

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
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NHPUC 7 JAN 19 AM 10:52

January 7, 2019

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: DW 18-090 – Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. (“PEU” or “Company”)
Tariff Changes re: Small Diameter Private Fire Protection Non-Metered Service
Staff Recommendation relative to Motion for Waiver of Puc 1203.05(b)

Dear Ms. Howland:

On January 4, 2019, PEU filed a Motion for Waiver of N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 1203.05(b). Staff recommends that the Commission approve PEU’s motion.

On November 27, 2018, the Commission Staff (“Staff”) filed with the Commission a recommendation to approve certain changes to terms of service and rates on pages 28-A, 38, and 45 of PEU’s tariff relative to small diameter private fire protection non-metered service. Staff also recommended the issuance of credits to a limited number of customers within the Town of Pelham. Pursuant to Puc 1203.05(b), all rate changes implemented as a result of a Commission order shall be implemented on the basis of service rendered on or after the effective date of the approved rate change.

PEU normally issues its bills under tariff pages 38 and 45 monthly and in arrears for services rendered. However, PEU seeks a waiver of Puc 1203.05(b) for the customers affected by Staff’s recommended tariff changes and customer credits in order that PEU may implement the rate changes on a bills-rendered basis and calculate the customer credits on a monthly basis

PEU argues that implementing the rate changes in this manner would be less confusing to the affected customers because the bills would not be split between prorated portions of old and new tariff rates. Rather, the rates would change at the conclusion of one bill and in time for the next, as customers are accustomed to seeing. Further, implementing the rate change on a bills-rendered basis would allow PEU to avoid the cost of labor-intensive calculations for multiple individual customer bills. Finally, PEU indicates that the Commission has approved similar implementations of rate changes in

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this manner in the past. See Commission Order No. 26,136 (May 31, 2018) and Commission Order No. 25,990 (February 17, 2017) (regarding Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.).

Staff has reviewed PEU's motion and agrees that the Company's proposal would result in less confusion for affected customers and would be more efficient for the Company to implement. As such, Staff believes that approval of PEU's motion would be just and reasonable and in the public interest.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jayson P. Laflamme
Assistant Director, Gas-Water Division

cc: Service List

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

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 #: 18-090-1 Printed: January 07, 2019

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
EXECUTIVE 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.**