

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1263, SUB 4

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Application by JPC Utilities, LLC, for)	ORDER SCHEDULING REMOTE
Authority to Adjust and Increase Rates for)	PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING, AND
Water and Wastewater Utility Service in its)	REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE
Service Areas in Guilford County,)	
North Carolina)	

BY THE CHAIR: On September 6, 2023, JPC Utilities, LLC (Applicant or JPC), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing water and wastewater utility service in its service areas in Guilford County, North Carolina. The Applicant provides water utility service to approximately 68 metered commercial customers and wastewater utility service to approximately 57 metered commercial customers. This is the first time the Applicant has come before the Commission requesting an adjustment and increase in its rates.

On October 3, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates, which declared this proceeding to be a general rate case and suspended the proposed new rates for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-137 and 134, respectively.

On October 10, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice (Scheduling Order).

On January 4, 2024, the Public Staff filed a motion to cancel the public witness hearing scheduled for January 17, 2024, in Greensboro, North Carolina. In its motion, the Public Staff stated that one consumer statement has been filed in connection with this matter which identified concerns with the proposed rates. The Public Staff commented that the issue set forth in the consumer statement of position is well explained and can be considered on the merits by the Commission. The Public Staff stated that it is unaware of any other customer protests or comments made in connection with this matter.

On January 5, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Canceling Public Witness Hearing, Rescheduling Expert Witness Hearing, Amending Certain Filing Dates, and Requiring Customer Notice.

On January 17, 2024, Public Staff filed a letter with the Commission stating that on January 12, 2024, the Public Staff received a letter from Clancy Laizure, a commercial customer of the Applicant, and an accompanying petition appearing to have been signed

by 35 other individuals. The Public Staff commented that based on the postmark, it appears that the letter was received by the U.S. Post Office on or before December 22, 2023. The Public Staff stated that it has not verified that each signor is a customer of the Applicant but noted that JPC provides water utility service to approximately 68 metered commercial customers and wastewater utility service to approximately 57 metered commercial customers.

The Public Staff commented that it contacted Mr. Laizure to confirm receipt of his letter and the petition and informed him that the Public Staff would address the proposed rate increase in its investigation. The Public Staff stated that Mr. Laizure requested that an in-person public witness hearing be scheduled because he and others would like to be heard. The Public Staff further stated that it has contacted counsel for the Applicant who objects to the rescheduling of a public witness hearing if it delays resolution of this docket. Finally, the Public Staff recommended that a public witness hearing be rescheduled and suggested that the Commission consider holding the hearing remotely due to time concerns.

Based on the foregoing, the Chair finds good cause to schedule a public witness hearing for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., to be held remotely via Webex and require that JPC provide notice to all affected customers regarding the date and registration information for the public witness hearing.

Information on the process to be used for this hearing, including how to register to testify, and what number to call to testify can be found on the Commission's website under "Remote Public Witness Process" on the "Meetings/Hearings" menu <https://www.ncuc.gov/Hearings/remotepublic.html>.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That a public witness hearing for the sole purpose of receiving testimony from the Applicant's service area customers is scheduled beginning at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. The public witness hearing will be held remotely via Webex. A link to view the customer hearing will be available on the Commission's website, www.ncuc.gov. Members of the public who wish to testify at the remote hearing must register on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024, via Remote Public Witness Registration at <https://www.ncuc.gov/Hearings/remotepublicregister.html>. For assistance regarding the registration process, email the Commission at ncucpublichearing@ncuc.net or call 919-733-0837. Witnesses calling from any number different from the number provided at registration may be delayed or experience other difficulty in providing their testimony;

Only individuals registered by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024, will be allowed to testify during the remote hearing.

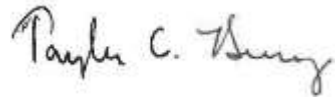
2. That a copy of this Order shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by JPC to all affected customers no later than three days after the date of this

Order and that JPC shall submit to the Commission the attached Certificate of Service, properly signed and notarized, not later than seven days after the date of this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of February, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor C. Berry".

Taylor C. Berry, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers a copy of the order issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1263, Sub 4, and the order was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the order.

This the ____ day of _____, 2024.

By: _____
Signature

Name of Utility Company

The above named Applicant, _____, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that a copy of the order was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission order dated _____ in Docket No. W-1263, Sub 4.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the ____ day of _____, 2024.

Notary Public

Printed Name

(SEAL) My Commission Expires: _____
Date