



**NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC STAFF
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

June 23, 2015

Mr. Mark Polderman
Mr. Dennis Lacey
Sugar Top Resort Condominium Association, Inc.
303 Sugar Top Drive
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Re: NCUC Docket No. W-354, Sub 344 – Carolina Water Service

Dear Mr. Polderman and Mr. Lacey:

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2015, regarding the rate increase application of Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC) currently pending before the Utilities Commission. We understand your concerns about the magnitude of the proposed rate increase and the impact it would have on condominium owners at Sugar Top.

The Public Staff's goal in this case, as in all utility rate cases, is to protect consumers and ensure that they receive adequate service at reasonable rates. Our engineers and accountants will conduct a thorough investigation and analysis of the application. This will include auditing CWSNC's financial records and other documentation related to the proposed increase and, in some cases, conducting on-site investigations of the water and wastewater systems. We will take your views into consideration as we conduct our investigation and formulate our recommendations to the Commission.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. If you have other questions or concerns about the proceeding, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Antoinette R. Wike
Antoinette R. Wike
Chief Counsel

cc: Chief Clerk
Gina Holt
The Honorable Roy Cooper
Senator Dan Soucek
Representative Josh Dobson

Executive Director
733-2435

Communications
733-2810

Economic Research
733-2902

Legal
733-6110

Transportation
733-7766

Accounting
733-4279

Consumer Services
733-9277

Electric
733-2267

Natural Gas
733-4326

Water
733-5610

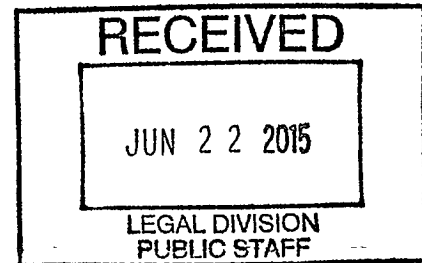


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Jun 23 2015

June 19, 2015

Ms. Antoinette R. Wike
Chief Counsel, Public Staff
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4326



Dear Ms. Wike:

The purpose of this letter is to urge the North Carolina Utilities Commission to reject the rate increases proposed by the Carolina Water Service, Inc. The CWS current rates are already higher than those charged in many other areas of the state and they are now proposing to increase these rates even further.

SUGARTOP® has 320 condominium residences whose owners have expressed strong opposition to the proposed increase of over 23% in both the base facility charge and water usage rate and the almost 20% increase in the monthly base facility charge and usage charge per 1000 gallons for sewer service. Our Board of Directors and General Manager also feel that these proposed increases are unreasonable, particularly considering that they are multiple times higher than the cumulative rate of inflation since the last increase.

In these difficult economic times when many of our homeowners are experiencing lower incomes and thus have had to reduce their personal expenses and then live within their means, it seems only fair and appropriate that the Carolina Water Services, Inc. do the same instead of just raising rates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Polderman, President
SUGARTOP® HOA Board of Directors

Dennis Lacey, General Manager
SUGARTOP® Resort Condominium Association, Inc.

Copy: Gina Casselberry, Public Utilities Engineer
The Honorable Roy Cooper, Attorney General
Senator Dan Soucek, State Senator
Representative Josh Dobson, State Representative

