

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-218, SUB 526

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application by Aqua North Carolina, Inc.,                    )  
202 MacKenan Court, Cary, North Carolina            )  
27511, for Authority to Adjust and Increase            )  
Rates for Water and Sewer Utility Service in            )  
All Its Service Areas in North Carolina                )  
ORDER POSTPONING PUBLIC  
WITNESS HEARINGS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On December 31, 2019, Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (Aqua or Company), filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to adjust and increase its rates for providing water and sewer utility service in all of its service areas in North Carolina effective January 30, 2020. On January 21, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case and Suspending Rates declaring this proceeding to be a general rate case and suspending the proposed new rates for up to 270 days pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-134. And on February 14, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Establishing Discovery Guidelines, and Requiring Customer Notice provided for, among other things, six hearings across the State for the purpose of receiving public witness testimony from Aqua’s customers:

Monday, April 13, 2020	Wilmington
Monday, April 20, 2020	Greensboro
Tuesday, April 21, 2020	Gastonia
Wednesday, April 22, 2020	Statesville
Monday, April 27, 2020	Raleigh
Wednesday, April 29, 2020	Fayetteville

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 116 declaring a State of Emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In so doing, the Governor ordered all state and local governmental entities and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the executive order. Through a succession of further executive orders, the Governor closed public schools, limited mass gatherings, and closed bars and restaurants to dine-in service. And on March 27, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 121 taking the further step of imposing a statewide “stay at home” order restricting non-essential movement of the State’s residents until April 29, 2020, to further limit unnecessary person-to-person contact in workplaces and communities.

In response to the declared State of Emergency and consistent with the Governor’s executive orders, the Commission previously suspended scheduled hearings until

April 13, 2020, to assist in preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In response to the statewide “stay at home” order provided in Executive Order No. 121, the Commission has now extended its suspension of scheduled hearings through April 29, 2020.

The Presiding Commissioner, therefore, finds good cause to postpone the public witness hearings currently scheduled in this docket until further order by the Commission. The Commission will inform parties to this docket of new hearing dates as that information becomes available and will require further publication of notice of the rescheduled hearings at that time. Other than the dates of the public witness hearings, nothing in this Order is intended to toll or waive any filing, discovery, or other deadlines in this proceeding.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, as follows:

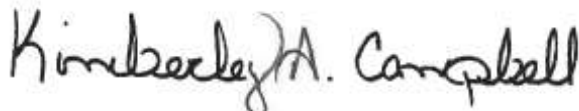
1. That the hearings scheduled for April 13, 2020, in Wilmington; April 20, 2020, in Greensboro; April 21, 2020, in Gastonia; April 22, 2020, in Statesville; April 27, 2020, in Raleigh; and April 29, 2020, in Fayetteville solely for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses in accordance with Commission Rule R1-21(g) shall be postponed pending further order of the Commission; and

2. That Aqua shall provide notice to its customers by prominently posting a copy of this Order on its website.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 31st day of March, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk