

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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<b>THE HAMPSTEAD AREA</b>	)				<b>DOCKET NO. DW 20-117</b>
<b>WATER COMPANY, INC.</b>	)				<b>Request for Change in Rates</b>
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**ASSENTED-TO MOTION TO WAIVE RULES TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL  
CUSTOMER NOTICE  
AND EXTEND DEADLINE TO INTERVENE**

The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (“HAWC” or the “Company”) respectfully moves the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) pursuant to Puc 201.05 to waive rules regarding deadlines for customer notice under Puc 1203.02(c) + (d) by allowing the Company to send its customers additional notice by electronic or first class mail as proposed in the attached Exhibit 1, and for the Commission to extend the date customers have to intervene in this matter if they wish to March 17, 2021. Staff and the Office the Consumer Advocate (OCA) respective counsel assent to the relief sought in this motion.

In support of this motion, HAWC states as follows:

1. HAWC rate case filing included a proposed notice to customers pursuant to Puc 1604.02(a)(5).
2. During the parties’ technical session, the OCA raised the issue whether notice of Order No. 26,437 was properly made to the Company’s customers pursuant to Puc 1203.02(c).

3. The Company satisfied Puc 1604.03 (Publication of Proposed Rate Change) by publication of Order No. 26,437 on the Company's website pursuant to Puc 203.12, in addition to publication on the Commission's website. See docket entry tab #11. The Company has agreed to repost the notice on the Company's website "Alert & Notice" box section in addition to the "News" section where it currently resides.
4. After discussion with OCA and Staff at the technical session, the Company agreed to seek Commission approval to send direct notice to its customers as contained in the attached Exhibit 1 which extends the deadline for customers to intervene into this matter to March 26, 2021.
5. The requested rule waiver serves the public interest by providing customers additional notice of this proceeding and extending the deadline to intervene. If allowed, this waiver will not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of this matter because it will not alter the timeframe to complete this matter and will not alter the forthcoming procedural schedule the parties discussed at the technical session.
6. The purpose of rule Puc 1203.02(c) would be satisfied by the relief sought in this motion.
7. Should the Commission grant this motion, the Company requests that it have 3 business days from the date of such approval to provide its customers direct notice as contained in Exhibit 1, either by electronic mail, or by first class mail for those the Company does not have an email address for.

8. For these reasons, HAWC respectfully requests that the Commission grant this motion, approve the notice attached to this motion as Exhibit 1, allow the company 3 business days from the date of such approval to send its customers this notice, and allow customers until March 26, 2021 to intervene into this matter.

WHEREFORE, The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., with the assent of counsel for the OCA and Staff, respectfully requests the Commission grant this Assented-to Motion to waive Puc rules to allow the relief requested herein.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

/s/ Anthony S. Augeri  
Anthony S. Augeri, General Counsel

Dated: February 22, 2021

cc: electronic-Docket list

Exhibit 1



**HAMPSTEAD AREA**  
WATER COMPANY, INC

54 SAWYER AVENUE, ATKINSON, NH 03811

TEL: 603.362.4299 FAX: 603.362.4936  
[www.hampsteadwater.com](http://www.hampsteadwater.com)

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 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: [NH PUC ORDER no. 26,437 - 12-18-2020.pdf \(multiscreensite.com\)](#) 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 [customerservice@hampsteadwater.com](mailto:customerservice@hampsteadwater.com). You may also contact the NHPUC directly at 800-852-3793.

Sincerely,

Charlie Lanza  
General Manager