

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA
September 27, 2021**

***IMPORTANT NOTE: STAFF CONFERENCE
WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA WEBEX.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND A LINK TO VIEW
THE MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON THE COMMISSION'S
WEBSITE, NCUC.NET***

COMMISSION STAFF

NO AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC STAFF

B. GAS

- P1. [DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 637 – APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF BI-ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES UNDER RIDER C AND AN ADJUSTMENT TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS UNDER RIDER D TO ITS TARIFF EXHIBIT NO. P-1](#)
- P2. [DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 792 – APPLICATION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC., FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS EXHIBIT NO. P-2](#)
- P3. [DOCKET NO. G-40, SUB 162 – APPLICATION OF FRONTIER NATURAL GAS COMPANY, FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS EXHIBIT NO. P-3](#)

C. COMMUNICATIONS

- P1. [DOCKET NO. P-1000, Sub 7, P-224, Sub 14 – PETITION OF LINGO TELECOM OF THE SOUTH, LLC AND MATRIX TELECOM, LLC REGARDING INTERNAL REORGANIZATION AND REQUEST TO CANCEL CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY](#)

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TO: Agenda – Commission Conference – September 27, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC STAFF – North Carolina Utilities Commission

B. GAS

P1. DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 637 – APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF BI-ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES UNDER RIDER C AND AN ADJUSTMENT TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS UNDER RIDER D TO ITS TARIFF

EXPLANATION: On September 16, 2021, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company), filed an application (Application) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.7, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3) and (5) (d), and PSNC's Riders C and D of the Company's tariffs, requesting authority to adjust its rates effective October 1, 2021. The Company requests pursuant to Rider C, to implement new temporary increments and decrements in its rates for residential, small general service and medium general service customers and pursuant to Rider D, to implement an increase in its commodity benchmark cost of gas.

PSNC's Application complies with its Rider C - Customer Usage Tracker (CUT) mechanism, which is based on the Customer Usage Deferred Account balances as of July 31, 2021.

According to the CUT, PSNC is to compare actual residential and small and medium general service margins with the margins contained in the most recent Commission-approved rates. PSNC is to then apply, on a bi-annual basis, for authority to implement temporary rate increments or decrements (temporaries) to collect or refund any differences in the Customer Usage Deferred Account.

The proposed CUT temporaries, as well as the existing CUT temporaries and the corresponding rate changes, expressed in dollars per dekatherm (\$/dt), are as follows:

Description	Residential		SGS		MGS
	Residential Rate 101	Hi-Efficiency Rate 102	SGS Rate 125	Hi-Efficiency Rate 127	Rate 140
Ending Balance Due (To)/From Customers	11,174,934	(39,075)	3,054,919	(24,997)	520,598
Rate Case Volumes (dts)	29,824,953	439,438	12,075,370	100,097	3,295,885
Increment/Decrement (\$/dts)	\$0.3747	(\$0.0889)	\$0.2530	(\$0.2497)	\$0.1580
Current Mo Increment/(Decrement) (\$/dts)	\$0.5439	\$0.0704	\$0.3679	(\$0.0323)	\$0.2170
Change in Increment/(Decrement)(\$/dts)	(\$0.1692)	(\$0.1593)	(\$0.1149)	(\$0.2174)	(\$0.0591)

PSNC's Application is also, in compliance with Rider D – Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Procedures, PSNC is seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$1.2622 per dt and its transportation rates by \$0.0122 per dt effective October 1, 2021. The increases are the result of a change in the current commodity benchmark cost of gas from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per dt, as well as a change in the company use and unaccounted for gas as described in PSNC's Rider D.

The Public Staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the proposed rate adjustments be approved as filed.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-1](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Patel, Dorgan) That the Commission issue the proposed order approving PSNC's proposed rate changes as filed.

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P2. DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 792 – APPLICATION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC., FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS

EXPLANATION: On September 16, 2021, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont) filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3)(a), and Appendix A of Piedmont's North Carolina Service Regulations, seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$1.2738 per dekatherm (dt) and its transportation rates by \$0.0238 per dt effective October 1, 2021. The increase is a result of a change in its Benchmark Commodity Cost of Gas from the current rate of \$3.25 per dt to \$4.50 per dt, as well as a change in the company use and unaccounted for gas as provided for in Appendix A.

The Public Staff has reviewed the application and recommends approval as filed.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-2](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Patel) That the Commission issue the proposed order approving the rate changes proposed by Piedmont.

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P3. DOCKET NO. G-40, SUB 162 – APPLICATION OF FRONTIER NATURAL GAS COMPANY, FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES TO TRACK CHANGES IN ITS WHOLESALE COSTS OF GAS

EXPLANATION: On September 15, 2021, Frontier Natural Gas Company (Frontier) filed an application pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3) and Appendix A of Frontier's Gas Service Rules & Regulations, seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$0.80 per dekatherm (dt) effective October 1, 2021. The increase is a result of a change in its Benchmark City Gate Delivered Cost of Gas from the current rate of \$4.45 per dt to \$5.25 per dt.

The Public Staff has reviewed the application and recommends approval as filed.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-3](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Singer) That the Commission issue the proposed order approving the rate changes proposed by Frontier.

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C. COMMUNICATIONS

P1. DOCKET NO. P-1000, Sub 7, P-224, Sub 14 – PETITION OF LINGO TELECOM OF THE SOUTH, LLC AND MATRIX TELECOM, LLC REGARDING INTERNAL REORGANIZATION AND REQUEST TO CANCEL CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

EXPLANATION: On July 23, 2020, Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC (Lingo South) and its affiliate Matrix Telecom, LLC¹ (Matrix) (collectively, the parties), filed a Petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) seeking approval, to the extent necessary, of an internal reorganization and transfer of customers from Lingo South to Matrix. In the petition, the parties stated that, upon completion of the customer transfer, Lingo South will no longer operate within North Carolina and a notification will be submitted to the Commission to request cancellation of the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs) granted to Lingo South in Docket No. P-1000, Subs 0 and 1.

The parties requested to waive any applicable state or federal slamming regulations regarding the transfer of customers on the basis that Lingo South's customers will continue to receive service under the same terms, conditions, and rates. The parties contended that sending notice to Lingo's customers had the potential to cause confusion because Matrix operates under the "Lingo" name. Furthermore, the parties stated that the transition to Matrix will be invisible to Lingo South's customers because both companies operate under the "Lingo" name, and pledged that Lingo South's customers will not incur any charges or changes in the services that they currently receive as a result of this reorganization and transfer.

On January 21, 2021, the parties filed a letter to notify the Commission that the internal reorganization and transfer of customers detailed in their July 23, 2020, filing has been completed and the customers of Lingo South were transferred to Matrix effective October 1, 2020. Lingo South further stated that it has ceased operations in North Carolina and requests cancellation of its telecommunications authority granted in P-1000.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has reviewed the subject filings and does not object to the cancellation of the certificates of Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC as requested in the letter filed with the Commission on January 21, 2021.

¹Matrix Telecom, LLC d/b/a Matrix Business Technologies d/b/a Trinsic Communications d/b/a VarTec Telecom d/b/a Excel Telecommunications d/b/a Impact Telecom d/b/a Startec d/b/a Americatel d/b/a Lingo.

RECOMMENDATION: (Proffitt) That the Commission issue an order cancelling the certificates of public convenience and necessity of Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC. The Public Staff has provided a proposed order to the Commission Staff.

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P2. FILING OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS BY AT&T NORTH CAROLINA

EXPLANATION: The following interconnection agreement amendments were filed for approval by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) on June 17, 2021. The amendments implement changes resulting from an organizational change of Birch Communications, Inc. (Birch), in 2018, whereby certain Birch affiliated entities became indirect subsidiaries of Fusion Connect, Inc., and certain other Birch affiliated entities were spun off to Lingo Management, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lingo Communications, LLC, and parent company of Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC.

BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina

Docket No. P-55, Sub 1749 and P-1000, Sub 7 – Amendment to an existing interconnection agreement with Birch Communications, Inc. n/k/a Fusion Cloud Services, LLC, and Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. n/k/a Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC (Lingo South), which was approved on August 8, 2008. This amendment removes Lingo South from the agreement and assigns Lingo South's interest in the agreement to Birch Communications, Inc., n/k/a Fusion Cloud Services, LLC.

Docket No. P-55, Sub 1749 – Amendment to the above interconnection agreement with Birch Communications, Inc. n/k/a Fusion Cloud Services, LLC, to reflect the change of Birch's name to Fusion Cloud Services, LLC, and updates terms, conditions, and contact information for notices by the parties.

These filings were made in compliance with Commission Rule R17-4(d) and Sections 252(e) and 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The Act provides for the filing of such agreements and amendments with the state commission and approval or rejection by the state commission within 90 days after filing. On June 18, 1996, the Commission issued an Order in Docket No. P-100, Sub 133, allowing interim operation under negotiated agreements filed as public records prior to Commission approval of the agreements.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) has reviewed the filings and recommends Commission approval.

RECOMMENDATION: (Proffitt) That orders be issued approving the amendments effective on the date they were filed. The Public Staff has provided proposed orders to the Commission Staff.

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D. ELECTRIC

P1. APPLICATIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT A SOLAR FACILITY

EXPLANATION: The following applications regard certificates of public convenience and necessity for construction of solar photovoltaic generating facilities, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

Duke Energy Progress, LLC:

- Docket No. SP-7189, Sub 0 – Application of Arthur Solar 2, LLC, for renewal of a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Columbus County, North Carolina. (registration statement accepted previously)
- Docket No. SP-7919, Sub 0 – Application of Cathcart Solar, LLC, for an amendment and renewal of a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 5-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Columbus County, North Carolina. (registration statement accepted previously)

The Public Staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-64.

RECOMMENDATION: (Lawrence, D. Williamson) That the Commission issue orders approving the applications and issuing the requested certificates. The Public Staff has provided proposed orders to the Commission Staff.

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E. WATER

P1. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 364A – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA. – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGE

EXPLANATION: On July 30, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC), filed an application for approval of Water System Improvement Charge (WSIC) and Sewer System Improvement Charge (SSIC) rate adjustments effective October 1, 2021 (Application), pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.12, Commission Rules R7-39 and R10-26, and the WSIC and SSIC mechanisms, which were approved in CWSNC's general rate case, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 336 (Sub 336 Rate Case) and in the Commission's prior Orders approving WSIC and SSIC mechanisms for CWSNC and the other Utilities, Inc. companies that have been merged into CWSNC.

The WSIC and SSIC procedures allow for semi-annual adjustments to CWSNC's rates every April 1st and October 1st, based upon reasonable and prudently incurred investment in eligible system improvements completed and placed in service prior to the filing of the request. Eligible system improvements are water and sewer system improvements set forth in N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12(b), (c), and (d) and shall include only those prudent and reasonable improvements found necessary by the Commission to enable the water or sewer utility to provide safe, reliable, and efficient service in accordance with applicable water quality and effluent standards.

CWSNC's WSIC and SSIC percentages were reset to zero as of March 31, 2020, the effective date of CWSNC's new base rates in its last general rate case, Docket No. W-354, Sub 364 (Sub 364 Rate Case). This is CWSNC's third filing to implement charges under the WSIC and SSIC mechanism since the Sub 364 Rate Case.

CWSNC's request includes WSIC and SSIC projects completed and placed in service during the six months ending June 30, 2021. These projects consist of the following:

Wells and springs	\$2,473
Electric pump equip. WTP	4,752
Electric pump equip. trans. dist.	1,731
Water treatment equipment	179,507
Dist. Resv. and standpipes	1,850
Transmission & distribution mains	199,391
Service lines	5,995
Meters	6,077
Meter installations	<u>2,347</u>
Total WSIC plant additions	<u>\$404,123</u>
Struct. and improve. pump plant	\$216,531
Sewer gravity main	209,847
Manholes	17,407
Pumping equipment pump plant	<u>83,253</u>

Total SSIC plant additions

\$527,038

CWSNC's proposed WSIC and SSIC percentages to be implemented on October 1, 2021, are as follows:

	Previously Approved WSIC/SSIC <u>Percentage</u>	Net Change To WSIC/SSIC <u>Percentage</u>	Cumulative WSIC/SSIC <u>Percentage</u>
Uniform Water	0.75%	0.19%	0.94%
Uniform Sewer	0.32%	0.57%	0.89%
BF/FH/TC Water	0.18%	0.07%	0.25%
BF/FH Sewer	0.70%	-0.01%	0.69%

The WSIC and SSIC percentages above do not include the Experience Modification Factor (EMF) adjustments from the 2020 annual WSIC and SSIC revenue review, which went into effect on October 1, 2021. The impact of the 2020 EMF on CWSNC's requested WSIC and SSIC percentages is as follows:

	2020 Experience Modification <u>Factor</u>	Proposed WSIC/SSIC <u>Percentage</u>	Cumulative WSIC/SSIC <u>Percentage</u>
Uniform Water	0.09%	0.94%	1.03%
Uniform Sewer	0.05%	0.89%	0.94%
BF/FH/TC Water	0.02%	0.25%	0.27%
BF/TC Sewer	0.08%	0.69%	0.77%

The cumulative WSIC and SSIC revenue requirements after CWSNC's proposed increases are as follows:

	Previously Approved WSIC/SSIC Revenue <u>Requirement</u>	Net Change to WSIC/SSIC Revenue <u>Requirement</u>	Cumulative WSIC/SSIC Revenue <u>Requirement</u>
Uniform Water	\$145,339	\$35,046	\$180,385
Uniform Sewer	\$88,307	\$53,849	\$142,156
BF/FH/TC Water	\$2,487	\$1,002	\$3,489
BF/TC Sewer	\$15,718	(\$289)	\$15,429

CWSNC's cumulative WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement is comprised of the calculated WSIC/SSIC revenue requirement for the current review period, plus updates to previously approved WSIC and SSIC revenue requirements which became effective on December 17, 2020 and March 29, 2021, and have been updated through June 30, 2021. The updates include a roll forward of accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred income taxes.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12(g), the cumulative WSIC & SSIC percentages are now capped at 7.5%² of the total annual service revenues approved by the Commission in the Sub 364 Rate Case, resulting in the following maximum revenue requirement for CWSNC's water and sewer operations:

	Service <u>Revenues</u>	Cap <u>Percentage</u>	WSIC/SSIC <u>Cap</u>
Uniform Water	\$19,271,785	X 7.5%	\$1,445,384
Uniform Sewer	\$15,904,852	X 7.5%	\$1,192,864
BF/FH/TC Water	\$ 1,402,009	X 7.5%	\$105,151
BF/FH Sewer	\$ 2,243,027	X 7.5%	\$168,227

CWSNC's proposed revenue requirement does not exceed the maximum WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement listed above.

As stated by the Commission in its Order adopting Rules R7-39 and R10-26 issued on June 6, 2014, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 54, the Public Staff is to review all infrastructure improvements proposed for recovery for eligibility and reasonableness prior to making its recommendation to the Commission on WSIC or SSIC rate adjustments. Furthermore, any WSIC or SSIC rate adjustments will be allowed to become effective, but not unconditionally approved. The adjustments may be rescinded retroactively in the Company's subsequent general rate case, at which time the adjustment may be further examined for a determination of its justness and reasonableness.

The Public Staff has carefully reviewed CWSNC's stated WSIC and SSIC improvements, including reviewing in detail construction work in progress ledgers and transactions, invoices, work orders, engineering certifications and other accounting records. Based on this review, the Public Staff recommends adjustments to (1) correct the calculation of average accumulated depreciation for Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour/Treasure Cove (BF/FH/TC) water operations, (2) replace accumulated depreciation in the Company's calculation of WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement with annual depreciation expense, and (3) remove emergent projects from CWSNC's WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement calculations.

Correct Calculation of Average Accumulated Depreciation – Based on review of the supporting work papers provided by CWSNC with its Application, the Company did not calculate an amount for accumulated depreciation for plant costs additions in the BF/FH/TC water service areas. Correction of this error results in an increase in the average amount of accumulated depreciation used in the calculation of the annual WSIC revenue requirement for the BF/FH/TC water service areas.

Replace Accumulated Depreciation with Depreciation Expense – CWSNC mistakenly used accumulated depreciation instead of depreciation expense in its calculation of the annual revenue requirement for all rate divisions in this current

² On September 10, 2021, Governor Roy Cooper signed into law Senate Bill 211 (Session Law 2021-149), which, among other changes, amends the statute to increase the cap from 5% to 7.5%.

Application. The result of this adjustment is an increase in the annual revenue requirement for each rate division.

Remove Emergent Work Projects – In an effort to compromise and address the workload and time constraints placed on the Public Staff having to review both the WSIC/SSIC filing and CWSNC's pending general rate application, CWSNC and the Public Staff have agreed to limit the scope of the current WSIC/SSIC filing to four projects totaling \$745,313 and remove the 27 emergent projects and address them in the Company's general rate case proceeding filed on July 2, 2021 in Docket No. W-354, Sub 384. The four projects make up the bulk of capital costs in this filing and are WSIC and SSIC eligible projects.

Based on our investigation, the Public Staff recommends the following adjustments to the WSIC and SSIC percentages proposed by CWSNC:

	WSIC/SSIC Percentages Including EMF Per CWSNC	WSIC/SSIC Revenue Requirement Per Public Staff	Impact of Public Staff Adjustments	WSIC/SSIC Percentage Including EMF Per Public Staff
Uniform Water	1.03%	\$34,641	(0.02%)	1.01%
Uniform Sewer	0.94%	\$41,609	(0.08%)	0.86%
BF/FH/TC Water	0.27%	\$0	(0.07%)	0.20%
BF/TC Sewer	0.77%	\$0	(0.00%)	0.77%

The Public Staff has discussed its recommended adjustments with CWSNC and the Company has agreed to accept each adjustment as recommended by the Public Staff.

The Public Staff will continue to review the justness, prudence, and reasonableness of these improvements during its review of CWSNC's future WSIC and SSIC filings and in CWSNC's next general rate case.

The Public Staff recommends that CWSNC be allowed to implement the Public Staff's recommended WSIC and SSIC percentages, effective for service rendered on or after October 1, 2021, subject to true-up.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-4](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Henry/Darden/Holt) That the Commission issue the proposed order approving the Public Staff's recommended water and sewer system improvement charges, effective for service rendered on or after October 1, 2021, subject to true-up.

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P2. DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 30 – OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC
– NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BEGIN WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS IN
CONTIGUOUS SERVICE AREA

EXPLANATION: On January 24, 2017, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area (Notification) to provide wastewater utility service in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision, in Pender County, North Carolina. Majestic Oaks West Subdivision is contiguous to ONSWC's Majestic Oaks Subdivision service area. ONSWC proposes to charge the rates currently approved for the Majestic Oaks service area.

ONSWC does presently serves 13 wastewater customers in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision. The service area is shown on plans filed with the Notification.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section, has issued permit number WQ0040002, dated February 22, 2019, for the construction and operation of the Majestic Oaks West Lots 1-13 wastewater collection system.

ONSWC has entered into a Wastewater Agreement dated September 29, 2016, with Eastern NC Homebuilders, LLC (Developer), under which the Developer is installing an individual STEP System (septic tank effluent pump system) for each lot. ONSWC will accept the wastewater from the lots and the individual lot owners shall be responsible for the cost of the maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of the individual STEP system. ONSWC is requesting a connection fee of \$4,200 per SFRE for the wastewater service. Pursuant to the Commission's August 26, 2019 Order in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, a utility is not required to collect income tax on CIAC from a contributor unless contributions were contracted for on or after October 5, 2018.

ONSWC presently holds water franchises serving approximately 1,688 customers and wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 customers in North Carolina. ONSWC's record of service is satisfactory.

ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the application.

Based on the foregoing, the Public Staff is of the opinion that ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide wastewater utility service in this contiguous area and recommends that the contiguous extension be recognized. The Public Staff further recommends that the Commission require posting of a \$10,000 bond for the contiguous extension of Majestic Oaks West Subdivision. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-5](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Darden/Feasel/Grantmyre) That the Commission issue the proposed order recognizing the contiguous extension and approving rates.

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P3. DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 56 – OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC
– NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO BEGIN WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS IN
CONTIGUOUS SERVICE AREA

EXPLANATION: On January 4, 2019, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area (Notification) to provide wastewater utility service in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision, in Pender County, North Carolina. Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision is contiguous to ONSWC's Majestic Oaks Subdivision service area. ONSWC proposes to charge the rates currently approved for the Majestic Oaks service area.

ONSWC presently serves 39 sewer customers in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision. ONSWC expects to eventually serve 277 residential customers in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision. The service area is shown on plans filed with the Notification.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section, has issued permit number WQ0040594, dated March 25, 2020, for the construction and operation of the gravity wastewater collection system for a total of 277 residences in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Phases 1 and 2.

ONSWC has entered into an Agreement dated December 13, 2018, with WLI Investments LLC (Developer), under which the Developer is installing the wastewater collection system. ONSWC is requesting a connection free of \$4,200 per SFRE for wastewater service. ONSWC is purchasing the wastewater system for 82% of the actual cost of the Off-Site Wastewater Pump Station and Off-Site Wastewater Forcemain (excluding the cost of upsizing a portion of the Forcemain from 4-inch to 6-inch diameter). The purchase price is payable based on 82% of the actual cost of the Off-Site Pump Station and Off-Site Forcemain divided by 150 residential equivalent units (REU). ONSWC will not be required to make any purchase price payments to the developer for the first 150 connections. Purchase price payments after the first 150 connections are payable quarterly based on the number of connections installed during the previous quarter.

ONSWC has attempted to collect the full gross up from the Developer for the contributed wastewater collection system plant, but the Developer has refused to pay. ONSWC has collected the full gross up on the connection fees.

ONSWC presently holds water franchises serving approximately 1,688 customers and wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 customers in North Carolina. ONSWC's record of service is satisfactory.

ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the application.

Based on the foregoing, the Public Staff is of the opinion that ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide wastewater utility service in this contiguous

area and recommends that the contiguous extension be recognized. The Public Staff further recommends that the Commission require posting of a \$10,000 bond for the contiguous extension of Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

EXHIBIT: A proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-6](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Darden/Chui/Grantmyre) That the Commission issue the proposed order recognizing the contiguous extension and approving rates.

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P4. DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 20 – OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC
– APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
NECESSITY

EXPLANATION: On October 5, 2015, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide wastewater service in Southside Commons (formerly Grey Bull Subdivision) in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates.

On September 13, 2017, ONSWC amended its application and on June 20, 2018, ONSWC filed the wastewater collection system extension permit from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR).

ONSWC currently serves 28 customers at Southside Commons. The present rates have been in effect since January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission's Order of December 6, 2016, in Docket Nos. M-100, Sub 138, and W-1300, Sub 11.

DWR has issued permit number WQ003992, dated June 13, 2018, to ONSWC. The permit is for the construction and operation of approximately 6,308 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer, a 84 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station, as well as approximately 4,645 linear feet of 3-inch force main to serve 106 three-bedroom residences as part of the Southside Commons project, and the discharge of 22,260 gallons per day (gpd) of collected wastewater into ONSWC's existing wastewater system at Majestic Oaks.

ONSWC has entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service, dated September 20, 2015, with Grey Bull, Inc. (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the wastewater collection facilities at no charge to ONSWC. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$4,200 per single-family residential equivalent (SFRE). ONSWC, in lieu of a purchase price, has constructed ONSWC's investment, the 84 gpm pump station and the force main interconnection to ONSWC wastewater collection system at Majestic Oaks.

On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued an Order that required in Ordering paragraph 2 that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on CIAC for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018, using the full gross up method."

The Agreement between CWSNC and the Developer in this matter was executed September 20, 2015, and as such, is not subject to the full gross-up requirements in the Commission's August 26, 2019 Order.

ONSWC holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 customers in North Carolina. Its record of service is satisfactory.

ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the application.

The Public Staff is of the opinion that ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide wastewater utility service in Southside Commons and recommends that the certificate of public convenience and necessity be issued.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission require posting of bond in the amount of \$10,000. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

EXHIBIT: A copy of the proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-7](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Casselberry/Henry/Grantmyre) That the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise, and approving ONSWC's proposed rates.

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P5. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 9 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

EXPLANATION: On June 11, 2018, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide sewer utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates.

Pluris Hampstead is currently billing 11 customers its current rates approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, effective November 13, 2020.

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued permit number WQ0040093, dated August 7, 2018, to Pluris Hampstead. The permit is for the construction and operation of approximately 904 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer, a 45 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station, as well as approximately 1,135 linear feet of 3-inch force main to serve 56 three-bedroom residences as part of the Cypress Grove Townhomes project, and the discharge of 20,160 gallons per day (gpd) of collected domestic wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Pluris Hampstead has entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service, dated June 1, 2018, with Cypress Grove Partners, LLC (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the sewer collection facilities at no charge to Pluris Hampstead. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$3,200 per three-bedroom single-family equivalent (SFE) and an additional \$1,067 for each additional bedroom beyond a SFE.

On August 25, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed an Agreement Conveying Lift Station and Facilities, and Granting Easement with Cypress Grove Partners, LLC, executed on April 20, 2021.

On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued an Order that required in Ordering paragraph 2 that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on CIAC for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018, using the full gross up method." The Agreement between Pluris Hampstead and the Developer in this matter was executed on June 1, 2018, and therefore is not subject to the gross-up tax on CIAC.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 436 residential and 69 commercial customers in North Carolina, and its record of service is satisfactory.

Pluris Hampstead has filed all exhibits required with the application.

The Public Staff is of the opinion that Pluris Hampstead has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide sewer utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes and recommends that the certificate of public convenience and necessity be issued.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission require posting of bond in the amount of \$25,000. Pluris Hampstead currently has \$500,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$315,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$185,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

EXHIBIT: A copy of the proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-8](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Casselberry/Morgan/Creech) That the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise, and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

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P6. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 14 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

EXPLANATION: On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area for sewer utility service at 17117 (Betag), 17097 (Hampstead Dentist), 17230 (Hampstead Town Center), and the 16000 Block (Oak Ridge Properties), US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina,

Upon further review, it was determined that the four service areas were contiguous to one another but none were contiguous to a present service area. Therefore, on September 15, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), and for approval of rates. The service areas are shown on plans filed with the application.

Pluris Hampstead is billing customers its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, effective November 13, 2020.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources has issued the following permits:

Permit No. WQ0039144, dated July 20, 2017, to Allan J. Betag (Betag), for the construction and operation of a simplex pump station and wastewater collection extension to serve an existing real estate office building, and for the discharge of 360 gallon per day (gpd) of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0039652, dated January 9, 2018, to JLCP, LLC (JLCP), for the construction and operation of a 15 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station and wastewater collection extension as part of the Hampstead Dental Private Pump Station project, and for the discharge of 500 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0033303, dated January 11, 2016, Hampstead Town Center, LLC (Hampstead Town Center), for the construction and operation of a 30 gallon per minute (gpm) lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve 44,000 square feet (sf) of grocery store, a 40,000 sf shopping center with potential food service, a 40-seat restaurant, and a 75-seat restaurant as part of the Hampstead Town Center project, and for the discharge of 11,800 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0038264, dated February 24, 2016, to Oak Ridge Properties at Olde Point, LLC (Oak Ridge), for the construction of approximately 964 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer to service 20,000 sf of general retail (no food services), a 55-seat restaurant, and medical office (2,250 gpd) as part of the Oak Ridge

Community properties, and for the discharge of 7,200 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Betag has satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on September 20, 2016. Betag paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for one commercial tap. The lift station and force main on the property remain the responsibility of the owner, Betag.

JLCP satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Certification of Completion (Sewer Service Permit) by Pluris Hampstead on July 24, 2019. JLCP paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for two commercial taps. The lift station and force main on the property remain the responsibility of the owner, JLCP.

On November 4, 2015, Pluris Hampstead entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service, with Hampstead Town Center, LLC, (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the sewer collection facilities at no charge to Pluris Hampstead. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$3,200 per SFE for 32.77 commercial taps. On April 15, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed the Easement and Sewer Facilities Conveyance Agreement with Hampstead Town Center, LLC, dated November 19, 2020.

On August 3, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed a Sewer Easements and Agreement, with Oak Ridge Properties dated, August 14, 2021, completing the application. Oak Ridge has satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on July 25, 2016. Oak Ridge paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for 20 commercial taps.

On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued its Order Addressing Federal Income Taxes on Contributions in Aid of Construction. Ordering Paragraph No. 2 of that Order provides that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on [Contributions in Aid of Construction] for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018 using the full gross-up method."

The agreement between Pluris Hampstead and the Developer for Hampstead Town Center was executed on November 4, 2015, and therefore, is not subject to the gross-up tax on CIAC. Tap fees for the remaining three service areas were paid prior to October 5, 2018.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 436 residential and 69 commercial customers in North Carolina, and its record of service is satisfactory.

Pluris Hampstead has filed all exhibits required with the application.

The Public Staff is of the opinion that Pluris Hampstead has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide sewer utility service at 17117 (Betag), 17097 (Hampstead Dentist), 17230 (Hampstead Town Center), and the 16000 Block (Oak Ridge Properties), US Highway 17, Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina, and recommends approval of the CPCN.

The Public Staff recommends that the Commission require posting of bond in the amount of \$10,000. Pluris Hampstead currently has \$500,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$315,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$185,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

EXHIBIT: A copy of the proposed order is attached as [Exhibit No. P-9](#).

RECOMMENDATION: (Casselberry/Henry/Creech) That the Commission issue the proposed order granting the franchise and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-5, SUB 637

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Application of Public Service Company of North)	
Carolina, Inc., for Approval of Bi-Annual	)	ORDER APPROVING
Adjustment of Rates Under Rider C and an	)	RATE ADJUSTMENTS
Adjustment to Track Changes in Its Wholesale	)	EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2021
Costs of Gas Under Rider D to Its Tariff)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On September 16, 2021, Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc. (PSNC or Company), filed an application (Application) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.7, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3) and (5) (d), and Riders C and D of the Company's tariffs, requesting authority to adjust its rates effective October 1, 2021. The Company requests pursuant to Rider C, to implement new temporary increments and decrements in its rates for residential, small general service and medium general service customers and pursuant to Rider D, to implement an increase in its commodity benchmark cost of gas.

PSNC's Application complies with its Rider C - which is based on the Customer Usage Deferred Account balances as of July 31, 2021.

According to the CUT, PSNC is to compare actual residential and small and medium general service margins with the margins contained in the most recent Commission-approved rates. PSNC is to then apply, on a bi-annual basis, for authority to implement temporary rate increments or decrements (temporaries) to collect or refund any differences in the Customer Usage Deferred Account.

The proposed CUT temporaries, as well as the existing CUT temporaries and the corresponding rate changes, expressed in dollars per dekatherm (\$/dt), are as follows:

EXHIBIT NO. P-1
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Description	Residential Rate 101	Residential Hi-Efficiency Rate 102	SGS Rate 125	SGS Hi-Efficiency Rate 127	MGS Rate 140
Ending Balance Due (To)/From Customers	11,174,934	(39,075)	3,054,919	(24,997)	520,598
Rate Case Volumes (dts)	29,824,953	439,438	12,075,370	100,097	3,295,885
Increment/Decrement (\$/dts)	\$0.3747	(\$0.0889)	\$0.2530	(\$0.2497)	\$0.1580
Current Mo Increment/(Decrement) (\$/dts)	\$0.5439	\$0.0704	\$0.3679	(\$0.0323)	\$0.2170
Change in Increment/(Decrement)(\$/dts)	(\$0.1692)	(\$0.1593)	(\$0.1149)	(\$0.2174)	(\$0.0591)

PSNC's Application is also in compliance with Rider D – Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Procedures, in which PSNC is seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$1.2622 per dt and its transportation rates by \$0.0122 per dt effective October 1, 2021. The increases are the result of a change in the current commodity benchmark cost of gas from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per dt as well as a change in the company use and unaccounted for gas as described in PSNC's Rider D.

The Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at its September 27, 2021 Regular Staff Conference. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the Application and proposed rate adjustments and found them to be in compliance with PSNC's tariffs and recommended approval as filed.

Based upon review of the Application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed rate adjustments should be allowed to become effective as filed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That PSNC is authorized to implement the proposed rate changes as contained in the body of this Order based on its Customer Usage Deferred Account balances as of July 31, 2021, effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
2. That PSNC is allowed to increase its sales rates by \$1.2622 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
3. That PSNC is allowed to increase its transportation rates by \$0.0122 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
4. That PSNC shall file its revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraph 1 within five days of the date of this Order.
5. That PSNC shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes authorized in this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of September, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 792

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas) ORDER ALLOWING RATE
Company, Inc., for an Adjustment of Its) CHANGES EFFECTIVE
Rates and Charges to Track Changes in Its) OCTOBER 1, 2021
Wholesale Costs of Gas)

BY THE COMMISSION: On September 16, 2021, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont) filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3)(a), and Appendix A of Piedmont's North Carolina Service Regulations, seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$1.2738 per dekatherm (dt) and its transportation rates by \$0.0238 per dt effective October 1, 2021. The increase is a result of a change in its Benchmark Commodity Cost of Gas from the current rate of \$3.25 per dt to \$4.50 per dt, as well as a change in the company use and unaccounted for gas as provided for in Appendix A.

The matter was presented to the Commission at its Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the application and recommended approval as filed.

Based upon the review of the application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed rate changes should be allowed to become effective as filed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Piedmont is authorized to increase its sales rates by \$1.2738 per dt effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
2. That Piedmont is authorized to increase its transportation rates by \$0.0238 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
3. That Piedmont shall file revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 within five (5) days of the date of this Order.
4. That Piedmont shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes allowed in this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of September, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. G-40, SUB 162

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application of Frontier Natural Gas Company	) ORDER ALLOWING RATE
for an Adjustment of Its Rates and Charges	) CHANGES EFFECTIVE
to Track Changes in Its Wholesale Costs of	) OCTOBER 1, 2021
Gas)

BY THE COMMISSION: On September 15, 2021, Frontier Natural Gas Company (Frontier) filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4, Commission Rule R1-17(k)(3), and Appendix A of Frontier's Gas Service Rules & Regulations, seeking authority to increase its sales rates by \$0.80 per dekatherm (dt) effective October 1, 2021. The increase is a result of a change in its Benchmark City Gate Delivered Cost of Gas from the current rate of \$4.45 per dt to \$5.25 per dt.

The matter was presented to the Commission at its Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff stated it had reviewed the application and recommended approval as filed.

Based upon the review of the application and the recommendation of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed rate changes should be allowed to become effective as filed.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Frontier is authorized to increase its rates by \$0.80 per dekatherm effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021.
2. That Frontier shall file revised tariffs consistent with Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 within five (5) days of the date of this Order.
3. That Frontier shall give notice to its customers of the rate changes allowed in this Order.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 364A

In the Matter of

Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.)
of North Carolina, 4944 Parkway Plaza) ORDER APPROVING WATER AND
Boulevard, Suite 375, Charlotte, North) SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
Carolina 28217, for Authority to Implement) CHARGES ON A PROVISIONAL
Water and Sewer System Improvement) BASIS AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER
Charges Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat.) NOTICE
§ 62-133.12)

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 30, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC), filed an application for approval of water system improvement charge (WSIC) and sewer system improvement charge (SSIC) rate adjustments effective October 1, 2021 (Application), pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.12, Commission Rules R7-39 and R10-26, and the WSIC and SSIC mechanisms, which were approved by Commission Order dated March 10, 2014, in CWSNC's general rate case, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 336 (Sub 336 Rate Case) and in the Commission's prior Orders approving WSIC and SSIC mechanisms for CWSNC and the other Utilities, Inc. companies that have been merged into CWSNC.

On September 10, 2021, the Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) filed Notice of Public Staff's Plan to Present Comments and Recommendations at the Commission's September 27, 2021 Regular Staff Conference.

On September 27, 2021, the Public Staff presented this matter to the Commission at Staff Conference. The Public Staff recommended the Commission issue an order approving the Public Staff's recommended WSIC and SSIC rate adjustments, effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021, subject to true-up.

On the basis of CWSNC's verified application, the records of the Commission, and the comments and recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. CWSNC is a corporation duly organized under the laws of and is authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina. CWSNC is a franchised public utility providing water and sewer utility service to customers in North Carolina.

2. In CWSNC's Sub 336 Rate Case, the Commission by Order dated March 10, 2014, approved CWSNC's request to utilize a WSIC and SSIC mechanism pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12, concluding the mechanism is in the public interest, and established WSIC and SSIC procedures for CWSNC.

3. The WSIC and SSIC procedures allow for semiannual adjustments to CWSNC's rates every April 1st and October 1st based upon reasonable and prudently incurred investment in eligible system improvements completed and placed in service prior to the filing of the request. Eligible system improvements are water and sewer system improvements set forth in N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12(b), (c), and (d) and shall include only those prudent and reasonable improvements found necessary by the Commission to enable the water or sewer utility to provide safe, reliable, and efficient service in accordance with applicable water quality and effluent standards.

4. CWSNC's WSIC and SSIC percentages were reset to zero as of March 31, 2020, the effective date of CWSNC's new base rates in its last general rate case in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364 (Sub 364 Rate Case).

5. This is CWSNC's third filing to implement charges under the WSIC and SSIC mechanism since the Sub 364 Rate Case. CWSNC's request includes WSIC and SSIC projects completed and placed in service during the six months ending June 30, 2021.

6. CWSNC's proposed WSIC and SSIC percentages to be implemented on October 1, 2021, excluding the Experience Modification Factors (EMF), are as follows:

	<u>Previously Approved WSIC/SSIC Percentage</u>	<u>Net Change To WSIC/SSIC Percentage</u>	<u>Cumulative WSIC/SSIC Percentage</u>
Uniform Water	0.75%	0.19%	0.94%
Uniform Sewer	0.32%	0.57%	0.89%
BF/FH/TC Water	0.18%	0.07%	0.25%
BF/FH Sewer	0.70%	-0.01%	0.69%

7. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12(g), the cumulative WSIC and SSIC percentages are now capped at 7.5%³ of the total annual service revenues approved by the Commission in the Sub 364 Rate Case, resulting in the following maximum revenue requirement for CWSNC's water and sewer operations:

	<u>Service Revenues</u>	<u>Cap Percentage</u>	<u>WSIC/SSIC Cap</u>
Uniform Water	\$19,271,785	X 7.5%	\$1,445,384
Uniform Sewer	\$15,904,852	X 7.5%	\$1,192,864
BF/FH/TC Water	\$ 1,402,009	X 7.5%	\$105,151
BF/FH Sewer	\$ 2,243,027	X 7.5%	\$168,227

8. CWSNC's proposed revenue requirement does not exceed the maximum WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement listed above.

9. As stated by the Commission in its Order adopting Rules R7-39 and R10-26 issued on June 6, 2014, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 54, the Public Staff is to review all infrastructure improvements proposed for recovery for eligibility and reasonableness prior to making its recommendation to the Commission on WSIC or SSIC rate adjustments. Furthermore, any WSIC or SSIC rate adjustments will be allowed to become effective, but not unconditionally approved. The adjustments may be rescinded retroactively in the Company's subsequent general rate case, at which time the adjustment may be further examined for a determination of its justness and reasonableness.

10. After carefully reviewing CWSNC's stated WSIC and SSIC improvements, including reviewing in detail construction work in progress ledgers and transactions, invoices, work orders, engineering certifications and other accounting records, the Public Staff recommended adjustments to (1) correct the calculation of average accumulated depreciation for Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour/Treasure Cove (BF/FH/TC) water operations, (2) replace accumulated depreciation in the Company's calculation of WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement with annual depreciation expense, and (3) remove emergent projects from CWSNC's WSIC and SSIC revenue requirement calculations.

Correct Calculation of Average Accumulated Depreciation – Based on review of the supporting work papers provided by CWSNC with its Application, the Company did not calculate an amount for accumulated depreciation for plant costs additions in the BF/FH/TC water service areas. Correction of this error results in an increase in the average amount of accumulated depreciation used in the calculation of the annual WSIC revenue requirement for the BF/FH/TC water service areas.

³ On September 10, 2021, Governor Roy Cooper signed into law Senate Bill 211 (Session Law 2021-149), which, among other changes, amends the statute to increase the cap from 5% to 7.5%.

Replace Accumulated Depreciation with Depreciation Expense – CWSNC mistakenly used accumulated depreciation instead of depreciation expense in its calculation of the annual revenue requirement for all rate divisions in this current Application. The result of this adjustment is an increase in the annual revenue requirement for each rate division.

Remove Emergent Work Projects – In an effort to compromise and address the workload and time constraints placed on the Public Staff having to review both the WSIC/SSIC filing and CWSNC's pending general rate application, CWSNC and the Public Staff have agreed to limit the scope of the current WSIC/SSIC filing to four projects totaling \$745,314 and remove the 27 emergent projects and address them in the Company's general rate case proceeding filed on July 2, 2021, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 384. The four projects make up the bulk of capital costs in this filing and are WSIC and SSIC eligible projects.

11. Based on its investigation, the Public Staff recommended the following adjustments to the WSIC and SSIC percentages proposed by CWSNC:

	WSIC/SSIC Percentages Including EMF Per CWSNC	WSIC/SSIC Revenue Requirement Per Public Staff	Impact of Public Staff Adjustments	WSIC/SSIC Percentage Including EMF Per Public Staff
Uniform Water	1.03%	\$34,641	(0.02%)	1.01%
Uniform Sewer	0.94%	\$41,609	(0.08%)	0.86%
BF/FH/TC Water	0.27%	\$0	(0.07%)	0.20%
BF/FH Sewer	0.77%	\$0	(0.00%)	0.77%

12. The Public Staff discussed its recommended adjustments with CWSNC and the Company has agreed to accept each adjustment as recommended by the Public Staff.

13. The WSIC and SSIC percentages recommended by the Public Staff result in the following increases to the average monthly metered and flat rate customer bill:

	Public Staff Recommended WSIC/SSIC <u>Surcharge</u>	Average Gallons Per Month	Average Monthly Bill	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Bill With WSIC/SSIC Surcharge
Uniform Water - Metered	1.01%	3,608	\$58.76	\$0.59	\$59.35
Uniform Water - Flat	1.01%	N/A	\$58.54	\$0.59	\$59.13
Uniform Sewer - Metered	0.86%	3,569	\$75.29	\$0.65	\$75.94
Uniform Sewer - Flat	0.86%	N/A	\$73.73	\$0.63	\$74.36
BF/FH/TC Water - Metered	0.20%	4,128	\$34.64	\$0.07	\$34.71
BF/FH Sewer - Flat	0.77%	N/A	\$53.91	\$0.42	\$54.33

14. The Public Staff further stated that it will continue to review the justness, prudence, and reasonableness of the improvements during its review of CWSNC's future WSIC and SSIC filings and in CWSNC's next general rate case.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission concludes that the Public Staff's adjustments are reasonable and that CWSNC should be allowed to implement the Public Staff's recommended WSIC and SSIC percentages, effective for service rendered on or after October 1, 2021, subject to true-up.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That CWSNC is authorized to implement the proposed Water and Sewer System Improvement Charges set forth in the attached Appendix A-3 to CWSNC's Schedule of Rates effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021, subject to true-up;
2. That the attached Appendix A-3 is approved and is deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-138;
3. That CWSNC shall mail to each of its affected customers with the next regularly scheduled customer billing the Commission-approved customer notice; and

4. That the CWSNC shall file the attached Certificate of Service, properly signed and notarized, not later than ten days after the Notice to Customers is mailed or hand-delivered to customers.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

APPENDIX A-3

**CAROLINA WATER SERVICE INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA
WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGES**

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGE

All CWSNC Uniform water systems	1.01% ^{1/} and ^{3/}
Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour/Treasure Cove	0.20% ^{1/} and ^{3/}

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CHARGE

All CWSNC Uniform sewer systems	0.86% ^{2/} and ^{3/}
Bradfield Farms/Fairfield Harbour	0.77% ^{2/} and ^{3/}

Notes:

- 1/ The Water System Improvement Charge will be applied to the total water utility bill of each customer under the Company's applicable rates and charges.
- 2/ The Sewer System Improvement Charge will be applied to the total sewer utility bill of each customer under the Company's applicable rates and charges.
- 3/ These Water and Sewer Improvement Charges include the Experience Modification Factors that went into effect on October 1, 2021, and will cease on September 30, 2022.

Issued in Accordance with Authority Granted by the North Carolina Utilities Commission
in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364A on this the _____ day of September, 2021.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-354, SUBS 364A

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application by Carolina Water Service, Inc.)
of North Carolina, 4944 Parkway Plaza)
Boulevard, Suite 375, Charlotte, North)
Carolina 28217, for Authority to Implement)
Water and Sewer System Improvement)
Charges Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat.)
§ 62-133.12)

NOTICE TO
CUSTOMERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has issued an Order dated September __, 2021, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.12 and Commission Rules R7-39 and R10-26, authorizing Carolina Water Service Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC) to implement a Water System Improvement Charge (WSIC) and Sewer System Improvement Charge (SSIC) for service rendered on and after October 1, 2021, in all its service areas in North Carolina.

By Order entered in Docket No. W-354, Sub 336 on March 10, 2014, the Commission approved CWSNC's request, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12, for authority to implement a semiannual water and sewer system improvement charge (WSIC and SSIC) adjustment mechanism designed to recover the incremental costs associated with eligible investments in certain water and sewer infrastructure improvement projects completed and placed in service between general rate case proceedings. The WSIC and SSIC mechanism is subject to Commission approval and to audit and refund provisions. Any cumulative system improvement charge recovered pursuant to the WSIC and SSIC mechanism may not exceed 7.5% of the total annual service revenues approved by the Commission in CWSNC's last general rate case.

Commission Rules R7-39(h) and R10-26(h) specify that the WSIC and SSIC shall be applied to the total utility bill of each customer under the utility's applicable service rates and charges.

ATTACHMENT A
PAGE 2 OF 3

The Public Staff has carefully reviewed CWSNC's WSIC and SSIC improvements, including, reviewing in detail, construction work in progress ledgers and transactions, invoices, work orders, engineering certifications, and other accounting records, and recommended that the Public Staff's WSIC and SSIC charges be approved.

The WSIC and SSIC percentages recommended by the Public Staff result in the following increase to the average monthly metered and flat rate customer bill:

	Public Staff Recommended WSIC/SSIC <u>Surcharge</u>	Average Gallons Per Month	Average Monthly Bill	Monthly <u>Surcharge</u>	Monthly Bill With WSIC/SSIC <u>Surcharge</u>
Uniform Water - Metered	1.01%	3,608	\$58.76	\$0.59	\$59.35
Uniform Water - Flat	1.01%	N/A	\$58.54	\$0.59	\$59.13
Uniform Sewer - Metered	0.86%	3,569	\$75.29	\$0.65	\$75.94
Uniform Sewer - Flat	0.86%	N/A	\$73.73	\$0.63	\$74.36
BF/FH/TC Water - Metered	0.20%	4,128	\$34.64	\$0.07	\$34.71
BF/FH Sewer - Flat	0.77%	N/A	\$53.91	\$0.42	\$54.33

Additional information regarding the WSIC and SSIC mechanism is contained in the Commission's Order dated March 10, 2014, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 336, the Commission's Order Adopting Rules to Implement N.C.G.S. § 62-133.12, dated June 6, 2014, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 54, the CWSNC WSIC and SSIC Application filed on June 30, 2021, the September 10, 2021 Public Staff Notice, and the September __, 2021 Commission Order in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364A, all of which can be accessed from the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net, under Docket Portal, using the Docket Search feature for the docket numbers stated above (i.e., for Docket No. key: W-354 Sub 364A).

EXHIBIT NO. P-4
PAGE 10 OF 11

ATTACHMENT A
PAGE 3 OF 3

Parties interested in receiving notice of these filings may subscribe to the Commission's electronic notification system through the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered to all affected customers the attached Notice to Customer issued by the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364A, and the Notice was mailed or hand delivered by the date specified in the Order.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

By: _____
Signature

Name of Utility Company

The above named Applicant, _____, personally appeared before me this day and, being first duly sworn, says that the required Notice to Customer was mailed or hand delivered to all affected customers, as required by the Commission Order dated _____, 2021, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364A.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the ____ day of _____, 2021.

Notary Public

Typed or Printed Name

(SEAL) My Commission Expires:
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Date

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 30

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Notification by Old North State Water Company,)
LLC, 4700 Homewood Court, Suite 108, Raleigh,)
NC 27609, of Intention to Begin Operations in)
Contiguous Service Area to Provide Sewer Utility)
Service in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision in)
Pender County, North Carolina, and for Approval of)
Rates)
	ORDER RECOGNIZING
	CONTIGUOUS
	EXTENSION AND
	APPROVING RATES

BY THE COMMISSION: On January 24, 2017, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area (Notification) to provide wastewater utility service in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision, in Pender County, North Carolina. Majestic Oaks West Subdivision is contiguous to ONSWC's Majestic Oaks Subdivision service area. ONSWC proposes to charge the rates currently approved for the Majestic Oaks service area.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order recognizing the contiguous extension and approving the requested rates.

Based upon the verified Notification, and the entire record in this matter, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. ONSWC presently holds water franchises serving approximately 1,688 customers and wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 customers in North Carolina. ONSWC's record of service is satisfactory.

2. ONSWC does presently serve 13 wastewater customers in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision. The service area is shown on plans filed with the Notification.

3. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section, has issued permit number WQ0040002, dated February 22, 2019, for the construction and operation of the Majestic Oaks West Lots 1-13 wastewater collection system.

4. ONSWC has entered into a Wastewater Agreement dated September 29, 2016, with Eastern NC Homebuilders, LLC (Developer), under which the Developer is installing individual STEP System (septic tank effluent pump system) for each lot. ONSWC will accept the wastewater from the lots and the individual lot owners shall be responsible for the cost of maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of the individual STEP system. ONSWC is requesting a connection fee of \$4,200 per SFRE for the wastewater service. Pursuant to the Commission's August 26, 2019 Order in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, a utility is not required to collect income tax on CIAC from a contributor unless contributions were contracted for on or after October 5, 2018.

5. ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the Notification.

6. ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide water utility service in this franchise location.

7. Upon acquisition of the system, ONSWC proposes to charge its Majestic Oaks service area wastewater utility service rates approved in Docket No. W-1300, Sub 11.

8. The Public Staff recommended that ONSWC be required to post a \$10,000 bond for Majestic Oaks West Subdivision. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing and the recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that \$10,000 of ONSWC's unassigned bond surety should be assigned to the contiguous extension; that the contiguous extension by ONSWC in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision should be recognized as meeting the Commission's criteria for the extension; that the connection fee should be approved; and that the requested rates should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That \$10,000 of Old North State Water Company, LLC's unassigned surety bond is assigned to Majestic Oaks West Subdivision. The remaining unassigned bond surety shall be \$0 (a total of \$30,000 is being assigned concurrently in Docket No. W-1300, Subs 20, 30, and 56).

2. That the contiguous extension of water utility service from Majestic Oaks West Subdivision into Majestic Oaks Subdivision in Pender County, North Carolina, is recognized as meeting the Commission's criteria for the extension pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110(a), and Appendix A, attached hereto, constitutes Old North State Water Company, LLC's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity covering the contiguous extension.

3. That Old North State Water Company, LLC's existing Schedule of Rates approved by Commission Order issued on January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission's Order of December 6, 2016, in Docket Nos. M-100, Sub 138, and W-1300, Sub 11, is approved for utility service in Majestic Oaks West Subdivision, in Pender County, North Carolina.

4. That a connection fee of \$4,200 per single-family residential equivalent connection for sewer utility service is approved for Majestic Oaks West Subdivision.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

APPENDIX A

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 30

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC

is granted this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

to provide wastewater utility service

in

MAJESTIC OAKS WEST SUBDIVISION

Pender County, North Carolina,

subject to any orders, rules, regulations,
and conditions now or hereafter lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 56

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Notification by Old North State Water Company,)	
LLC, 4700 Homewood Court, Suite 108, Raleigh,)	
NC 27609, of Intention to Begin Operations in	)	ORDER RECOGNIZING
Contiguous Service Area to Provide Sewer Utility	)	CONTIGUOUS
Service in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina	)	EXTENSION AND
Subdivision in Pender County, North Carolina, and	)	APPROVING RATES
for Approval of Rates)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On January 4, 2019, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area (Notification) to provide wastewater utility service in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision, in Pender County, North Carolina. Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision is contiguous to ONSWC's Majestic Oaks Subdivision service area. ONSWC proposes to charge the rates currently approved for the Majestic Oaks service area.

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order recognizing the contiguous extension and approving the requested rates.

Based upon the verified Notification, and the entire record in this matter, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. ONSWC presently holds water franchises serving approximately 1,688 customers and wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 customers in North Carolina. ONSWC's record of service is satisfactory.

2. ONSWC presently serves 39 wastewater customers in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2. ONSWC expects to eventually serve 277

residential customers in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision. The service area is shown on plans filed with the Notification.

3. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section, has issued permit number WQ0040594, dated March 25, 2020, for the construction and operation of the gravity wastewater collection system for a total of 277 residences in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Phases 1 and 2.

4. ONSWC has entered into an Agreement dated December 13, 2018, with WLI Investments LLC (Developer), under which the Developer is installing the wastewater collection system. ONSWC is requesting a connection free of \$4,200 per SFRE for wastewater service. ONSWC is purchasing the wastewater system for 82% of the actual cost of the Off-Site Wastewater Pump Station and Off-Site Wastewater Forcemain (excluding the cost of upsizing a portion of the Forcemain from 4-inch to 6-inch diameter). The purchase price is payable based on 82% of the actual cost of the Off-Site Pump Station and Off-Site Forcemain divided by 150 residential equivalent units (REU). ONSWC will not be required to make any purchase price payments to the developer for the first 150 connections. Purchase Price payments after the first 150 connections are payable quarterly based on the number of connections installed during the previous quarter.

5. ONSWC has attempted to collect the full gross up from the Developer for the contributed wastewater collection system plant, but the Developer has refused to pay. ONSWC has collected the full gross up on the connection fees.

6. ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the Notification.

7. ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide water utility service in this franchise location.

8. Upon acquisition of the system, ONSWC proposes to charge its Majestic Oaks service area wastewater utility service rates approved in Docket No. W-1300, Sub 11.

9. The Public Staff recommended that ONSWC be required to post a \$10,000 bond for Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing and the recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission is of the opinion that \$10,000 of ONSWC's unassigned bond surety should be assigned to the contiguous extension; that the contiguous extension by ONSWC in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2 should be recognized as meeting the Commission's criteria for the extension; that the connection fee should be approved; and that the requested rates should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That \$10,000 of Old North State Water Company, LLC's unassigned surety bond is assigned to Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2. The remaining unassigned bond surety shall be \$0 (a total of \$30,000 is being assigned concurrently in Docket No. W-1300, Subs 20, 30, and 56).

2. That the contiguous extension of water utility service from Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2 into Majestic Oaks Subdivision in Pender County, North Carolina, is recognized as meeting the Commission's criteria for the extension pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110(a), and Appendix A, attached hereto, constitutes Old North State Water Company, LLC's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity covering the contiguous extension.

3. That Old North State Water Company, LLC's existing Schedule of Rates approved by Commission Order issued on January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission's Order of December 6, 2016, in Docket Nos. M-100, Sub 138, and W-1300, Sub 11, is approved for utility service in Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2, in Pender County, North Carolina.

4. That a connection fee of \$4,200 per single-family residential equivalent connection for sewer utility service is approved for Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

APPENDIX A

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 56

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC

is granted this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

to provide wastewater utility service

in

Salter's Haven at Lea Marina Subdivision Phases 1 and 2

Pender County, North Carolina,

subject to any orders, rules, regulations,
and conditions now or hereafter lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 20

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Old North State Water)
Company, LLC, 1620 Chalk Road, Wake)
Forest, 27587, for a Certificate of Public)
Convenience and Necessity to Provide Sewer)
Utility Service in Southside Commons (formerly)
Grey Bull) in Pender County, North Carolina)
	ORDER GRANTING
	FRANCHISE AND
	APPROVING RATES

BY THE COMMISSION: On October 5, 2015, Old North State Water Company, LLC (ONSWC), filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide wastewater utility service in Southside Commons (formerly Grey Bull Subdivision) in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates.

On September 13, 2017, ONSWC amended its application and on June 20, 2018, ONSWC filed the wastewater collection system extension permit from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR).

The Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order granting the franchise and approving the proposed rates.

Based upon the verified application and the entire record in this matter, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. ONSWC presently holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 4,404 residential customers in North Carolina, and its record of service is satisfactory.

2. ONSWC currently serves 28 customers at Southside Commons. The present rates have been in effect since January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission's Order of December 6, 2016, in Docket Nos. M-100, Sub 138, and W-1300, Sub 11.

3. DWR has issued permit number WQ003992, dated June 13, 2018, to ONSWC. The permit is for the construction and operation of approximately 6,308 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer, a 84 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station, as well as approximately 4,645 linear feet of 3-inch force main to serve 106 three-bedroom residences as part of the Southside Commons project, and the discharge of 22,260 gallons per day (gpd) of collected wastewater into ONSWC's existing wastewater system at Majestic Oaks.

4. ONSWC has entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service, dated September 20, 2015, with Grey Bull, Inc. (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the wastewater collection facilities at no charge to ONSWC. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$4,200 per single-family residential equivalent (SFRE).

5. ONSWC, as its investment in lieu of a purchase price, has constructed the 84 gpm pump station and the force main interconnection to ONSWC's wastewater collection system at Majestic Oaks.

6. On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued its Order Addressing Federal Income Taxes on Contributions in Aid of Construction. Ordering Paragraph No. 2 of that Order provides that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on [Contributions in Aid of Construction] for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018 using the full gross-up method." The Agreement between ONSWC and the Developer in this matter was executed September 20, 2015, and as such, is not subject to the full gross-up requirements in the Commission's August 26, 2019 Order.

7. ONSWC has filed all exhibits required with the application.

8. The Public Staff is of the opinion that ONSWC has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide wastewater utility service in Southside Commons in Pender County, North Carolina, and recommends approval of the CPCN.

9. The Public Staff recommends a bond in the amount of \$10,000. ONSWC currently has \$610,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$580,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$30,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing, the record in its entirety, and the recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission concludes that \$10,000 of ONSWC's unassigned bond surety should be assigned to Southside Commons in Pender County, North Carolina, that the new franchise should be granted, and that the requested rates should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That \$10,000 of Old North State Water Company, LLC's unassigned surety bond is assigned to Southside Commons in Pender County, North Carolina. The remaining unassigned bond surety shall be \$0 (a total of \$30,000 is being assigned concurrently in Docket No. W-1300, Subs 20, 30, and 56).
2. That Old North State Water Company, LLC is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide wastewater utility service in Southside Commons in Pender County, North Carolina.
3. That Appendix A, attached hereto, constitutes the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
4. That Old North State Water Company, LLC's existing Schedule of Rates approved by Commission Order issued on January 1, 2017, pursuant to the Commission's Order of December 6, 2016, in Docket Nos. M-100, Sub 138, and W-1300, Sub 11, is approved for utility service in Southside Commons, in Pender County, North Carolina.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of ____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

APPENDIX A

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1300, SUB 20

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

OLD NORTH STATE WATER COMPANY, LLC

is granted this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

to provide wastewater utility service

at

SOUTHSIDE COMMONS

Pender County, North Carolina,

subject to any orders, rules, regulations,
and conditions now or hereafter lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 9

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC, 5950)	
Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas)	ORDER GRANTING
75225, for a Certificate of Public Convenience)	FRANCHISE AND
and Necessity to Provide Sewer Utility Service)	APPROVING RATES
in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender)	
County, North Carolina)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On June 11, 2018, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide sewer utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates. The service area is shown on the plans filed with the application.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order granting the franchise and approving the proposed rates.

Based upon the verified application and the entire record in this matter, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pluris Hampstead presently holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 436 residential and 69 commercial customers in North Carolina, and its record of service is satisfactory.

2. Pluris Hampstead is proposing to bill the customer the current commercial rate approved for Pluris Hampstead's other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, effective November 13, 2020.

3. North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued permit number WQ0040093, dated August 7, 2018, to Pluris Hampstead. The permit is for the construction and operation of approximately 904 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer, a 45 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station, as well as approximately 1,135 linear feet of 3-inch force main to serve 56 three-bedroom residences as part of the Cypress Grove Townhomes project, and the discharge of 20,160 gallons per day (gpd) of collected domestic wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

4. Pluris Hampstead has entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service, dated June 1, 2018, with Cypress Grove Partners, LLC (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the sewer collection facilities at no charge to Pluris Hampstead. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$3,200 per three-bedroom single-family equivalent (SFE), an additional \$1,067 for each additional bedroom beyond a SFE. On August 25, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed an Agreement Conveying Lift Station and Facilities, and Granting Easement with Cypress Grove Partners, LLC, executed on April 20, 2021.

5. On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued its Order Addressing Federal Income Taxes on Contributions in Aid of Construction. Ordering Paragraph No. 2 of that Order provides that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on [Contributions in Aid of Construction] for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018 using the full gross-up method." The Agreement between Pluris Hampstead and the Developer in this matter was executed on June 1, 2018, and therefore is not subject to the gross-up tax on CIAC.

6. Pluris Hampstead has filed all exhibits required with the application.

7. The Public Staff is of the opinion that Pluris Hampstead has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide sewer utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender County, North Carolina, and recommends approval of the CPCN.

8. The Public Staff recommends a bond in the amount of \$25,000. Pluris Hampstead currently has \$500,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$315,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$185,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing, the record in its entirety, and the recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission concludes that \$25,000 of Pluris Hampstead's unassigned bond surety should be assigned to Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender County, North Carolina, that the new franchise should be granted, and that the requested rates should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That \$25,000 of Pluris Hampstead's unassigned surety bond is assigned to Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender County, North Carolina. The remaining unassigned bond surety shall be \$150,000 (a total of \$35,000 is being assigned concurrently in Docket No. W-1305, Subs 9 and 14).
2. That Pluris Hampstead is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide sewer utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender County, North Carolina.
3. That Appendix A, attached hereto, constitutes the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
4. That Pluris Hampstead's existing Schedule of Rates approved by Commission Order issued on November 13, 2020, in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, is approved for utility service in Cypress Grove Townhomes in Pender County, North Carolina.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of ____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

APPENDIX A

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 9

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC

is granted this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

to provide wastewater utility service

at

CYPRESS GROVE TOWNHOMES

Pender County, North Carolina,

subject to any orders, rules, regulations,
and conditions now or hereafter lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 14

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application by Pluris Hampstead, LLC, 5950)
Berkshire Lane, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas) ORDER GRANTING
75225, for a Certificate of Public Convenience) FRANCHISE AND APPROVING
and Necessity to Provide Sewer Utility Service) RATES
at 15441, 15489, 15395, and 15531 US Hwy 17,)
Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina)

BY THE COMMISSION: On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed a Notification of Intention to Begin Operations in Area Contiguous to Present Service Area for sewer utility service at 17117 (Betag), 17097 (Hampstead Dentist), 17230 (Hampstead Town Center), and the 16000 Block (Oak Ridge Properties), US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina,

While the four service areas are contiguous to one another, none are contiguous to a present service area. Therefore, on September 15, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), and for approval of rates. The service areas are shown on plans filed with the application.

The Public Staff presented this matter at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on September 27, 2021. The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue an order granting the franchise and approving the proposed rates.

Based upon the verified application and the entire record in this matter, the Commission makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pluris Hampstead presently holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 436 residential and 69 commercial customers in North Carolina, and its record of service is satisfactory.

2. Pluris Hampstead is billing customers its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, effective November 13, 2020.

3. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued the following permits:

Permit No. WQ0039144, dated July 20, 2017, to Allan J. Betag (Betag), for the construction and operation of a simplex pump station and wastewater collection extension to serve an existing real estate office building, and for the discharge of 360 gallon per day (gpd) of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0039652, dated January 9, 2018, to JLCP, LLC (JLCP), for the construction and operation of a 15 gallon per minute (gpm) pump station and wastewater collection extension as part of the Hampstead Dental Private Pump Station project, and for the discharge of 500 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0033303, dated January 11, 2016, Hampstead Town Center, LLC (Hampstead Town Center), for the construction and operation of a 30 gallon per minute (gpm) lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve 44,000 square feet (sf) of grocery store, a 40,000 sf shopping center with potential food service, a 40-seat restaurant, and a 75-seat restaurant as part of the Hampstead Town Center project, and for the discharge of 11,800 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

Permit No. WQ0038264, dated February 24, 2016, to Oak Ridge Properties at Olde Point, LLC (Oak Ridge), for the construction of approximately 964 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer to service 20,000 sf of general retail (no food services), a 55-seat restaurant, and medical office (2,250 gpd) as part of the Oak Ridge Community properties, and for the discharge of 7,200 gpd of collected wastewater into Pluris Hampstead's existing sewerage system.

4. Betag has satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on September 20, 2016. Betag paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for one commercial tap. The lift station and force main on the property remain the responsibility of the owner, Betag.

5. JLCP satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Certification of Completion (Sewer Service Permit) by Pluris Hampstead on July 24, 2019. JLCP paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for two commercial taps. The lift station and force main on the property remain the responsibility of the owner, JLCP.

6. On November 4, 2015, Pluris Hampstead entered into an Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service with Hampstead Town Center, LLC, (Developer), by which the Developer will construct and install all of the sewer collection facilities at no charge to Pluris Hampstead. The Developer will pay a non-refundable sewer connection fee of \$3,200 per SFE for 32.77 commercial taps. On April 15, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed the Easement and Sewer Facilities Conveyance Agreement with Hampstead Town Center, LLC, dated November 19, 2020.

7. On August 3, 2021, Pluris Hampstead filed a Sewer Easements and Agreement with Oak Ridge Properties, completing its application. Oak Ridge has satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on July 25, 2016. Oak Ridge paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for 20 commercial taps.

8. On August 26, 2019, in Docket No. W-100, Sub 57, the Commission issued its Order Addressing Federal Income Taxes on Contributions in Aid of Construction. Ordering Paragraph No. 2 of that Order provides that "all certificated water and wastewater companies shall collect from contributors the income tax on [Contributions in Aid of Construction] for new contributions contracted for on or after October 5, 2018 using the full gross-up method." The agreement between Pluris Hampstead and the Developer for Hampstead Town Center was executed on November 4, 2015, and therefore, is not subject to the gross-up tax on CIAC. Tap fees for the remaining three service areas were paid prior to October 5, 2018.

9. Pluris Hampstead has filed all exhibits required with the application.

10. The Public Staff is of the opinion that Pluris Hampstead has the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide sewer utility service to provide sewer utility service at 17117 (Betag), 17097 (Hampstead Dentist), 17230 (Hampstead Town Center), and the 16000 Block (Oak Ridge Properties), US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina and recommends approval of the CPCN.

11. The Public Staff recommended a bond in the amount of \$10,000. Pluris Hampstead currently has \$500,000 of bonds posted with the Commission. Of this amount, \$315,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$185,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing the record in its entirety, and the recommendations of the Public Staff, the Commission concludes that \$10,000 of Pluris Hampstead's unassigned bond surety should be assigned to 17117, 17097, 17230, and 16000 Block, US Highway 17, Hampstead; that the new franchise should be granted; and that the requested rates should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

2. That \$10,000 of Pluris Hampstead's unassigned surety bond is assigned to 17117, 17097, 17230, and the 16000 Block, US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina. The remaining unassigned bond surety shall be \$150,000 (a total of \$35,000 is being assigned concurrently in Docket No. W-1305, Subs 9 and 14).

2. That Pluris Hampstead is granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide sewer utility service at 17117, 17097, 17230, and the 16000 Block, US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina.

3. That Appendix A, attached hereto, constitutes the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

4. That Pluris Hampstead's existing Schedule of Rates approved by the Commission Order issued on November 13, 2020, in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 12, is approved for utility service at 17117, 17097, 17230, and the 16000 Block, US Highway 17, Hampstead, Pender County, North Carolina.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of ____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 14

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC

is granted this

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

to provide wastewater utility service

at

17117 US HIGHWAY 17, HAMPSTEAD
17097 US HIGHWAY 17, HAMPSTEAD
17230 US HIGHWAY 17, HAMPSTEAD
16000 BLOCK US HIGHWAY 17, HAMPSTEAD

Pender County, North Carolina,

subject to any orders, rules, regulations,
and conditions now or hereafter lawfully made
by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of ____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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