

BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 08-070

LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY

Petition for Approval of Financing and Step Increases

Office of Consumer Advocate's Motion for Extension of Time

1. On August 5, 2008, the Public Utilities Commission approved the procedural schedule for this docket. *See* Order No. 24,883. The schedule requires Intervenors, the OCA, and Staff to file testimony on August 28, 2008.
2. In response to a data request propounded by the Staff [Staff 2-1], Lakes Region Water Company (LRWC) made statements which appear to significantly modify LRWC's initial filing in this docket.
3. The OCA received this response on August 22, 2008 and, because the schedule of LRWC's consultant, Stephen P. St. Cyr, is unavailable until August 28, 2008, the OCA is unable to discuss these changes prior to the deadline for filing its testimony.
4. The PUC shall grant a request for an extension of time if "(1) the party making the request has demonstrated that circumstances would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request were granted; and (2) the extension would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party." Puc 202.04 (c).
5. To avoid undue hardship or inconvenience, the OCA needs the opportunity to clarify what appear to be changes from LRWC's filing in its responses to Staff 2-1. The OCA can not do this until LRWC's expert is available, which is not until after the present deadline for the filing of the OCA's testimony. Without this opportunity to get further information from Mr. St. Cyr, the OCA is unable to determine with any certainty what the Company's positions are on certain issues or to respond to these in a meaningful way in its testimony. If the OCA were required to file its testimony without this opportunity to speak with LRWC's expert, it may have to seek permission to file supplemental testimony. Such a course of action is not only inefficient, but will result in an undue hardship or inconvenience to the OCA.
6. The extension requested by this motion, to move the deadline from August 28 to September 4 will not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. The OCA does not seek to extend any other deadlines in the remainder of the procedural schedule and the requested extension, as mentioned earlier, may avoid the necessity to supplement the OCA's testimony, which could cause delays in these later deadlines.

7. Prior to the filing of this motion, the OCA made a good faith attempt to gain the consent of the other parties for an extension of the deadline for filing of testimony. *See* Puc 202.04(b). The following parties indicated consent to such an extension: Commission Staff, LRWC, and Property Owners at Suissevale, Inc (POASI) through its attorney Douglas Patch, Esq.

Therefore, the OCA respectfully requests the PUC to extend the deadlines for the filing of its testimony from August 28, 2008 to September 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing motion was forwarded this day to the parties to DW 08-070 by electronic mail.

August 26, 2008


Meredith A. Hatfield