

From: JOHN A PARENT <jj.parent@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 1:05 PM
To: PUC: <PUC@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: NH PUC ORDER no. 26437 – COMMENTS

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TO: Members of the NH PUC

FROM: John Parent, Resident, Little Mill Woods Condos, Sandown NH, 55+ Community of 38 units

RE: NH PUC ORDER no. 26437 – COMMENTS

On 3/8/2021, an email received from Hampstead Area Water Company (HAWC) advised that they were applying to the NH PUC for a rate increase. According to NH PUC ORDER no. 26,437, petition to intervene deadline is March 26, 2021. According to Order 26,437, communication between HAWC and NH PUC has been ongoing since July 23, 2020 at least. Given that the increases requested are numerous and substantial, it seems a very short time allowed for comment for this small 55+ community for which HAWC makes no provision for emergency water supply during power outages. HAWC does maintenance of the system but little else, so it seems unfair that we should be burdened with their infrastructure plans in such an expensive way.

Since it is the NHPUC's mission to ensure that customers of regulated utilities receive safe, adequate and reliable service at just and reasonable rates, we are really at your mercy for this issue. I beg that all due diligence is done to assess, not only the reasonableness of their request but especially the impact it will have on this small community. In addition, I have the following comments on the various proposed increases in NH PUC ORDER no. 26,437:

1. HAWC is asking for a 10.44 percent return on equity, plus a 25 percent adder for "exemplary performance. Maybe I am old and outdated, but I seem to remember when 6% was considered fair for municipal service companies, so why are they asking for so much?
2. Then, they want an additional yearly WICA surcharge to "recover" fixed costs.
3. Then, they want to restructure municipal fire protection service which will show up in my municipality tax bill.

QUESTION: Doesn't private business take any of the risk anymore?

4. HAWC proposes temporary rates: \$6.11 per ccf to \$7.22 per ccf per month (volumetric rate). Then in the next paragraph proposes a permanent rate

increase for both its fixed and volumetric rate from \$10.00 to \$16.33 per month for current 5/8 inch meter rate (98% of their customers).

QUESTION: So, what is my rate? Will I be paying \$7.22 until HAWC decides they have made enough money, then I will start paying the \$6.83 per ccf per month stated in their email, plus the \$16.33 monthly charge, plus the increased taxes this causes. It seems that businesses today thrive on making proposals confusing with this charge, that surcharge so customers can not object until we get the bill, and it is too late to object.

So, again, I plead for mercy and due diligence by the PUC in this matter. It deserves your best efforts to assure reliable service at reasonable rates.

Thank you,

John A. Parent, jj.parent@comcast.net, (603) 845-6000

Respectfully Submitted on 3/24/2021