

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

Docket No. DW 20-117

Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule

NOW COMES the Department of Energy (Department), a party to this docket under RSA 12-P:9, and respectfully requests that the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) amend the current procedural schedule and move the date for filing of settlement and rebuttal testimony from March 8, 2022, to March 16, 2022. In support of this request, the Department states as follows:

1. On March 18, 2021, the Commission approved a procedural schedule in this docket.
2. On October 14, 2021, the Commission issued a Procedural Order Re: Proposed Amended Procedural Schedule (Order) which amended the previously approved procedural schedule, scheduling, among other things, the date for filing of settlement or rebuttal testimony on March 8, 2022. Order at 1.
3. The Order further scheduled the permanent rates hearing for March 23, 2022. Order at 2.
4. The Department now requests that the date for filing of settlement or rebuttal testimony be moved to March 16, 2022. At this time, the Department reports that settlement negotiations are ongoing between the parties, but that the deadline of March 8 may not provide ample time to finalize an agreement. The Department also notes that a contract issue with its engineering consultant beyond his control may delay his ability to finalize and file rebuttal testimony by that deadline.

5. The Department contends that this is within the public interest for the Commission to move the settlement and rebuttal testimony date given that it will provide extra time for the parties to finalize possible settlement and provide the opportunity for the Department's engineering consultant to provide a more complete record for consideration by the Commission. RSA 12-P:2. The Department notes, furthermore, that the date requested is one week before the permanent hearing on March 23, which is ample opportunity for Commission and party review, and also complies with Puc Rule 203.20(e) (“[s]ettlements and stipulations shall be filed no less than 5 days prior to the hearing, except as provided in (f)”).

6. The Department contacted all parties involved in this proceeding and requested that their positions on the relief requested herein be provided. As of the time of this filing, the following parties assented to the relief requested: Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.; the Office of the Consumer Advocate; the Town of Hampstead; the Town of Atkinson; and Ms. Karen Steele. The remaining recognized intervenors, Ms. Sarah Theriault and the Town of Danville, did not respond.

WHEREFORE, the Department respectfully requests that this honorable Commission:

- A. Adjust the procedural schedule as requested above; and
- B. Grant such other and further relief as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

February 18, 2022

N.H. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

By: /s/ Christopher R. Tuomala

Christopher R. Tuomala, Esq.
Hearings Examiner/Staff Attorney
Department of Energy
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429
(603) 271-3670
Christopher.R.Tuomala@energy.nh.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this pleading was provided via electronic mail to the individuals included on the Commission's service list for this docket.

/s/ Christopher R. Tuomala

Christopher R. Tuomala, Esq.