STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 12

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC,) 5950 Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas,)	ORDER RESCHEDULING HEARINGS AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE
75225 for Authority to Increase Rates for)	
Sewer Utility Service in All of Its Service Areas)	
in Pender County, North Carolina.	

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On July 1, 2020, the Commission issued Order Rescheduling Hearings and Requiring Customer Notice, which scheduled this matter for expert witness hearing beginning at 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and continuing as necessary until conclusion. The Order stated the hearing would be either held remotely via WebEx, or in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Order further provided that the Commission would issue an order by August 11, 2020, setting forth the procedures for a remote expert witness hearing or confirming that the expert witness hearing will be held in the Commission Hearing Room.

In March through July 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a progression of Executive Orders that declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Executive Orders place restrictions on business operations and mass gatherings including limiting face-to-face meetings to no more than ten people and requiring social distancing between individuals of at least six feet. On August 5, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 155 that declared these restrictions would remain in effect until September 11, 2020, unless repealed or modified by a subsequent Executive Order.

Based on the record and the current state of uncertainty regarding future requirements to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to confirm the expert witness hearing currently scheduled in this docket will be held by remote means and will be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) On or before Monday, August 17, 2020, all parties shall file a statement consenting to holding the expert witness hearings by remote means, or a statement objecting to same;
- (2) On or before Tuesday, August 18, 2020, all parties shall send the email addresses of the attorneys, witnesses, and other persons that will participate

in the hearing on the party's behalf to the following address: ncucwebex@ncuc.net;

- (3) On or before Tuesday, September 1, 2020, each party shall file a list of its potential cross-examination exhibits for the hearing. Each party must also provide an electronic copy of its potential cross-examination exhibits which have been labeled with the party name and numbered sequentially notwithstanding the number of witnesses to the Commission and all other parties to the docket. For example, Public Staff 1, Public Staff 2, Public Staff 3, and so forth;
- (4) On or before Thursday, September 3, 2020, each party shall file a list of any potential redirect exhibits for the hearing. Each party must also provide an electronic copy of its potential redirect exhibits labeled with the party name and numbered sequentially notwithstanding the number of witnesses to the Commission and all other parties to the docket;
- (5) Within two days after the hearing, parties shall file their cross-examination and redirect exhibits used in the hearing marked as indicated during the hearing; and
- (6) Parties and witnesses will be required to refrain from disclosing confidential information during the hearing, including during direct examination, cross-examination, and redirect examination. If a party believes that this requirement will materially affect the party's presentation of evidence or examination of a witness, the party shall bring this to the attention of the Presiding Commissioner at the beginning of the hearing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 7th day of August, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk

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