

DW 03-107

PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT COMPANY, INC.

Petition for Permanent Rate Increase

Order Scheduling Prehearing Conference and

Suspending Proposed Tariff Pages

O R D E R N O. 24,192

July 18, 2003

On May 2, 2003, Pittsfield Aqueduct Company (Pittsfield or the Company), a public utility as defined by RSA 362:2, filed a Notice of Intent to File Rate Schedules with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Company provides water service within the Town of Pittsfield. The Company indicated that it would be seeking an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$89,250 or 21.62%. On June 19, 2003, the Company filed its rate schedules, along with proposed tariff pages and supporting testimony. Based on its filing, Pittsfield is seeking an increase in its operating revenues of \$67,243, or 16.29% over its revenues in its test year ended December 31, 2002. Under its General Service - Metered Rate Schedule GM; its Municipal Fire Protection Service Schedule FP-M; and its Private Fire Protection Service Schedule FP-P, all rates for service would increase by 16.29%.

An investigation is necessary prior to determining whether the proposed increase in permanent rates is in the

public good. The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 378 relative to rates and charges and more specifically the level of current earnings; plant additions and the capital costs associated with those plant additions; proforma adjustments to expenses; and RSA 366 and the role and function of services provided to the Company by affiliate companies and the allocation of costs between affiliate companies.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Pittsfield Aqueduct Company's NHPUC NO. 5 WATER Fourth Revised Page 38, Fourth Revised Page 39, and Fourth Revised Page 40 be and hereby are suspended pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(a); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.05, be held before the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission located at 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire, on August 27, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at which each party and Commission Staff will provide a preliminary summary of its positions with regard to the Petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Pittsfield, Commission Staff and Intervenors hold a First Technical Session to review the noticed issues and to develop a recommendation for a procedural schedule for this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, Pittsfield notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by sending by First Class Mail a copy of this Order to each of the Petitioner's customers and the Selectmen's Office of the Town of Pittsfield, postmarked no later than August 6, 2003, and by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than August 13, 2003, in a newspaper of general circulation in the Pittsfield area, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 27, 2003; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in this proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Pittsfield Aqueduct Company and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before August 22, 2003, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.02(a)(2); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before August 27, 2003.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New
Hampshire this eighteenth day of July, 2003.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Michelle A. Caraway
Assistant Executive Director