



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

May 5, 2020

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

Re: Joint Petition to Modify Franchise
 Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. and Salem Water Department (PWS 2051010)
 Opinion of Suitability and Availability per NH RSA 374:22, III

Dear Ms. Howland:

We have reviewed our records and hereby confirm that the subject public water system meets the suitability and availability criteria of NH RSA 374:22 III, for expansion of water service to the lots in the Town of Windham identified on the attached figure "Areas to be Transferred from Pennichuck East Utilities (PEU) to Town of Salem", dated 5/5/20.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Services supports Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. (PEU) and the Town of Salem's request to modify PEU's franchise to allow Salem to provide water service to the lots identified above for the public good. NHDES believes that Salem's Petition is in the best interests of Salem's and PEU's customers and the properties in question as it will enable the parties to continue to provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Unger, PE
 Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

Cc Roy Sorenson, Town of Salem
 David Sullivan, Town of Windham
 Donald Ware, Pennichuck Corporation

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