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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2021-153-S ORDER NO. 2021-140-H

OCTOBER 29, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:
Application of Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, Incorporated for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges

MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION:
Order of Witnesses and Proposed Order Due Date

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:
First, with regard to the order of witnesses in this case, the Applicant Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, Incorporated ("PWR" or "the Company") proposes to present four witnesses, as follows: 1) Donny Burkett 2) Mujeeb Hafeez 3) Paul Moul and 4) Craig Sorensen. PWR proposes to present Mssrs. Burkett and Sorensen in person, with Mssrs. Hafeez and Moul appearing virtually. The Company intends to submit direct and rebuttal testimony at the same time. All witnesses will testify individually. This plan is approved.

Second, the Intervenor South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") plans to present two witnesses, as follows: 1) Aaron Rothschild and 2) Lafayette Morgan, both individually and virtually. DCA intends to submit direct and surrebuttal testimony at the same time. This plan is also approved. DCA will please inform the Chief Hearing Officer and the parties as to whether or not its counsel will appear virtually or live at the hearing.

Third, the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") requests that it be permitted to appear in person for the hearing and present 1) David J. Garrett virtually and 2) Christina L. Seale and Daniel P. Hunnell II as an in-person panel. ORS states that it does not object to taking direct and surrebuttal together, but reserves the right to present these separately if another party requests to separate its direct and rebuttal/surrebuttal. This plan is also approved.

The other issue that must be addressed is the due date for proposed orders in this matter. On October 27, 2021, this Chief Hearing Officer had suggested a Proposed Order Due Date of November 30, 2021 for the parties' comments, along with a Transcript availability date of November 23, 2021 if the hearing lasted two days. One response by a party cited the fact that the Thanksgiving holiday occurred in the middle of the proposed dates requested and that additional time should be considered for submission of the proposed orders. Another response specifically requested that the Proposed Order Due Date be extended to December 2. One additional response noted that one party is prepared to meet the

November 30, 2021 deadline, although the response also supported the request for additional time to the extent it could be provided.

These responses are understandable. However, although the Commission and Staff try to be aware of special issues in setting a time for proposed orders, this Chief Hearing Officer hereby sets the due date for proposed orders as November 30, 2021. As stated in the October 27, 2021 e-mail, the Commission must issue the Order in this matter on December 16, 2021 by statutory requirement. The Commission would clearly not have adequate time to carry out its functions with proposed orders arriving any later than November 30, 2021. The date provides only minimal time as it is for review and Order preparation after a Commission vote. For this reason, the proposed orders due date is November 30, 2021.

This completes the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.

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