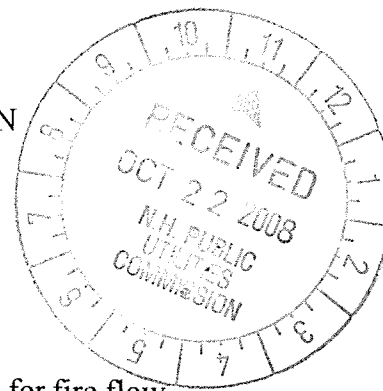


Before the NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



20 October 2008

Re: DW 08 – 088, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC)

Notice of false information given by HAWC to PUC concerning the need for fire flow connections between the Hampstead and Atkinson Core Systems.

From: Mrs. Carol Grant, Intervener
19 Crown Hill, Atkinson, N.H. 03811

A. As a former Atkinson selectwoman and an Atkinson resident for over 28 years with many of those years as a town official in one capacity or another, I was surprised, disbelieving and very concerned to read HAWC's **inaccurate and mis-leading claim** to NH PUC of "the need to provide fire protection within Atkinson and Hampstead" as one of HAWC's justifications for the interconnection between the Atkinson and Hampstead Core Systems. In all of my years as a resident or Atkinson town official I have never known or heard of a single instance where either the Atkinson or Hampstead Fire Departments needed to rely on or use water from the other town. So I decided to phone each fire chief to verify my facts.

1. On Wednesday, 10 Sept. 2008, I phoned Hampstead Fire Chief "Chip" Hastings to ask if Hampstead has ever in the past needed or anticipates a future need of water from Atkinson to help handle Hampstead fire emergencies.

Hastings's answer verbatim: "Hampstead has many ponds and lakes – more than Atkinson. We have about 40 water holes and also about 20-25 pressure hydrants with water from HAWC wells in Hampstead. We have 16-18, maybe 20 HAWC wells in Hampstead. We also have a half million gallon concrete storage tank on Smut Mountain filled with water from HAWC."

"If the two water systems – Atkinson and Hampstead – were connected, it would equalize both

systems, BUT IN MY ESTIMATION, WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH WATER IN HAMPSTEAD TO HANDLE OUR OWN FIRE NEEDS. FOR WELL OVER 70 YEARS [Hampstead Fire Dept. was started in 1948] WE HAVEN'T NEEDED ATKINSON'S WATER AND WE DON'T NEED IT NOW."

2. On Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, I also spoke by phone to Atkinson Fire Chief Mike Murphy. I asked him the same question I asked Hampstead Fire Chief Hastings: whether Atkinson has ever in the past needed Hampstead water for an Atkinson fire emergency and whether he anticipates any future need of Hampstead water to handle Atkinson fire emergencies.

Murphy's answer verbatim: "Atkinson currently has 8-10 "dry hydrant" fire ponds. Many of the originally much higher number of dry hydrant fire ponds have been replaced over time by now close to 60 "pressure hydrants." All of our pressure hydrants supply a minimum flow of 500 gallons per minute, with some providing a higher flow per minute. We also have a 400,000 gallon storage tank behind Lewis Builders.

"I TOTALLY AGREE WITH CHIP HASTINGS. ATKINSON, LIKE HAMPSTEAD, CAN HANDLE ITS OWN FIRE EMERGENCIES WITHOUT NEEDING WATER FROM HAMPSTEAD. CONNECTING THE TWO WATER SYSTEMS PROVIDES NO BENEFIT OTHER THAN REDUNDANCY, WHICH CAN BE NICE, BUT IS DEFINITELY NOT NECESSARY."

B. In Atkinson Intervener (J. Wolters and C. Grant) Data Request # 1, the following pertinent questions were asked of HAWC. HAWC's answers, as was their original petition, are calculated to create the false impression that fire protection is a needed and valid reason for the interconnector.

As you can see from the above statements, both Atkinson and Hampstead Fire Chiefs contradict HAWC's presentation that an interconnection between Atkinson and Hampstead is necessary or needed for fire protection for both towns..

Question 2 (1 1-2): "Under feasible system operating conditions, what would be the flow capacity of the proposed interconnection between Atkinson and Hampstead?"

HAWC Answer: "The capacity will be determined upon final design."

Question I 2-1a: "What will be the design target flow capacity of the proposed 15000 foot 10 inch line interconnecting the Hampstead Core System with the Atkinson Core System?"

HAWC Answer: "Flows are based on system demand."

Question I 2-1b: "If HAWC does not have a target flow capacity for the interconnection design, what design criteria will HAWC give to the PE they choose..."

HAWC Answer: "... The design by the PE will help address fire flow between the systems and confirm domestic uses as well."

I 2-1c "...how did HAWC arrive at a proposed ten inch diameter for the interconnecting line?"

HAWC answer: "It was determined that 10" water main would support increased fire flows vs. 8"

I 2-1d: "...if HAWC does not have a target flow capacity for the interconnection, upon what flow rate capacity are the benefits of the proposed interconnection and the satisfaction of need, as enumerated in HAWC's petition, predicated?"

HAWC Answer "... Due to the fluctuation in system demands flows will constantly be hanging. There is no "target" flow."

I 2-2a : "What criteria will be used to determine the need for, and sizing of, a booster pump station?"

HAWC Answer: A booster pump station will be sized to address fire flows throughout the interconnection and assist in system flushing."

I 2-2b: "What unassisted (un-boosted) flow capacity will be considered adequate, thus obviating the need for the booster pump station?"

HAWC Answer: "Because of the need to provide fire protection within Atkinson and Hampstead, it is absolutely necessary to include the proposed booster station in the design."

I 2-2c: “Should the booster pump station be required, what peak flow rate would the booster pump be designed to provide?”

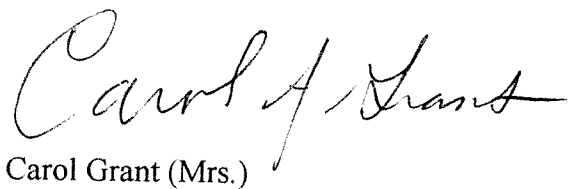
HAWC Answer: “Preliminary estimates indicate the booster station will be necessary to provide fire suppression in the event of an emergency...”

C. I would also like to point out that HAWC was disingenuous and mis-leading with regard to its choice of wording and answer in response to Question 2-13 in Set 2 of OCA’s Data Requests. OCA asked for an explanation of HAWC’s citing “increased fire protection” as a justification for the interconnection between the Atkinson and Hampstead core systems. HAWC used the question as an opportunity to give an un-responsive and self-serving answer which allowed them to provide totally false and misleading information to support the interconnection.

OCA Question 2-13-a: “...Please explain what you mean by “increased fire protection.”

HAWC Answer: a.) The Company has been contacted by the fire chiefs from both towns on this issued regarding fire hydrants along the interconnection route.”

HAWC’s answer falsely implies that the fire chiefs **requested** the interconnection because of a perceived need of it as necessary for fire protection in Atkinson and Hampstead. In talking to both chiefs, each said that they already have sufficient available water within their respective towns. It was also explained to me that each fire department never passes up any opportunity of any kind for acquiring additional available water ponds or access to any water sources and that they routinely ask for and pay for the installation of fire hydrants along any existing water lines **WITHIN** each town. There was **NO REQUEST** to HAWC by **either** Fire Chief for HAWC to put in an interconnection between the two towns for the purpose of a need for it for fire emergencies.



Carol Grant (Mrs.)
Atkinson Intervener
362-4848

Copies to NH PUC Service List