

Abenaki Water Company
Docket N. DW 19-131
Staff Data Requests Set 1 – to ABENAKI

Date Request Received: 02/03/20
Request No. Staff 1-7

Date of Response: 02/18/20
Witness: Donald Vaughan & Steve St. Cyr

REQUEST: RE: Abenaki Supplemental Reply to Omni Complaint, Paragraph 4.

Abenaki refers to “the 8-inch *line* from Base Road to the hotel” claiming that the pipe is not a main owned by the Company, but a typical service line owned by the customer. (emphasis added). Does Abenaki currently own any water systems that have similarly situated infrastructure in which a pipe of that magnitude is a service “line” rather than a “main?” Specifically, do any other systems encompass a pipe of that size, or larger, and at that approximate length, that is owned by the customer and not included in Abenaki’s rate base? Please provide supporting documentation and evidence if it is an affirmative answer.

RESPONSE:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The length of the line does not determine whether it is a service or transmission/distribution main. Nor does the size of the service line mean that it is a transmission/distribution main. The size of a customer’s service line is determined from flow needs. The NHDES Env-DW 407.01 requires public water systems to adhere to the AWWA standards which in turn incorporate the NFPA standards. Per the NFPA definition of a private fire service main, as discussed in Staff 1-20, the service line is on private property, and is accordingly classified as a private line. Service lines 8-inches or larger are not unique to the Mount Washington Hotel resort area.

As the Commission and Staff are aware, Abenaki-owned systems are generally smaller systems comprised of primarily residential housing, and the service lines of those systems are not of the magnitude of the pipe that serves the hotel resort complex. An example of a combined private fire service main (see Staff to Abenaki 1-20 regarding private fire service main) on the Rosebrook System is the base lodge at the Bretton Woods Ski Area. The base lodge has a 6-inch line that serves the building and is not included in Abenaki’s rate base.

Further, a transmission/distribution main differs from a service line in that it does not dead-end, like the hotel line does.

In addition, Abenaki’s parent company, the New England Service Company (NESC), owns and operates Valley Water Systems (VWS) in Plainville, Connecticut. There are many examples of buildings on the VWS system that have private fire service/combined service that requires 8-inches in size:

Address:

10 Farmington Valley, Plainville, CT
72 Northwest Drive, Plainville, CT
87 Spring Lane, Plainville, CT

Service Size:

8-inch private fire service main; 2-inch domestic service
8-inch private fire service main
8-inch private fire service main; 6-inch domestic service