

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-100, SUB 67

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Investigation Regarding Consolidation of)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
Water and Wastewater Utilities and the)	QUARTERLY TECHNICAL
Utilization of Uniform Rates)	CONFERENCES AND
)	SCHEDULING FIRST
)	QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On September 18, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Technical Conference (Order) in the above-referenced docket, in which the Commission stated that it has generally considered consolidation of separate water and wastewater systems into one single cost of service utilizing uniform rates to be in the public interest, and that the Commission believes it appropriate, at this time, to consider whether the uniform rate paradigm continues to serve the public interest. In the Order, the Commission made the Public Staff, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua), and Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC) parties to the proceeding. On September 22, 2023, Red Bird Operating Company, LLC (Red Bird) filed a petition to intervene which was granted by Commission order issued on December 4, 2023.

In the Order, the Commission scheduled a technical conference for October 11, 2023, for the purpose of receiving presentations from the Public Staff, Aqua, and CWSNC to address the following issues, along with any other matters relevant to the uniform rate policy that the Commission should consider:

1. Whether the uniform rate paradigm continues to serve the public interest in North Carolina; and
2. Whether the path to uniformity should or must change in light of the challenges faced by the water and wastewater utilities in North Carolina, including consideration of:
 - a. Whether the availability of the Water and Sewer Investment Plan (WSIP) ratemaking mechanism, N.C.G.S., § 62-133.1B, affects the analysis of whether uniform rates or stand-alone rates are appropriate at the time of approval of a request to transfer a utility franchise;

conference, as well as presentation materials to be used, on or before Tuesday, March 5, 2024;

6. That the remaining quarterly technical conferences for Year 2024 shall be scheduled by further order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 21st day of December, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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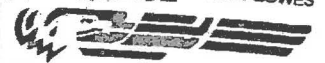
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