

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 399

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.) of North Carolina, 5821 Fairview Road,) Suite 401, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209,) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and) Necessity to Provide Water Utility Service to) the Carteret County Water System, and for) Approval of Rates)) ORDER GRANTING CARTERET COUNTY’S PETITION TO INTERVENE AND DENYING MOTION TO EXTEND DATE OF HEARING
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BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On August 2, 2022, CWSNC filed in Docket No. W-354, Sub 399 an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates to provide water utility service to the Carteret County Water System in Carteret County, North Carolina (CPCN Application).

On September 13, 2022, the Commission issued the Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice (Scheduling Order). Among other things, the Scheduling Order provided for an expert witness hearing on the CPCN Application to be held beginning on April 11, 2023.

On March 27, 2023, Carteret County (the County) filed a petition with the Commission seeking to intervene in the above-captioned docket, accompanied by a motion to extend the expert witness hearing in this matter (Petition and Motion). The County also filed rebuttal testimony and exhibits of its County Manager, Tommy Burns, and its Assistant County Manager, Denise Meshaw.

In its Petition and Motion, the County stated that “[t]here are significant scheduling conflicts that cannot be avoided for the only two witnesses who are empowered to address the County’s relevant issues before the Commission.” Accordingly, the County requests a brief delay in the hearing.

The PRESIDING COMMISSIONER has considered the Petition and Motion and is of the opinion that good cause exists to allow the requested intervention of the County, the current owner of the Carteret County Water System.

However, the PRESIDING COMMISSIONER finds that it is not in the interests of justice to delay the expert witness hearing previously scheduled in this matter. The Commission’s calendar is extraordinarily busy, and the soonest the hearing can be rescheduled is late July, which will create a substantial delay in the resolution of this

proceeding. Granting the County's request for a brief delay is not possible. The Commission encourages the County (1) to identify a witness or witnesses who can be substituted for witnesses Burns and Meshaw and who can sponsor their testimony and exhibits and (2) to file an appropriate motion with the Commission for substitution of the witnesses as early as possible.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

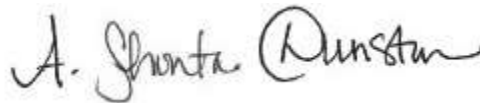
1. That the County's motion to extend the date of the evidentiary hearing is denied;
2. That the County is hereby allowed to intervene in this proceeding; and
3. That the name and address of the attorney for the County is:

Claud R. Wheatly, III
Wheatley Law Group, PA,
710 Cedar Street
Beaufort, North Carolina
rob@wheatlylaw.com

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 4th day of April, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk