

August 7, 2023

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell presiding.

The following were present:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Brown-Bland
Commissioner Clodfelter
Commissioner Duffley
Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner McKissick
Commissioner Kemerait

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. Watson, Mr. Green, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Harrod, Ms. Hilburn, Mr. Barber, Ms. Forrest; Ms. Winstead

PUBLIC STAFF: Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Mr. Bernier, Ms. Newell, Mr. Junis, Mr. Houser

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

COURT REPORTER: Ms. Mitchell

WATER AND WASTEWATER*ORDER SCHEDULING HEARINGS, ESTABLISHING DISCOVERY DEADLINES, AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE***904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC**

1. Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 – Application for Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for Wastewater Utility Service in Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina (*Houser/Morgan/Creech*)

On July 7, 2023, 904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC (Applicant or Georgetown), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing wastewater utility service to its approximately 795 residential customers in the Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

The Public Staff recommended that the matter be scheduled for a customer hearing for the sole purpose of receiving testimony from customers; that the matter should also be scheduled for an expert witness hearing for the sole purpose of receiving expert witness testimony from Georgetown, the Public Staff, and other intervenors, if any, and that Georgetown should be required to provide notice to all affected customers of the Application, including the applied for rates and the scheduled hearings.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

*ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE***Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina**

2. Docket No. W-354, Sub 416 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water from Johnston County Department of Public Utilities in the White Oak Plantation, Lee Forest, Winston Plantation, and Winston Pointe service areas in Johnston County, North Carolina (*Houser/Bernier/Newell*)

On June 28, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along (1) an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from Johnston County Department of Public Utilities (Johnston County) to its metered water customers in the White Oak Plantation, Lee Forest, Winston Plantation, and Winston Pointe service areas; (2) an increase in the cost of purchasing sewer service from Johnston County to sewer customers in the White Oak Plantation, Lee Forest, Winston Plantation and Winston Pointe service areas; (3) an increase in Johnston County's bulk capacity fee to customers in the Winston Pointe service area by increasing the water connection charge. Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a

water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed Johnston County's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after September 1, 2023, for water and sewer service and October 1, 2023, for Winston Pointe's connection charge and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

3. Docket No. W-354, Sub 417 – Application for Authority to Amend Its tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water and Sewer Services from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission in the Tanglewood South and Eastgate service areas in Cumberland County, North Carolina (Houser/Bernier/Newell)

On June 28, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its metered water customers in the Tanglewood South and Eastgate service areas in Cumberland County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission (PWC). Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed PWC's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this order and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

4. Docket No. W-354, Sub 418 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water from Charlotte Water in the Riverpointe Service Area in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. (Houser/Bernier/Newell)

On June 28, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company) filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission)

pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its metered water customers in the Riverpointe service area in Mecklenburg County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from Charlotte Water. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed Charlotte Water's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this Order and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

5. Docket No. W-354, Sub 419 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Sewer Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Sewer Service from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County in the Mt. Carmel Service Area in Buncombe County, North Carolina. (*Houser/Bernier/Newell*)

On July 7, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to sewer customers in the Mt. Carmel service area in Buncombe County an increase in the cost of purchasing sewage treatment from the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD). Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed MSD's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this order and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

6. Docket No. W-354, Sub 420 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water from City of Hendersonville in the High Vista Estates Service Area in Henderson County, North Carolina. *(Houser/Bernier/Newell)*

On July 7, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its metered water customers in the High Vista Estates service area in Henderson County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from City of Hendersonville. Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed City of Hendersonville's rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this order and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

7. Docket No. W-354, Sub 421 – Application for Authority to Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service for the Increased Cost of Purchased Water from the Town of Southern Pines in the Whispering Pines Service Area in Moore County, North Carolina. *(Houser/Bernier/Newell)*

On July 7, 2023, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a verified petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to its metered water customers in the Whispering Pines service area in Moore County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Town of Southern Pines. Section 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Town of Southern Pines' rates and the Company's request.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission approve the tariff revision at the proposed rates for service rendered on and after the date of this order and require customer notice.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

The Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference of July 31, 2023, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Le Anne Ackerman.