

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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July 6, 2018

Re: DW 18-026 Joint Petition for Declaratory Ruling or Rulemaking  
Docket Closure

To the Parties:

On February 27, 2018, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., Lakes Region Water Company, Inc., and Abenaki Water Company, Inc. filed a Joint Petition for Declaratory Ruling or Rulemaking Regarding the Return on Equity for Small Water Systems. The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a notice of its intent to participate, followed by a motion to dismiss this proceeding. Each company thereafter filed an objection to the OCA's motion. Omni Mount Washington, LLC filed a response and appeared at a prehearing conference on April 13, 2018, at which it was granted intervenor status by the Commission.

On June 20, 2018, Commission Staff filed a stipulation among the companies, the OCA, and Staff. In the stipulation, these parties withdrew the companies' requests for declaratory ruling and a formal rulemaking, and the OCA withdrew its motion to dismiss. The parties requested that the Commission conduct a general investigation in this proceeding to discuss whether to amend the Commission's rules to include a formula to establish rates of return on equity for small public water systems and to make recommendations. The parties requested that the Commission schedule a technical session to exchange information and adopt a schedule for further proceedings.

The Commission has granted the parties' requests to withdraw the requests made in the petition and to withdraw the motion to dismiss. The Commission has closed this docket and decided to notice a pre-rulemaking investigation into a formula for establishing rates of return on equity for small public water systems. An order of notice will be issued opening such investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

cc: Service List/Docket File

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES- DOCKET RELATED**

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**Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.**

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Docket #: 18-026-1      Printed: July 06, 2018

**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**
- DEBRA A HOWLAND  
EXEC DIRECTOR  
NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**