

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-218 Sub 553

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Aqua, North Carolina, Inc.,)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and)
Necessity to Provide Water Utility Service to)
Gardner Farms Subdivision, in Wake County,)
North Carolina, and for Approval of Rates)
	ORDER FINDING APPLICATION
	COMPLETE AND REQUIRING THE
	PUBLIC STAFF TO PROVIDE
	SPECIFIC APPLICATION DATA

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On July 28, 2022, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua or Applicant) filed with the Commission an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Approval of Rates (Application) to provide water utility service to Gardner Farms subdivision in Wake County, North Carolina in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.

On June 30, 2023, North Carolina Session Law 2023-67, entitled “An Act to Expedite Transfer of Water or Wastewater Public Utilities” (the Act), was signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper, having been previously ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly. The Act provides timelines for the Commission’s consideration of applications for the grant or transfer of certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for certain water and wastewater systems. Section 1.(b) of the Act applies to applications for the grant or transfer of CPCNs for water and wastewater systems currently pending before the Commission as of June 30, 2023. Among other things, this section requires the Commission to provide notice by July 31, 2023, whether any pending application is complete.

On June 30, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Requiring Report of the Public Staff and Initiating Rulemaking Proceeding which, in part, directed the Public Staff to file on or before July 25, 2023, whether each application identified by the Public Staff as subject to the provisions of Section 1.(b) of the Act are complete and identifying any deficiency in any identified application that is not complete.

On July 25, 2023, the Public Staff filed a letter outlining deficiencies in the Application and recommended that the Commission find the Application incomplete.

On July 31, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Finding Application Incomplete and Request for Additional Information.

On January 31, 2024, the Applicant filed an amended Application in response to the Public Staff’s deficiency letter.

On February 14, 2024, the Public Staff filed a second deficiency letter outlining additional deficiencies in the Application and indicating that the Public Staff considers the Application incomplete.

On February 14, 2024, the Commission issued a Second Order Finding Application Incomplete and Request for Additional Information

On February 14, 2024, the Applicant filed additional information in response to the Public Staff's second deficiency letter.

On February 21, 2024, the Public Staff filed a letter with the Commission indicating that this docket now includes all the information required for a complete application.

Based on the foregoing, the recommendation of the Public Staff, and the entire record in this proceeding, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to determine that the Application in this matter is complete, and that the Public Staff shall provide to the Commission, within 10 days of the date of this Order, the following information regarding the Application:

1. The number and type of customers currently served on the system and the number and type of customers to be served by Aqua;
2. The rates currently being charged to customers, including the docket number, if applicable, in which the current rates were approved by the Commission and the effective date for the current rates;
3. The proposed rates Aqua seeks to charge if the Commission approves the issuance of a CPCN to Aqua for the provision of water utility service to Gardner Farms in Wake County, North Carolina;
4. If an increase in rates is proposed, provide the impact on the average monthly residential water bill under the proposed rates compared to current rates. For metered rates, indicate the average monthly usage used in your calculations; and

5. Briefly summarize any pertinent points from the application such as a description of any planned capital improvements, the related dollar amounts, the estimated total impact on annual revenue requirement, and the estimated impact on the average monthly residential water bill.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 23rd day of February, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tamika D. Conyers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk