

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 526

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Aqua North Carolina, Inc.,)	
202 MacKenan Court, Cary, North Carolina)	MOTION OF THE PUBLIC
27511, for Authority to Adjust and Increase)	STAFF FOR EXTENSION OF
Rates for Water and Sewer Utility Service)	TIME
in All Its Service Areas in North Carolina)	

NOW COMES THE PUBLIC STAFF – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff), by and through its Executive Director, Christopher J. Ayers, and moves the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) to extend the time to file the Public Staff's testimony and exhibits to May 26, 2020, subject to the exception described below. In support thereof, the Public Staff respectfully shows the Commission the following:

1. On December 31, 2019, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua or Company), filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to adjust and increase its rates for water and sewer utility services in all its service areas in North Carolina effective January 30, 2020.

2. On February 14, 2020, the Commission issued its Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice (Scheduling Order). Among other things, the Scheduling Order provides that "the direct testimony and exhibits of the Public Staff and other intervenors on all subjects except the subject of the public witness hearings shall be filed at or before

12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, and that the rebuttal testimony of Aqua, if any, shall be filed at or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020.”

3. The Scheduling Order also established the dates, times, and locations for six public witness hearings to take place in April 2020 and an expert witness hearing to begin on June 23, 2020.

4. On March 31, 2020, to assist in preventing the spread of coronavirus and in response to Governor Roy Cooper’s Executive Order No. 121 imposing a statewide “stay at home” order until April 29, 2020, the Commission issued an order postponing the previously scheduled public witness hearings pending further order. No changes were made to the date of the expert witness hearing, which is still scheduled to begin on June 23, 2020.

5. On April 29, 2020, the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office (AGO) filed a notice of intervention in this docket pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-20.

6. The Public Staff has worked diligently to meet the current May 19, 2020, deadline for the filing of its testimony. However, for a number of reasons, including the departure of one of its lead witnesses, and the significant time committed to discovery-related matters in this case and to other matters currently pending before the Commission, the Public Staff is in need of additional time to file its testimony, with the exception of the testimony of Public Staff witness John R. Hinton, which the Public Staff plans to file by the current deadline.

7. Based on the foregoing, the Public Staff requests an extension of time to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, to file its testimony, with the exception of the testimony of Public Staff witness Hinton, which the Public Staff will file by the current deadline of 12:00 p.m. on May 19, 2020. An equivalent extension to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, should be granted for the AGO to file its testimony, and a corresponding extension to 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2020, should be granted for Aqua to file its rebuttal testimony, with the exception of the rebuttal testimony of Aqua witness Dylan W. D'Ascendis, which should be filed by the current deadline of 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020.

8. The undersigned counsel for the Public Staff has contacted counsel for the AGO and is authorized to represent that the AGO does not object to the extension requested by the Public Staff.

9. The undersigned counsel for the Public Staff has also contacted counsel for Aqua and is authorized to represent that Aqua does not object to the extension requested by the Public Staff, provided the Commission grants a corresponding extension to 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2020, for Aqua to file the rebuttal testimony of its witnesses, with the exception of its witness D'Ascendis whose rebuttal testimony Aqua agrees to file by 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020.

WHEREFORE, the Public Staff requests that the Commission enter an order (1) granting an extension until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, for the Public Staff to file its direct testimony and exhibits, with the exception of the direct testimony and exhibits of Public Staff witness Hinton, which shall be filed by 12:00

p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, (2) granting an equivalent extension to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 26, 2020, for the AGO to file its testimony, and (3) granting a corresponding extension until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2020, for Aqua to file its rebuttal testimony and exhibits, with the exception of the rebuttal testimony and exhibits of Aqua witness D'Ascendis, which shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020.

This the 12th day of May, 2020.

PUBLIC STAFF
Christopher J. Ayers
Executive Director

David T. Drooz
Chief Counsel

Electronically submitted
/s/ Megan Jost
Staff Attorney

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Motion on all parties of record in accordance with Commission Rule R1-39, by United States mail, postage prepaid, first class; by hand delivery; or by means of facsimile or electronic delivery upon agreement of the receiving party.

This the 12th day of May, 2020.

Electronically submitted
/s/ Megan Jost