

March 16, 2021

By email (executive.director@puc.nh.gov)

Debra Howland, Executive Director & Secretary NH Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: DW 20-117 Petition for Request for Change in Rates– Affidavit of Additional Notice

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to the PUC secretarial letter of March 3. 2021 Granting Waiver of Puc 1203.02 (c) and (d)for the above referenced docket, please find attached an electronic copy of the company's Affidavit of Additional Notice certifying that a copy of the above-referenced Notice was published either by electronic mail or First Class U.S. Mail by The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. on March 5, 2021.

Pursuant to the Commission's March 17, 2020 letter citing to the emergency related to COVID-19, the Company will not file any paper copies. The Company will maintain the original paper copy and file accordingly upon further notice from the Commission.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours, Anthony Augeri, Esq. General Counsel

Enclosures (2)

Electronic cc: DW-20-117 Service List

## AFFIDAVIT OF ADDITIONAL NOTICE

By The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.

## Docket No. 20-117

I hereby certify that a copy of the Important Notice Regarding Proposed Rate Change pursuant New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Order No. 26,437 was sent electronically or via First Class Mail on March 5, 2021 by The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. A copy of the letter to all Water Customers is submitted along with this affidavit.

Anthony Augeri, General Counsel The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

This instrument was acknowledged before me this  $\frac{10}{10}$  th day of March, 2021 by Anthony Augeri, as General Counsel of The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.

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Legal: HAWC/PUC/DW20-117-Pleadings- Notice 3-5-2021



Dear Water Customer,

On November 24, 2020 The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) filed for a rate increase with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("NHPUC").

This rate increase covers the increased operating costs since the last general rate case in 2017, plus provides additional revenues in support of HAWC's infrastructure investment and operations. This includes improvements made by the company to participate in the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project (SNHRWP) including the construction of a 1-million-gallon water storage tank and numerous upgrades to the company's core system to receive additional water from SNHRWP. These infrastructure improvements were necessary to enhance water supply capabilities throughout the core system and provide additional water capacity for our customers.

The company commissioned a Cost of Service Study (CSS) at the request of the NHPUC as part of this rate case. The CSS concluded a two-tier consumption rate best allocated costs for water use and promote conservation. It also concluded that additional charges for residential fire protection are appropriate to better allocate costs to those customers.

The proposed consumption rate increase for single-family residential customers, which include individually metered condominium units and individually metered apartment units, will go from a single rate to a proposed two-tier rate. The rate for those customers that use up to 400 cubic feet per month will increase from \$6.11 to \$6.83 per 100 cubic feet. The rate for those customers that use more than 400 cubic feet per month will increase from \$6.11 to \$10.24 per 100 cubic feet. The rate for all other non-single-family and non-residential customers will increase from \$6.11 to \$9.31 per 100 cubic feet. The existing monthly base charge for customers with a 5/8" meter, which is about 98% of all customers, will increase from \$10.00 to \$16.33 per month.

Additionally, municipal fire protection charges are proposed to increase from \$200.00 per hydrant per year to \$1,419.00. The Company proposes for the first time to assess residential fire protection charges to homeowners with fire protection systems, approximately 1,084 connections.

The filing will be subject to comprehensive review by the NHPUC in a proceeding that may last up to 18 months. See NHPUC Order #26,437 which can be found here: <u>NH PUC ORDER no. 26,437 - 12-18-2020.pdf</u> (multiscreensite.com) which provides more detail on this proceeding. Although Order no. 26,437 indicates a deadline of February 8, 2021 to petition to intervene, this deadline has been extended to March 26, 2021.

We at HAWC would like to express our appreciation to you, our customers. We thank you for your support while we continue improving our abilities to better serve you now and into the future. Should you have questions please feel free to contact our office Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at (603) 362-4299 or by email at <u>customerservice@hampsteadwater.com</u>. You may also contact the NHPUC directly at 800-852-3793.

Sincerely,

Call de

Charlie Lanza General Manager