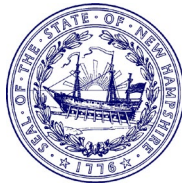


COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

May 15, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DW 20-117 Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., Request for Change in Rates,
DOE's Review of HAWC's Step I Compliance Tariff

Dear Chairman Goldner:

The Commission has directed the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("Department" or "DOE") to review the Hampstead Area Water Company Inc. ("HAWC" or "the Company")'s proposed compliance tariff, purporting to be consistent with the Commission's Order No. 26,809 (April 28, 2023), approving The Town of Atkinson, HAWC, and the Department's proposed Step I Settlement Agreement. See Order No. 26,809 at 8.

The Department has reviewed the compliance tariff pages First Revised Page 1 and Sixth Revised Page 34 and agrees with the updated rate information. The Department requests two changes in order to clarify the authority for the tariff changes, and to better track this utility's rate case history.

- In the opinion of the *Department, the compliance tariff pages' footers' statement, "Authorized by Docket No. DW 20-117"* is too broad. Changes made in this tariff are better described as *"Authorized by Order No. 26,809 (April 28, 2023) in Dkt. No. DW 20-117."* This avoids ambiguity and confusion that might stem from multiple orders in the same docket.
- In the opinion of the Department, HAWC's decision to eliminate permanent rate case history by red-lining (omitting) the reference to prior orders authorizing changes in rates is ill advised. Tariffs are living and evolving documents; a list of prior orders authorizing tariff changes is useful and efficient for the tariff. In addition, tariffs are not published in hard copy, making prior versions of earlier tariffs more challenging to find. Accordingly, the Department asks that the list HAWC has omitted on red-lined page Sixth Revised Page 34 be restored, with the most recent order included at the end. Alternatively, the Department would also be amendable to a list of authorities in reverse chronological order on the Sixth-Revised Page 34.

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed in electronic form. The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on HAWC's proposed compliance tariff

pages. Given that HAWC filed its compliance pages on May 5, 2023, the Department's review is timely filed. See Order No. 26,809 at 4; N.H. Code of Admin Rules Puc Rule 202.03(b).

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer

Mary.E. Schwarzer
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

Cc: Service list

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
aaugeri@lewisbuilders.com
adminasst@townofdanville.org
ahansen@atkinson-nh.gov
amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
anthony.j.leone@energy.nh.gov
bethc@atkinson-nh.gov
charlie@hampsteadwater.com
chris@atkinsoncc.com
cressmandg@atkinson-nh.gov
david.n.goyette@energy.nh.gov
dfox@raftelis.com
dmullinax@blueridgecs.com
donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov
douglas.brogan@gmail.com
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
gspero@atkinson-nh.gov
harold@lewisbuilders.com
hfdfpb@comcast.net
howard@energytactics.com
htombarello@lewisbuilders.com
japple@atkinson-nh.gov
jayson.p.laflamme@energy.nh.gov
john@lewisbuilders.com
k.Alan.richards@gmail.com
karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov
karen.sue.steele@gmail.com
lojogut@gmail.com
mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov
mworthen@hampsteadnh.us
nmlw@nmlw.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
robyn.j.descoteau@energy.nh.gov
sally.theriault@comcast.net
sambosox@gmail.com
shawn_oneil@mail.rit.edu
smorse@hampsteadnh.us
smurphy@hampsteadnh.us
sspyveewater@gmail.com
stephenpstcyr@yahoo.com
tklaes@blueridgecs.com
wbaldwin@atkinson-nh.gov