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Environmental Law ▪ *Utility Law*

June 16, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

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

Re: DW 17-165 Abenaki Water Company, Inc. – Rosebrook Division
Permanent Rate Proceeding
Abenaki Objection to Potential Delayed Hearing

Dear Director Howland:

In a letter dated June 15, 2020, Staff informed the Commission that the parties to the instant docket were available for a hearing on July 16, 2020. Staff also informed the Commission of Omni Mount Washington, LLC's preference to hold in-person hearings and of the Office of the Consumer Advocate's possible objection to virtual hearings.

Abenaki Water Company, Inc. ("Abenaki") seeks to make the Commission aware of its position regarding a possible delay of the Step II hearing. While Abenaki recognizes that virtual hearings can be challenging, delaying the hearing on reinstating Abenaki's ability to file for recovery of its engineering expenses delays Abenaki's ability to file for design review at NH Department of Environmental Services ("NHDES"). Delaying design review, in turn, further delays NHDES approval of Abenaki's plans to address the high-pressure Significant Deficiency noted by NHDES in the Sanitary Survey. This survey was filed in this docket at Tab 74.

At hearing, Abenaki will explain that it has spent \$80,000 toward this effort but that it needs reinstatement of its ability to file for recovery before its parent and, importantly, lenders feel comfortable with Abenaki spending more. Therefore, if the Commission were to entertain delaying the hearing until such time as it can be held in-person, Abenaki respectfully objects and requests that the Commission take into consideration the adverse impacts of delaying completion of engineering plans and of NHDES review and approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia A. Brown".

Marcia A. Brown

cc: Docket-Related Electronic Service List