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Environmental Law ■ Utility Law

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VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
N.H. Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DW 17-165 Abenaki Water Company, Inc. – Rosebrook Rate Case
Inquiry as to Status of Pending Order

Dear Director Howland:

Abenaki Water Company, Inc. (Abenaki) is writing to inquire as to the status of the pending order on its recoverable rate case expenses. One of Abenaki’s customers, Omni, disputed certain rate case expenses totaling \$26,369. While the Commission approved, in October 2019, recovery of most of the rate case expenses, it held a hearing in April 2020 to afford Omni an opportunity to present its evidence. In defending itself at that hearing, Abenaki incurred an additional \$23,874.62 in employee, stenographer, consultant, and legal expense.¹ The Commission’s docket book reflects this filing as well as Omni’s additional objection arguments.

In Order No. 26,295 (October 1, 2019), the Commission approved an 18-month general recovery term for Abenaki’s rate case expenses (with a 24-month specific recovery term for Omni). The 18-month term expires in April. Recovery of the existing approved rate case expenses from Omni will expire in October. Given this, the existing recovery terms will be unavailable to recover the now roughly \$50,000 in rate case expenses. A new recovery mechanism will need to be used. The Company hopes and requests that the Commission issue an order in the near future so that the Company can repay New England Service Company, Inc. for the use of its employees for the Rosebrook rate case and can have assurance that expenses in its Belmont/Bow rate case are not at risk.

Very Truly Yours,

Marcia A. Brown

¹ Abenaki is incurring similar rate case expenses in Docket No. DW 20-112, using the same pass-through-cost model as was used in its Rosebrook and prior Belmont/Bow rate case. See Order No 25,945 (September 26, 2016). If the Commission changes its policy on recoverable rate case expenses, Abenaki needs to know sooner rather than later so as to avoid having its expenses in the Belmont/Bow rate case be at risk of non-recovery.