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June 9, 2021

Ms. Debra A. Howland Executive Director New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DW 21-090

Verified Joint Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of Abenaki Water Company by Aquarion Company – Initial Brief regarding Standard of Review

Dear Director Howland:

On behalf of Aquarion Company ("Aquarion") and Abenaki Water Company ("Abenaki") (together, the "Joint Petitioners") enclosed is the Joint Petitioners' Initial Brief on the standard of review to be applied in this proceeding. This Initial Brief is submitted pursuant to the briefing schedule established in the Public Utilities Commission's June 3, 2021 letter.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Fossum Senior Regulatory Counsel

cc: DW 21-090 Service List

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In accordance with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Temporary Changes in Filing Requirements dated March 17, 2020, which suspends all rules requiring filing of paper copies until further notice, the Joint Petitioners are submitting this filing in electronic form only. The Joint Petitioners will file paper copies when the suspension is lifted, if requested.