

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1298, SUB 4

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application by JACABB Utilities, LLC,)	
210 West North Second Street, Seneca,)	ORDER ESTABLISHING GENERAL
South Carolina 29643, for Authority to)	RATE CASE, SUSPENDING RATES,
Increase Rates for Water Utility Service)	SCHEDULING HEARING, AND
in Cedar Ridge Estates Subdivision in)	REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE
Jackson County, North Carolina)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On November 13, 2018, JACABB Utilities, LLC (JACABB or Applicant) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates and charges for water utility service in Cedar Ridge Estates Subdivision in Jackson, County, North Carolina. JACABB services 38 residential customers. The present rates have been in effect since February 13, 2015.

The Applicant’s present and proposed rates are as follows:

Quarterly Metered Water Rates:

	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Base Charge, includes first 10,500 gallons of usage		
Residential Rate, 5/8" x 3/4" meter	\$ 100.80	\$130.00
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons, after first 10,500 gallons		
10,501 to 15,000 gallons	\$ 3.60	\$ 4.84
15,001 to 24,000 gallons	\$ 6.72	\$ 9.03
24,001 and above	\$ 11.52	\$ 15.48
New Water Customer Administrative Charge	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00
Reconnection Charges	\$ 14.40	\$ 15.00
Returned Check Fee	\$ 19.20	\$ 25.00
Tap Fee	\$ 500.00	\$850.00

The proposed rates would increase the average residential monthly water bill from \$33.60 to \$43.33, a 28.96% increase, based on an average monthly usage of 2,130 gallons.

The Commission is of the opinion that the application constitutes a general rate case, that the proposed new rates should be suspended pending investigation, and that the matter should be scheduled for customer hearing, subject to cancellation if no significant protests are received subsequent to customer notice.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That this proceeding is declared a general rate case pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-137.

2. That the proposed new rates are suspended for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-134.

3. That the test period is established as the 12-month period ended December 31, 2017.

4. That the application is scheduled for public hearing at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 25, 2019, in Jackson County Court House, Courtroom #2, 401 Grindstaff Road, Sylva, North Carolina 28779. This hearing may be canceled if no significant protests are received subsequent to public notice within 45 days from the date of this notice.

5. That an officer or representative of the Applicant is required to appear in person before the Commission at the time and place of the hearing to testify concerning any of the information contained in the application. If the Applicant desires to cross-examine any witnesses at the hearing, the Applicant shall be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

6. That the Notice to Customers, attached as Appendix A, shall be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by the Applicant to all customers affected by the proposed new rates; that the Notice to Customers shall be mailed or hand delivered no later than seven days after the date of this Order; and that the Applicant submit to the Commission the attached Certificate of Service properly signed and notarized not later 20 days after the date of this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 12th day of December, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk

Commissioners Jerry C. Dockham, Lyons Gray, and Daniel G. Clodfelter did not participate in this decision.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
DOCKET NO. W-1298, SUB 4
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that JACABB Utilities, LLC, 210 West North Second Street, Seneca, South Carolina 29643, filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission on November 13, 2018, for authority to increase rates and charges for water utility service in Cedar Ridge Estates Subdivision in Jackson County, North Carolina, as follows:

The Applicant's present and proposed rates are as follows:

Quarterly Metered Water Rates:

	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Base Charge, includes first 10,500 gallons of usage		
Residential Rate, 5/8" x 3/4" meter	\$ 100.80	\$130.00
Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons, after first 10,500 gallons		
10,501 to 15,000 gallons	\$ 3.60	\$ 4.84
15,001 to 24,000 gallons	\$ 6.72	\$ 9.03
24,001 and above	\$ 11.52	\$ 15.48
New Water Customer Administrative Charge	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00
Reconnection Charges	\$ 14.40	\$ 15.00
Returned Check Fee	\$ 19.20	\$ 25.00
Tap Fee	\$ 500.00	\$850.00

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

EFFECT OF RATES

The present rates have been in effect since February 13, 2015. The proposed rates would increase the average residential monthly water bill from \$33.60 to \$43.33, a 28.96% increase, based on an average monthly usage of 2,130 gallons.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission has scheduled the application for public hearing at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 25, 2019, in Jackson County Court House, Courtroom #2, 401 Grindstaff Road, Sylva North Carolina 28779. This hearing may be canceled and the matter decided on the filings if no significant protests are received from consumers within 45 days from the date of this notice. Correspondence concerning the proposed rate increase, service problems, or the public hearing should be directed to the Public Staff.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-269.4, absent certain specific exceptions, it is unlawful for any person to possess, or carry, whether openly or concealed, any deadly weapon, not used solely for instructional or officially sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in any building housing any court of the General Court of Justice. Therefore, weapons are strictly prohibited at the hearings scheduled in this docket in county courthouses. Everyone entering the county courthouse shall have to pass through a metal detector, and any weapons found will be seized.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) is authorized by statute to represent the consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include the name of the 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 Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. Written statements can also be faxed to (919) 715-6704 or e-mailed to gina.casselberry@psncuc.nc.gov.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent the consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

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

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

Persons desiring to intervene in the matter as formal parties of record should file a motion under North Carolina Utilities Commission Rules R1-6, R1-7, and R1-19 no later than February 22, 2019. Any such motion should be filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The details of the proposed new rates have been filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission. A copy of the application and all filings in this matter are available for review by the public at the Office of the Chief Clerk, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. Information regarding this proceeding can also be accessed from the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net under the docket number of this proceeding.

This the 12th day of December, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice H. Fulmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers the attached Order Establishing General Rate Case, Suspending Rates, Scheduling Hearing, and Requiring Customer Notice issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-1298, Sub 4, by the date specified in the Order.

This the ____ day of _____, _____.

By: _____
Signature

Name of Utility Company

The above named Applicant, _____, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the Order Establishing General Rate Case, Suspending Rates, Scheduling Hearing, and Requiring Customer Notice was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated _____ in Docket No. W-1298, Sub 4.

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

Notary Public

Address

(SEAL) My Commission Expires: _____
Date