

**NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE**

**June 8, 2020**

The Regular Commission Staff Conference of the North Carolina Utilities Commission was held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Mitchell, presiding. The remote meeting was conducted by use of simultaneous communication (via WebEx) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.24, streamed live online, and available to the public.

The following were present during the entirety of the remote meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Brown-Bland  
Commissioner Gray  
Commissioner Clodfelter  
Commissioner Duffley  
Commissioner Hughes  
Commissioner McKissick

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Ms. Lowell, Ms. Lazo, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Watson, Mr. Buffkin, Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Mertz, Ms. Fennell, Ms. Condie, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Jones, Ms. Needham, Mr. Warren, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Bliss, Ms. Paschal, Ms. Hilburn, Ms. Zhang, Ms. Eastwood, Mr. Barber, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Jayasheela, Ms. Burns

**PUBLIC STAFF:** Mr. Ayers, Ms. Downey, Ms. Culpepper, Ms. Holt, Ms. Cummings, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Creech, Ms. Luhr, Ms. Boswell, Ms. Perry, Mr. Furr, Ms. Casselberry, Ms. Darden, Ms. Proffitt

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Mitchell

**C. COMMUNICATIONS****P1. FILING OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS BY ELLERBE AND CENTURYLINK**

The following interconnection agreements were filed for Commission approval between March 24, and March 27, 2020:

**Ellerbe Telephone Company**

Docket No. P-21, Sub 79 – Agreement with Time Warner Cable Information Services (North Carolina), LLC, filed on March 24, 2020.

**Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company LLC and Central Telephone Company d/b/a CenturyLink**

Docket Nos. P-7, Sub 1291, and P-10, Sub 904 – Agreement with CSC Wireless d/b/a Altice Mobile, filed on March 27, 2020.

Docket Nos. P-7, Sub 1292, and P-10, Sub 905 – Agreement with Comcast Phone of North Carolina, LLC, filed on March 27, 2020.

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 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 has reviewed these filings and recommends Commission approval.

The Public Staff recommended that orders be issued approving the agreements effective on the date they were filed.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

**E. WATER****P1. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 15 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide sewer utility service at 18087 US Hwy 17 (Coastal Mini Storage), Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates. The service area is shown on plans filed with the application.

Pluris Hampstead is billing the customer its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 0.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) issued Permit No. WQ0038519, dated July 6, 2016, to Coastal Mini Storage of Cape Fear, LLC (Owner), for the construction and operation of a 45 gallon per minute lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve Coastal Mini Storage.

Owner satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on June 2, 2016. Owner paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 for one commercial tap and \$700 for its reused water for one commercial tap. Owner also paid \$2,000 for one commercial tap as required under the Agreement for Reimbursement of Wastewater Force Main Infrastructure Extension in Docket W-1305, Sub 1. The lift station and force main on the property will be the responsibility of Owner.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 582 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 18087 US Hwy 17 (Coastal Mini Storage), and recommends approval of the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

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, \$120,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$380,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

**P2. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 20 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide sewer utility service at 13937 US Hwy 17 (Arbor Landing), Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates. The service area is shown on plans filed with the application.

Pluris Hampstead is billing the customer its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 0.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued Permit No. WQ0038669, dated September 13, 2016, to Arbor Landing at Hampstead, LLC (Owner), for the construction and operation of a 46 gallon per minute lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve the Ridge Care Assisted Living project.

Owner satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Certification of Completion by Pluris Hampstead on July 9, 2018. Owner paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for 17 commercial taps, and the reused water fee of \$700 per SFE for 17 commercial taps. The lift station and force main on the property will be the responsibility of the Owner.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 582 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 13937 US Hwy 17, (Arbor Landing), and recommends approval of the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

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, \$120,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$380,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise, and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

**P3. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 22 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide sewer utility service at 15919 US Hwy 17 (Sawmill Grill and retail shops), Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates. The service area is shown on plans filed with the application.

Pluris Hampstead is billing the customer its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 0.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued Permit No. WQ0038290, dated March 18, 2016, to MBD Holdings, LLC (Owner), for the construction and operation of a 30 gallon per minute lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve a 100-seat restaurant and 6,500 square feet of general retail space (with no food services) as part of the Hampstead Retail Center Private Pump Station project.

Owner satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Sewer Service Permit by Pluris Hampstead on January 15, 2016. Owner paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for ten commercial taps and the \$700 per SFE reused water fee for ten commercial taps. The lift station and force main on the property will be the responsibility of the Owner.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 582 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 15919 US Hwy 17, and recommends approval of the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

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, \$120,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$380,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise, and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

**P4. DOCKET NO. W-1305, SUB 24 – PLURIS HAMPSTEAD, LLC – APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

On February 4, 2020, Pluris Hampstead, LLC (Pluris Hampstead), filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide sewer utility service at 19344 US Hwy 17, (BP/Subway), Hampstead, in Pender County, North Carolina, and for approval of rates. The service area is shown on plans filed with the application.

Pluris Hampstead is billing the customer its current commercial rate approved for its other service areas in Docket No. W-1305, Sub 0.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (DWR) has issued Permit No. WQ0038518, dated July 6, 2016, to Holt Oil Company, Inc., (Owner), for the construction and operation of a 39 gallon per minute lift station and wastewater collection extension to serve a convenience store as part of the Sloop Point Loop Road C-Store project.

Owner satisfied Pluris Hampstead's requirements for sewer service and was provided a Certification of Completion by Pluris Hampstead on October 26, 2016. Owner paid the approved tap fee of \$3,200 per single family equivalent (SFE) for three commercial taps and \$700 per SFE reuse water fee for three commercial taps. Owner also paid \$2,000 per SFE for three commercial taps as required under the Agreement for Reimbursement of Wastewater Force Main Infrastructure Extension in Docket W-1305, Sub 1. The lift station and force main on the property will be the responsibility of the Owner.

Pluris Hampstead holds wastewater franchises serving approximately 582 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 19344 US Hwy 17, and recommends approval of the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

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, \$120,000 of bond surety is assigned to specific subdivisions, and \$380,000 of bond surety is unassigned.

The Public Staff recommended that the Commission issue the proposed order accepting and approving bond, granting the franchise, and approving Pluris Hampstead's proposed rates.

It was moved and passed that the Public Staff's recommendation be adopted.

Minutes of the Regular Commission Staff Conference for May 26, 2020, were approved.

Minutes prepared by Portia Barnes.