

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1136, SUB 3

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application by JAARS, Inc., Post Office	)	ORDER SCHEDULING
Box 248, Waxhaw, North Carolina 28173,	)	HEARINGS AND REQUIRING
for Authority to Increase Rates for Water Utility	)	CUSTOMER NOTICE
Service in All of Its Service Areas in Union	)	
County, North Carolina.	)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On June 23, 2020, JAARS, Inc. (JAARS or Applicant) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing water utility service in all of its service areas in Union County, North Carolina.

On July 8, 2020, JAARS amended its application to clarify the proposed rates. On August 14 and 27, 2020, JAARS filed further amendments its application, to decrease the proposed rates set forth in its initial application.

JAARS is a charitable, educational, nonprofit 501(c) corporation. JAARS provides water utility service to the JAARS Center, the Lydia House, Waxhaw Apartments, and approximately 67 residential customers in the Aerowood, Dogwood, and Radin Subdivisions.

On July 20, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates.

The Applicant is proposing to increase the monthly flat rate from \$20.00 per residential equivalent unit (REU) to \$27.75 per REU. The present rates have been in effect since March 17, 2009, per Commission Order issued in Docket No. W-1136, Sub 1, a general rate case application.

The Applicant's present and proposed rates are shown below.

<u>Monthly Water Service:</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Flat Rate per REU		
Residential customer (1.0 REU)	\$ 20.00	\$ 27.75
JAARS, Inc. (97.7 REUs)	\$1,954.00	
JAARS, Inc. (98 REUs)		\$2,719.51
Lydia House (1.3 REUs)	\$ 26.00	\$ 36.08
Waxhaw Creek Court Apartments (6.0 REUs)	\$ 120.00	
Waxhaw Court Apartments (20.7 REUs)		\$ 574.43

The Commission concludes that the matter should be scheduled for a customer hearing for the sole purpose of receiving testimony from customers, subject to cancellation if no significant protests are received subsequent to customer notice; that the matter should also be scheduled for an expert witness hearing for the sole purpose of receiving expert testimony from JAARS, the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), and intervenors, if any; and that JAARS should be required to provide notice to its customers of the Application, including the applied rates and the scheduled hearings.

In March 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a progression of Executive Orders that declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate the response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Executive Order No. 121 established a statewide stay-at-home order beginning at 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020. The stay-at-home order and related requirements and prohibitions have been modified and relaxed with the passage of time. The Governor's plan for gradual reopening consists of three phases. On September 1, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 163 which moves the state into Phase 2.5 until at least October 2, 2020. While Phase 2.5 eases some restrictions on business operations and mass gatherings, it continues to limit face-to-face indoor meetings to no more than 25 people and require social distancing between individuals of at least six feet.

Based on the current state of uncertainty regarding future requirements to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Commission will decide at a later date whether the expert witness hearing will be held in person or remotely.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That a customer hearing for the sole purpose of receiving testimony from JAARS's service area customers is scheduled beginning at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. The customer hearing will be held remotely via Webex and is subject to cancellation if no significant protests are received on or before Friday, October 9, 2020. A link to view the customer hearing will be available at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net). Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020, by contacting the Public Staff via email at [JAARSPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:JAARSPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov) or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (W-1136, Sub 3), subdivision in which you are receiving service, telephone number, and the topic of your testimony. Only individuals registered with the Public Staff will be allowed to testify at the customer hearing;

2. That an expert witness hearing for the sole purpose of receiving expert testimony from JAARS, the Public Staff, and intervenors, if any, is scheduled beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, and continuing as necessary until conclusion. The hearing will be either held remotely via Webex, or in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina;

3. That the Commission will issue an order setting forth the procedures for remote expert witness hearing or confirming that the expert witness hearing will be held in the Commission Hearing Room;

4. That on or before Friday, October 9, 2020, any person having an interest in this matter may file petitions to intervene to this proceeding pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5, R1-7, and R1-19;

5. That the Public Staff and intervenors, if any, shall file their testimony on or before Friday, October 9, 2020;

6. That JAARS shall file its rebuttal testimony, if any, on or before Monday, October 26, 2020;

7. That an officer or representative of JAARS is required to appear before the Commission at the time and place of the expert witness hearing to testify concerning any of the information contained in the Application; and

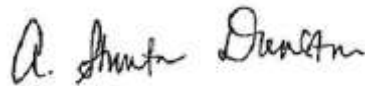
8. That the Notice to Customers, attached hereto as Appendix A (Notice to Customers), shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by JAARS to all affected customers on or before Wednesday, September 9, 2020; and

9. That JAARS shall submit to the Commission the attached Certificate of Service, properly signed and notarized, on or before Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 4th day of September, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston".

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS**

**DOCKET NO. W-1163, SUB 3  
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of	
Application by JAARS, Inc., Post Office	)
Box 248, Waxhaw, North Carolina 28173,	)
for Authority to Increase Rates for Water Utility	)
Service in All of Its Service Areas in Union	)
County, North Carolina.	)
	ORDER SCHEDULING
	HEARINGS AND REQUIRING
	CUSTOMER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that JAARS, Inc. (JAARS or Applicant), Post Office Box 248, Waxhaw, North Carolina, has filed an Application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission for authority to increase its rates for providing water utility service in all of its service areas in Union County, North Carolina.

JAARS is proposing to increase the monthly flat rate from \$20.00 per residential equivalent unit (REU) to \$27.75 per REU. The present rates have been in effect since March 17, 2009, per Commission Order issued in Docket No. W-1136, Sub 1, a general rate case proceeding.

The Applicant's present and proposed rates are shown below.

<u>Monthly Water Service:</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Flat Rate per REU		
Residential customer (1.0 REU)	\$ 20.00	\$ 27.75
JAARS, Inc. (97.7 REUs)	\$1,954.00	
JAARS, Inc. (98 units)		\$2,719.51
Lydia House (1.3 REUs)	\$ 26.00	\$ 36.08
Waxhaw Court Apartments (6.0 REUs)	\$ 120.00	
Waxhaw Court Apartments (20.7 REUs)		\$ 574.43

The Commission may consider additional or alternative rate design proposals which were not included or proposed in the original Application and may order increases or decreases in the utility rate schedules which differ from those proposed by JAARS. However, any rate structure considered will not generate more overall revenues than requested.

## PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission has scheduled the following hearings on the Application:

*Customer Hearing* at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. The hearing will be held remotely via Webex and **is subject to cancellation if no significant protests are received on or before Friday, October 9, 2020**. A link to view the customer hearing will be available at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net). Members of the public that would like to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020, by contacting the Public Staff via email at [JAARSPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:JAARSPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov) or by calling 866-380-9816. When registering, provide your name, docket number (W-1136, Sub 3), subdivision in which you are receiving service, telephone number, and the topic of your testimony.

**The customer hearing is subject to cancellation if no significant protests are received by the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020. Only individuals registered with the Public Staff will be allowed to testify at the customer hearing.**

*Expert witness hearing* beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, and continuing as necessary until conclusion. The hearing will be either held remotely via Webex, or in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Commission will issue an order setting forth the procedure for a remote hearing or confirming that the hearing will be held in the Commission Hearing Room.

The hearing scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. The hearing scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020, shall be for the sole purpose of receiving expert witness testimony from JAARS, the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), and any other parties of record.

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include the customer's name, subdivision, contact information, and any information that the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter; and these statements should be addressed to Ms. Dianna Downey, Chief Counsel, Public Staff- North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-4300. Written statements can also be faxed to Public Staff Utilities Engineer, Gina Casselberry, at 919-715-6704 or e-mailed to [gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov).

Persons desiring to present testimony concerning their opinions on this Application, or on any service problems they may be experiencing, may appear at the public hearing and give such testimony.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons appear at the public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hearings are subject to change because of COVID-19. Any changes to scheduled hearings will be posted on the NCUC website (<https://www.ncuc.net>).

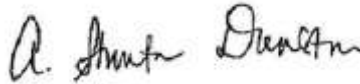
The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may also be e-mailed to [utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov](mailto:utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov).

Persons desiring to intervene in the matter as formal parties of record should file a motion under North Carolina Utilities Commission Rules R1-5, R1-7, and R1-19 no later than Friday, October 9, 2020. Any such motion should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. Information regarding this proceeding can also be accessed from the Commission's website at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net) under Docket Number "W-1136 Sub 3".

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 4th day of September, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston".

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers the attached Notice to Customers issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1136, Sub 3, and the Notice was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the Order.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Utility Company

The above-named Applicant, \_\_\_\_\_, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the required Notice to Customers was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated \_\_\_\_\_ in Docket No. W-1136, Sub 3.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

(SEAL) My Commission Expires:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date