

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**STAFF CONFERENCE AGENDA
August 16, 2021**

COMMISSION STAFF

NO AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC STAFF

E. WATER

- P1. [DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 386 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION EXHIBIT NO. P-1](#)
- P2. [DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 387 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION EXHIBIT NO. P-2](#)

TO: Agenda – Commission Conference – August 16, 2021
FROM: PUBLIC STAFF – North Carolina Utilities Commission

E. WATER

P1. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 386 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION

EXPLANATION: On July 28, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water customers in High Vista Estates in Henderson County an increase in the cost of purchased water from the City of Hendersonville. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service. The City of Hendersonville's new rate became effective on July 1, 2021.

The Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that the Company be allowed to increase its usage charge for water service by \$1.32 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$3.40 to \$4.72 per 1,000 gallons.

The Public Staff has also evaluated the effect of the current regulatory fee of 0.13% on the proposed increase and determined that it is less than \$0.01 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly water bill (< 1 inch meter) from \$41.77 to \$46.76, based on an average usage of 3,780 gallons. The average usage was determined in Exhibit 17 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry, filed on November 4, 2019, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

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

RECOMMENDATION: (Casselberry/Henry/Coxton) That the proposed order be issued approving the recommended tariff revision.

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P2. DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 387 – CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA – REQUEST FOR TARIFF REVISION

EXPLANATION: On July 28, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County an increase in the cost of purchased water from the Town of Franklin. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service. The Town of Franklin's new rate became effective on July 1, 2021.

The Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that the Company be allowed to increase its usage charge for water service by \$0.60 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$7.50 to \$8.10 per 1,000 gallons.

The Public Staff has also evaluated the effect of the current regulatory fee of 0.13% on the proposed increase and determined that it is less than \$0.01 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly water bill (< 1 inch meter) from \$54.95 to \$57.04, based on an average usage of 3,471 gallons. The average usage was determined in Exhibit 17 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry, filed on November 4, 2019, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

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

RECOMMENDATION: (Casselberry/Henry/Coxton) That the proposed order be issued approving the recommended tariff revision.

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DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 386

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 Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Providing Water Utility Service in High Vista Estates in Henderson County, North Carolina)	ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE
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This matter was presented at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on August 16, 2021. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Company's request and recommended that the tariff revision be approved.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion that the tariff revision should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina is granted a tariff revision for water utility service in High Vista Estates in Henderson County, North Carolina, as set forth herein.
2. That the Schedule of Rates attached as Appendix A is approved and is deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-138. This Schedule of Rates shall become effective for service rendered on and after the date of this Order.
3. That a copy of the Notice to Customers attached hereto as Appendix B be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by the Company to all of its affected customers in High Vista Estates contemporaneously with the next billing of customers.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

SCHEDULE OF RATES

for

CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA

for providing water and sewer utility service

in

ALL OF ITS SERVICE AREAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(excluding Fairfield Harbour Service Area, Treasure Cove, Register Place Estates, North Hills, Glen Arbor/North Bend, Bradfield Farms, Silverton, Woodland Farms, and Larkhaven Subdivisions, and Hawthorne at the Green Apartments)

WATER RATES AND CHARGES

Monthly Metered Water Service (Residential and Commercial):

Base Facility Charge (based on meter size with zero usage)

< 1" meter	\$ 28.92
1" meter	\$ 72.30
1 1/2" meter	\$ 144.60
2" meter	\$ 231.36
3" meter	\$ 433.80
4" meter	\$ 723.00
6" meter	\$1,446.00

Usage Charge:

A. Treated Water/1,000 gallons	\$ 8.27
B. Untreated Water/1,000 gallons (Brandywine Bay Irrigation Water)	\$ 4.23

C. Purchased Water for Resale, per 1,000 gallons:

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Bulk Provider</u>		
Carolina Forest	Montgomery County	\$	3.19
High Vista Estates	City of Hendersonville	\$	4.72
Riverbend	Town of Franklin	\$	8.10
Riverpointe	Charlotte Water	\$	6.74
Whispering Pines	Town of Southern Pines	\$	3.28
White Oak Plantation/			
Lee Forest	Johnston County	\$	2.85
Winston Plantation	Johnston County	\$	2.85
Winston Point	Johnston County	\$	2.85
Woodrun	Montgomery County	\$	3.19
Yorktown	City of Winston Salem	\$	5.79
Zemosa Acres	City of Concord	\$	5.41
Carolina Trace	City of Sanford	\$	2.21

Commercial customers, including condominiums or other property owner associations who bill their members directly, shall have a separate account set up for each meter and each meter shall be billed separately based on the size of the meter and usage associated with the meter.

When because of the method of water line installation utilized by the developer or owner, it is impractical to meter each unit or other structure separately, the following will apply:

Sugar Mountain Service Area:

Where service to multiple units or other structures is provided through a single meter, the average usage for each unit or structure served by that meter will be calculated. Each unit or structure will be billed based upon that average usage plus the base monthly charge for a <1" meter.

Mount Mitchell Service Area:

Service will be billed based upon the Commission-approved monthly flat rate.

Monthly Flat Rate Service: (Billed in Arrears) \$ 58.54
Availability Rate: (Semiannual)

Applicable only to property owners in Carolina Forest
and Woodrun Subdivisions in Montgomery County \$ 27.15

Availability Rate: (Monthly)

Applicable only to property owners in Linville Ridge Subdivision	\$ 13.60
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Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)

Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Sapphire Valley Service Area	\$ 10.05
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Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed quarterly))

Applicable only to property owners in Connestee Falls	\$ 5.30
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<u>Meter Testing Fee:</u> ^{1/}	\$ 20.00
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<u>New Water Customer Charge:</u>	\$ 27.00
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Reconnection Charge: ^{2/}

If water service is cut off by utility for good cause	\$ 42.00
If water service is discontinued at customer's request	\$ 42.00

Reconnection Charge: ^{3/}(Flat-rate water customers)

If water service is cut off by utility for good cause	Actual Cost
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Management Fee: (in the following subdivisions only)

(Per connection)

Wolf Laurel	\$150.00
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Covington Cross Subdivision (Phases 1 & 2)	\$100.00
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Oversizing Fee: (in the following subdivision only)

(One-time charge per single-family equivalent)

Winghurst	\$400.00
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Meter Fee:

For <1" meters	\$ 50.00
For meters 1" or larger	Actual Cost

<u>Irrigation Meter Installation:</u>	Actual Cost
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SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

Monthly Metered Sewer Service:

A. Base Facility Charge:

Residential (zero usage)	\$ 58.91
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Commercial (based on meter size with zero usage)

< 1" meter	\$ 58.91
1" meter	\$ 147.28
1 1/2" meter	\$ 294.55
2" meter	\$ 471.28
3" meter	\$ 883.65
4" meter	\$1,472.75
6" meter	\$2,945.50

B. Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 4.59
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Commercial customers, including condominiums or other property owner associations who bill their members directly, shall have a separate account set up for each meter and each meter shall be billed separately based on the size of the meter and usage associated with the meter.

Monthly Metered Purchased Sewer Service:

Collection Charge (Residential and Commercial)	\$ 41.24
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Usage charge, per 1,000 gallons
(based on purchased water consumption)

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Bulk Provider</u>		
White Oak Plantation/ Lee Forest/Winston Pt.	Johnston County	\$	6.15
Kings Grant	Two Rivers Utilities	\$	3.98
College Park	Town of Dallas	\$	7.33

Monthly Flat Rate Service: \$ 73.73

Multi-residential customers who are served by a master
meter shall be charged the flat rate per unit. \$ 73.73

Mt. Carmel Subdivision Service Area:

Monthly Base Facility Charge \$ 7.29

Monthly Collection Charge
(Residential and Commercial) \$ 41.24

Usage Charge, per 1,000 gallons
(based on metered water from the water supplier) \$ 6.32

Regalwood and White Oak Estates Subdivision Service Area:

Monthly Flat Rate Sewer Service	
Residential Service	\$ 73.73
White Oak High School	\$2,187.33
Child Castle Daycare	\$ 280.41
Pantry	\$ 153.76

Fairfield Mountain/Apple Valley (a.k.a. Rumbling Bald) Service Area, and Highland
Shores Subdivision:

Monthly Sewer Rates:

Residential	
Collection charge/dwelling unit	\$ 41.24
Treatment charge/dwelling unit	\$ 69.50
Total monthly flat rate/dwelling unit	<u>\$ 110.74</u>

Commercial and Other:

Minimum monthly collection and treatment charge \$ 110.74

Monthly collection and treatment charge for customers
who do not take water service \$ 110.74

Treatment charge per dwelling unit

Small (less than 2,500 gallons per month) \$ 78.50

Medium (2,500 to 10,000 gallons per month) \$ 139.50

Large (over 10,000 gallons per month) \$ 219.50

Collection Charge (per 1,000 gallons) \$ 13.93

The Ridges at Mountain Harbour:

Monthly Sewer Rates:

Collection charge (Residential and Commercial) \$ 41.24

Treatment charge (Residential and Commercial)
< 1" meter \$ 18.42

2" meter \$ 147.36

Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed semiannually)

Applicable only to property owners in Fairfield Sapphire
Valley Service Area \$ 10.20

Availability Rate: (Monthly rate, billed quarterly)

Applicable only to property owners in Connestee Falls \$ 5.75

New Sewer Customer Charge: ^{4/} \$ 27.00

Reconnection Charge: ^{5/}

If sewer service is cut off by utility for good cause: Actual Cost

MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY MATTERS

<u>Charge for processing NSF Checks:</u>	\$ 25.00
<u>Bills Due:</u>	On billing date
<u>Bills Past Due:</u>	21 days after billing date
<u>Billing Frequency:</u>	Bills shall be rendered monthly in all service areas, except for Mt. Carmel, which will be billed bimonthly. Availability rates will be billed quarterly in advance for Conestee Falls, semiannually in advance for Carolina Forest, Woodrun, and Fairfield Sapphire Valley, and monthly for Linville Ridge.
<u>Finance Charge for Late Payment:</u>	1% per month will be applied to the unpaid balance of all bills still past due 25 days after billing date.

Notes:

^{1/} If a customer requests a test of a water meter more frequently than once in a 24-month period, the Company will collect a \$20.00 service charge to defray the cost of the test. If the meter is found to register in excess of the prescribed accuracy limits, the meter testing charge will be waived. If the meter is found to register accurately or below prescribed accuracy limits, the charge shall be retained by the Company. Regardless of the test results, customers may request a meter test once in a 24-month period without charge.

^{2/} Customers who request to be reconnected within nine months of disconnection at the same address shall be charged the base facility charge for the service period they were disconnected.

^{3/} The utility shall itemize the estimated cost of disconnecting and reconnecting service and shall furnish this estimate to customer with cut-off notice.

^{4/} This charge shall be waived if customer is also a water customer within the same service area.

^{5/} The utility shall itemize the estimated cost of disconnecting and reconnecting service and shall furnish this estimate to customer with cut-off notice. This charge will be waived if customer also receives water service from Carolina Water Service within the same service area. Customers who request to be reconnected within nine months of disconnection at the same address shall be charged the base facility charge for the service period they were disconnected.

APPENDIX B

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 386
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Notice is given that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has granted Carolina Water Service Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC), an increase in its water usage charge to customers in High Vista Estates in Henderson County, North Carolina.

CWSNC filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water customers in High Vista Estates in Henderson County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the City of Hendersonville. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

The Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that CWSNC be allowed to increase its usage charge for water service by \$1.32 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$3.40 to \$4.72 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly water bill (< 1 inch meter) from \$41.77 to \$46.76, based on an average usage of 3,780 gallons.

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-354, SUB 387

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 Amend Its Tariff to Increase Rates for Providing Water Utility Service in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County, North Carolina) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISION AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE

BY THE COMMISSION: On July 28, 2021, Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company), filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County an increase in the cost of purchased water from the Town of Franklin. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11(a) provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service. The Town of Franklin's new rate became effective on July 1, 2021.

The Public Staff has reviewed the current rates and recommends that the Company be allowed to increase its usage charge for water service by \$0.60 per 1,000 gallons, increasing the rate from \$7.50 to \$8.10 per 1,000 gallons.

The Public Staff has also evaluated the effect of the current regulatory fee of 0.13% on the proposed increase and determined that it is less than \$0.01 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rates will increase the average residential monthly water bill (< 1 inch meter) from \$54.95 to \$57.04, based on an average usage of 3,471 gallons. The average usage was determined in Exhibit 17 of the Testimony of Gina Y. Casselberry, filed on November 4, 2019, in Docket No. W-354, Sub 364.

This matter was presented at the Commission's Regular Staff Conference on August 16, 2021. The Public Staff stated that it had reviewed the Company's request and recommended that the tariff revision be approved.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion that the tariff revision should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina is granted a tariff revision for water utility service in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County, North Carolina, as set forth herein.
2. That the Schedule of Rates attached as Appendix A is approved and is deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-138. This Schedule of Rates shall become effective for services rendered on and after the date of this Order.
3. That a copy of the Notice to Customers attached hereto as Appendix B be mailed with sufficient postage or hand delivered by the Company to all of its affected customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision contemporaneously with the next billing of customers.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the _____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

SCHEDULE OF RATES

for

CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. OF NORTH CAROLINA

for providing water and sewer utility service

in

ALL OF ITS SERVICE AREAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(excluding Fairfield Harbour Service Area, Treasure Cove, Register Place Estates, North Hills, Glen Arbor/North Bend, Bradfield Farms, Silverton, Woodland Farms, and Larkhaven Subdivisions, and Hawthorne at the Green Apartments)

WATER RATES AND CHARGES

Monthly Metered Water Service (Residential and Commercial):

Base Facility Charge (based on meter size with zero usage)

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3" meter	\$ 433.80
4" meter	\$ 723.00
6" meter	\$1,446.00

Usage Charge:

D. Treated Water/1,000 gallons	\$ 8.27
E. Untreated Water/1,000 gallons (Brandywine Bay Irrigation Water)	\$ 4.23

F. Purchased Water for Resale, per 1,000 gallons:

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Bulk Provider</u>		
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Carolina Trace	City of Sanford	\$	2.21

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Where service to multiple units or other structures is provided through a single meter, the average usage for each unit or structure served by that meter will be calculated. Each unit or structure will be billed based upon that average usage plus the base monthly charge for a <1" meter.

Mount Mitchell Service Area:

Service will be billed based upon the Commission-approved monthly flat rate.

Monthly Flat Rate Service: (Billed in Arrears) \$ 58.54
Availability Rate: (Semiannual)

Applicable only to property owners in Carolina Forest
and Woodrun Subdivisions in Montgomery County \$ 27.15

Availability Rate: (Monthly)

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Irrigation Meter Installation:

Actual Cost

SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

Monthly Metered Sewer Service:

B. Base Facility Charge:

Residential (zero usage)	\$ 58.91
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Commercial (based on meter size with zero usage)

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Shores Subdivision:

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Treatment charge/dwelling unit	\$ 69.50
Total monthly flat rate/dwelling unit	<u>\$ 110.74</u>

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MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY MATTERS

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Notes:

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APPENDIX B

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
DOCKET NO. W-354, SUB 387
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Notice is given that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has granted Carolina Water Service Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC), an increase in its water usage charge to customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County, North Carolina.

CWSNC filed a letter with the Commission pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.11, requesting authority to amend its tariff for the purpose of passing along to water customers in Riverbend Estates Subdivision in Macon County an increase in the cost of purchasing water service from the Town of Franklin. N.C.G.S. § 62-133.11 provides that the Commission shall allow a water or sewer utility to adjust its rates approved pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133 to reflect changes in its costs based solely on changes in the rates imposed by third-party suppliers of purchased water or sewer service.

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The new rates will increase the average residential monthly water bill (< 1 inch meter) from \$54.95 to \$57.04, based on an average usage of 3,471 gallons.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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