

CONSUMER ADVOCATE
D. Maurice Kreis

ASSISTANT CONSUMER ADVOCATE
Pradip K. Chattopadhyay

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-1172

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 18
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Website:
www.oca.nh.gov

May 15, 2020

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

Re: Docket No. DW 17-165
Abenaki Water Company, Rosebrook Division
Request for Change in Rates
May 21, 2020 Hearing

Dear Ms. Howland:

As you know, on April 23, 2020 the Commission conducted a hearing via the WebEx platform in the above-referenced proceeding to address two issues that have remained outstanding – rate case expenses and the Step II rate adjustment previously approved in concept by the Commission. Because there was not sufficient time to hear the Step II evidence and argument, the Commission continued the hearing to May 21.

I am writing to request that the Commission postpone the May 21 hearing. The Office of the Consumer Advocate has undertaken significant efforts this week to resolve all of the outstanding issues via settlement; those efforts are ongoing and, in my opinion, we are making significant progress. If successful, the result will be a settlement agreement that resolves not only the matters in dispute here but also all of the issues pending in Docket No. DW 19-131, the RSA 365 complaint proceeding brought against Abenaki Water Company by intervenor Omni Mount Washington Hotel, LLC involving a significant water main break that occurred last year.

In these circumstances, I believe that postponing the currently scheduled hearing is likely to result in a more efficient use of the parties' resources and those of the Commission. I am optimistic about achieving negotiated results that will be in the public interest, beneficial to customers, and calculated to succeed because the parties have agreed to them. At the same time, to be clear, I cannot guarantee success.

I am authorized to state that Abenaki Water Company, Omni Mount Washington Hotel, LLC, the Bretton Woods Property Owners Association, and the Staff of the Commission concur with my request for a postponement. To my knowledge these are all of the actively participating parties.

Thank you for considering my request; I am available at 603.271.1174 if there are any questions or concerns. Consistent with the Commission's recent general directive, in light of the pandemic I am submitting this letter in electronic form only and not filing any paper copies at the Commission's offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Maurice Kreis', written in a cursive style.

D. Maurice Kreis
Consumer Advocate

cc: Service list, via e-mail;