

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. W-1205, SUB 14

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
Application by Clarke Utilities, Inc.,)	
223 Highway 70 East, Suite 115,)	ORDER ACCEPTING
Garner, North Carolina 27529-4062,)	APPLICATION AND TESTMONY,
for Authority to Increase Rates for)	CANCELING EXPERT WITNESS
Water and Sewer Utility Service in All)	HEARING, AND REQUESTING
of Its Service Areas in Wake and)	JOINT PROPOSED ORDER
Franklin Counties, North Carolina.)	

BY THE HEARING EXAMINER: On March 22, 2021, Clarke Utilities, Inc., (Clarke) filed an application with the Commission seeking authority to increase its rates for providing water and sewer utility service in all of its services areas in Wake and Franklin Counties in North Carolina.

On April 19, 2021, the Commission issued an Order establishing a general rate case and suspending rates. On May 19, 2021, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order that, among other things, scheduled an expert witness hearing to be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021.

On June 17, 2021, the Public Staff filed the affidavit of John R. Hinton, Director, Economic Research Division. On June 21, 2021, the Public Staff filed the testimony and exhibits of Public Staff witnesses Gina Y. Casselberry, Utilities Engineer, Water, Sewer, and Telephone Division, and Charles A. Akpom, Staff Accountant, Accounting Division.

On July 6, 2021, the Public Staff filed a motion requesting that the Commission cancel the expert witness hearing scheduled in this matter; accept the Public Staff's testimony, affidavits, and exhibits into evidence; and that the Public Staff and Clarke be permitted to submit a joint proposed order for consideration by the Commission. In its motion, the Public Staff stated that (a) the Public Staff filed the affidavit of Public Staff witness John R. Hinton and the testimony and exhibits of Public Staff witnesses Gina Y. Casselberry and Charles A. Akpom, on June 17, 2021, and June 21, 2021, respectively, and (b) Clarke Utilities contacted Commission Staff and the Public Staff on June 29, 2021, and advised both that it accepted the adjustments, proposed revenues, and rates recommended by the Public Staff.

On July 8, 2021, Clarke filed a statement in the docket notifying the Commission that it agreed with the Public Staff's request that the expert witness hearing be canceled

based on its agreement with the Public Staff regarding adjustments, proposed revenues, and rates.

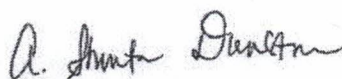
Based on the Public Staff's motion and the record, the Hearing Examiner finds good cause to cancel the expert witness hearing scheduled for July 21, 2021, and to receive Clarke's application and Public Staff witnesses' prefiled testimony, exhibits, and affidavits into the record. Further, the Hearing Examiner finds good cause to require the parties to file a joint proposed order granting rate increase and requiring customer notice in this matter. Finally, the Hearing Examiner concludes that Clarke Utilities should provide notice to its customers of this Order by prominently posting a copy on its website.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 16th day of July, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Interim Chief Clerk