

Before the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Docket No. DW 23-020

By: The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) - Petitioner
54 Sawyer Ave., Atkinson, NH 03811

**PETITION FOR STEP II RATE ADJUSTMENT PURSUANT TO ORDER NO. 26,635 IN
DOCKET NO. 20-117**

The Petitioner, The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC or the Company) respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC or Commission) for approval of the company's "Step II Adjustment" to its permanent rates in the Settlement Agreement approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in Order No. 26,635 in Docket No. 20-117, and assigned to this Docket No. DW 23-020 pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Order Re: New Docket dated March 6, 2023. In support of this Petition, the Company says:

1. The Company is presently franchised in most areas of Hampstead and Atkinson, New Hampshire, and has franchised satellite systems in various towns in Rockingham County (see Schedule A, attached).
2. On June 10, 2022, the NHPUC issued revised Order No. 26,635 in Docket No. DW 20-117 approving a settlement agreement reached between the Company, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (NHDOE), the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), the Town of Atkinson, and the Town of Hampstead. The approved settlement agreement included the establishment of permanent rates and for two step adjustments to permanent rates based on financial information to be submitted by the Company, both subject to audit by the NHDOE Audit Division.

3. The Step I adjustment was submitted by the Company and the financial information and schedules supporting its Step I adjustment to permanent rates has been reviewed by the NHDOE Audit Division. A settlement agreement has been filed by the Company with the NHPUC and the NHDOE, the Town of Atkinson, and the Town of Hampstead joined in the settlement. The hearing on the proposed Step I settlement agreement is scheduled for April 12, 2023, pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Order dated March 8, 2023.
4. Pursuant to Order No. 26,635 in Docket No. DW 20-117 the Company files this step adjustment, Step II, after June 20, 2022, and seeks Commission approval for Step II rates to be effective no earlier than June 16, 2023.
5. For its Step II adjustment to permanent rates, the Company submits the attached Calculation of Step Adjustment II and supporting schedules prepared by its outside consultant, Stephen P. St. Cyr. HAWC files its Step II Final Cost and schedules in Excel format.
6. The schedules support an increase of \$214,344, less than the "not to exceed amount of \$220,023" from the approved settlement agreement in Docket No. DW 20-117. As such, HAWC respectfully request an increase of \$214,344.
7. With HAWC's request for an increase of \$214,344, once the DOE Audit Division and the parties have completed their review and reached an agreement on the overall revenue requirement, HAWC will submit its Step II rates for approval to conform with the parameters established in Order No. 26,635 in Docket No. DW 20-117.
8. HAWC will contact the DOE Audit Division to set up a time for a site visit to audit the underlying financial data.

WHEREFORE your Petitioner prays:

A. That the Commission find that it would be in the public good for the Company to be permitted to implement its Step II adjustment to permanent rates, as proposed and as will be submitted to the Commission upon the NHDOE's audit of the financial information supporting such Step II adjustment;

B. That the Commission, by appropriate order, approve such Step II adjustment to permanent rates upon submission and after hearing, to be effective no earlier than June 16, 2023; and

C. That the Commission make such further findings and orders as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

Dated this 17th day of March 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

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