

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DW 18-076**

**PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC.**

**Small Diameter Private Fire Protection Non-Metered Service**

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariff**

**ORDER NO. 26,137**

**May 31, 2018**

In this order, the Commission suspends a proposed set of Pennichuck Water Works, Inc., tariff provisions for small diameter private fire protection non-metered service, and related tariff adjustments.

On April 30, 2018, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (PWW or the Company), filed tariff changes to accommodate non-metered private fire protection service to customers using smaller diameter connections than are currently in use, and to provide more specificity in pricing for such smaller connections. In support of its petition, the Company filed the testimony of Donald L. Ware, its Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Ware indicated that new building codes in PWW's service area were leading developers to include "life safety" sprinkler systems in their newly-constructed homes, which require non-metered private fire protection service connections. According to the Company, its current tariff does not have an appropriate rate for that service. As a result, customers either install a single, larger service line to their house and pay a higher monthly rate, or install one standard metered service line with standard charges and an additional non-metered line with an additional charge for "4 inch and smaller" private fire protection service of \$62.03 per month.

PWW is proposing new rates for non-metered private fire protection service with varying service diameter connections. The proposal includes monthly flat rates of \$6.51 for a 1 1/2-inch connection, \$15.50 for a 2-inch connection, \$26.02 for a 3-inch connection, and \$62.03 for a 4-inch connection. Under the proposal, customers with smaller fire-protection connections would no longer be required to pay \$62.03 for the “4 inches and smaller” class in the existing PWW tariff.

As part of its petition, PWW is also proposing tariff provisions to mandate that single-family residential customers with fire protection service be required to have two services, both with outside shut-off valves, and to “grandfather” existing PWW customers with a single service and a 1-inch meter to accommodate a combined fire protection/domestic use water system. PWW estimates that fewer than 30 of its customers will need to be grandfathered. PWW proposes to charge those grandfathered customers the approved monthly charge for a 5/8-inch meter (\$22.58 per month) plus the charge for a 1 1/2-inch fire protection rate under the proposed tariff (or \$6.51 per month, for \$29.09 per month total). This grandfathered rate would only apply to those customers with this type of service and for meters installed and placed into service on or before December 31, 2018.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission’s website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2018/18-076.html>.

This filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to whether the proposed tariff provisions are just and reasonable under RSA Chapter 378; RSA 374:1, and RSA 374:2; whether the affected classes of PWW customers are being treated consistently under the terms of the proposed tariff;


and whether the proposed tariff will ensure consistent quality of service, fair terms of service, and fair and accurate billing for PWW customers.

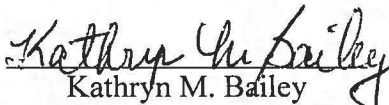
Here, PWW's proposed tariff provisions warrant further investigation, and so we suspend the proposed tariff pages filed by PWW pending our investigation for a period of three months, or until August 30, 2018, pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b).

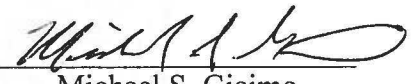
**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the proposed tariff pages regarding the non-metered private fire protection service by PWW are hereby SUSPENDED pursuant to RSA 378:6, I(b), through August 30, 2018, pending investigation and further order of the Commission.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirty-first day of May, 2018.

  
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Martin P. Honigberg  
Chairman

  
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Kathryn M. Bailey  
Commissioner

  
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Michael S. Giaimo  
Commissioner

Attested by:

  
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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

**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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**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.