STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1333, SUB 5

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

)	ORDER ACKNOWLEDGING
)	PARTIAL SETTLEMENT
)	AGREEMENT, STAYING
)	SHOW CAUSE PROCEEDING,
)	CANCELING SHOW CAUSE
)	HEARING, AND CONTINUING
)	CPCN PROCEEDING
)))))

BY THE CHAIR: On August 16, 2023, Currituck Water and Sewer, LLC (Currituck), filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates (CPCN Application) to provide water and wastewater utility service to the Carolina Village subdivision (Carolina Village) in Currituck County, North Carolina in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110. Currituck filed amended and supplemental information on September 20, 2023, and November 14, 2023.

On February 14, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice (CPCN Scheduling Order) which set the consideration of the CPCN Application for a public witness hearing on May 20, 2024, and an expert witness hearing on July 8, 2024. On February 29, 2024, the Commission issued an Order rescheduling the public witness hearing to May 9, 2024.

On March 26, 2024, the Public Staff filed a Motion to Show Cause in this docket requesting that Currituck be required to show cause why the Commission should not issue an order: (1) declaring Currituck a public utility; (2) assessing civil penalties against Currituck for violation of applicable statutes and Commission rules; (3) declaring the existence of an emergency warranting appointment of an emergency operator for the water and wastewater utility systems (Systems) serving Carolina Village; and (4) appointing an emergency operator for these Systems. The Public Staff requested that the Commission schedule a hearing and require Currituck to show cause why the Commission should not grant the relief sought by the Public Staff.

On April 9, 2024, the Commission issued an Order which scheduled a hearing on the Public Staff's Motion to Show Cause to begin on May 6, 2024.

On April 25, 2024, Currituck filed a Response and Answer to the Public Staff's Motion to Show Cause.

On May 1, 2024, the Public Staff and Currituck (collectively, the Parties) filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Partial Settlement Agreement, Cancellation of Hearing on Motion to Show Cause, and Agreed Revised Scheduling Order (Joint Motion). In support of the Joint Motion, the Parties state that they have conferred and reached a partial settlement agreement. The partial settlement agreement, attached as Exhibit A to the Joint Motion, provides that on April 24, 2024, the Public Staff and representatives from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality were able to observe the Carolina Village Systems and ask questions of representatives from Currituck. The Parties state that given Currituck's improvements to the Systems, and Currituck's commitment to continue and complete additional improvements and provide additional information, the Parties believe that certain adjustments to the pending schedule are appropriate.

The Parties request that the Commission approve the partial settlement agreement, stay consideration of the Public Staff's Motion to Show Cause, and cancel the show cause hearing scheduled for May 6, 2024. The parties further request that the Commission modify certain dates put forth in the CPCN Scheduling Order by extending the deadlines for submission of the Parties' prefiled testimony and rescheduling the expert witness hearing to a date no earlier than October 1, 2024. The Parties indicate that they are not proposing a change in the public witness hearing date. In addition, the Parties state that Currituck agrees to waive the timeline for issuance of an order pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-111(f)(4).

Based on the foregoing, the partial settlement agreement entered into between the Parties, and their acknowledgement that Currituck has made and will continue to make additional improvements to the water and wastewater systems serving Carolina Village, the Chair finds good cause to stay, at this time, the consideration of the show cause proceeding, cancel the hearing scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, and continue the dates established in the CPCN Scheduling Order for prefiled testimony and the expert witness hearing scheduled for July 8, 2024. The Chair acknowledges the partial settlement agreement between the Parties and expects the Parties to comply with the agreement as set forth in the filling.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

- 1. That the show cause proceeding is stayed, pending further consideration by the Commission:
- 2. That the show cause hearing scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, is hereby canceled;
- 3. That all prefiled testimony deadlines put forth in the CPCN Scheduling Order are suspended. Extended prefiled testimony dates will be determined by subsequent order of the Commission; and

4. That the expert witness hearing scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024, is hereby canceled and will be rescheduled for a later date by subsequent order of the Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 2nd day of May, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Taylor C. Berry, Deputy Clerk

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