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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

September 30, 2021 - 9:33 a.m.

[Hearing also conducted via Webex]

RE: DW 20-071 ATKINSON AREA WASTEWATER
RECYCLING, INC. REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN
RATES AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN
PUC 1604.01 REQUIREMENTS
DW 2-091 ATKINSON AREA WASTEWATER
RECYCLING, INC. PETITION TO APPROVE
TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF ATKINSON AREA
WASTEWATER RECYCLING, INC.
(Hearing)

PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne H. Martin, Presiding
Commissioner Daniel C. Goldner

Doreen Borden, Clerk
Corrine Lemay, PUC Remote Hearing Host

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Atkinson Area Wastewater:
Anthony S. Augeri, Esq.

Reptg. N.H. Dept. of Energy:
Mary E. Schwarzer, Esq.

Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44

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[WITNESS PANEL: ST. CYR|SULLIVAN|LAFLAMME|MANNING]

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1 Thank you.

2 Mr. Augeri, did you have any
3 cross-examination?

4 MR. AUGERI: Madam Chairwoman, I do
5 not.

6 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.
7 Then why don't we take a five-minute break.
8 We'll return at 10:50. Off the record.

9 (Brief recess was taken at 10:45 a.m., and
10 the hearing resumed at 10:53 a.m.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Let's go
12 back on the record, and I will turn it over
13 to Commissioner Goldner for questions.

14 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Yeah, thank
15 you, Chairwoman. I just have a couple of
16 questions.

17 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS:

18 BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:

19 Q. First for Mr. Sullivan. I'm curious as to
20 why you're interested in this business. It
21 looks like a lot of work for a very small
22 return. And I'd just like you to share your
23 thoughts on that, please.

24 A. (Sullivan) To be honest with you, it's not my

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[WITNESS PANEL: ST. CYR|SULLIVAN|LAFLAMME|MANNING]

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1 business. I work here. I'm just an
2 employee. So...

3 Q. Anybody on the panel that can address that
4 question?

5 A. (St. Cyr) If I can have the question again,
6 please?

7 Q. Yeah. I'm just curious. This looks like
8 this is a lot of work, a lot of effort, and
9 for a very small return as we just went
10 through. And I'm curious as to why the
11 Company is interested in this business.

12 A. (St. Cyr) It is a lot of work. You know,
13 it's a regulated utility, a small, you know,
14 sewer company. You know, it was primarily
15 driven by the construction of the two
16 buildings and the need to get, you know, some
17 existing rate in place that appropriately
18 attempts to, you know, earn a return on a
19 small rate base and cover its costs.

20 Q. Was there any look at using a -- leveraging
21 another water company in the area that might
22 have been cheaper or, you know, better
23 equipped to support the Company?

24 A. (St. Cyr) Well, the service agreements do

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[WITNESS PANEL: ST. CYR|SULLIVAN|LAFLAMME|MANNING]

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1 that. You know, the sewer company itself has
2 no employees.

3 A. (Sullivan) And if I could add -- this is
4 John. The water company already has the
5 franchise in the area and was already
6 providing water in the area. There's really
7 no other water utility that could service
8 this area.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

10 I do have a follow-up for you, Mr. St.
11 Cyr. I know you do a lot of work with water
12 utilities in New Hampshire. If we were to
13 take a competitive view, looking at sort of
14 similar properties that you've dealt with in
15 the past, relative to this rate case, is this
16 typical in terms of the customer charges? Is
17 this higher than you would see typically? Is
18 it lower than you would see typically?

19 A. (St. Cyr) I would say it's in the range. You
20 know, some of the other sewer companies in
21 particular, their rates may be a little bit
22 less; although, I know in the case of two of
23 them, they haven't been in for a rate
24 increase since 2005. You know, the original

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**ATKINSON AREA
WASTE WATER RECYCLING, INC.**

64 SAWYER AVE. ATKINSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03811 Phone: 603.362.5333 Fax: 603.362.4936

November 23, 2021

By email (ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov)

Chairman Daniel C. Goldner
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: DW 20-071 Atkinson Area Waste Water Recycling, Inc. Request Change in Rates
Request Recovery of Rate Case Expenses

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Atkinson Area Waste Water Recycling, Inc. files this corrective cover letter with two corrections, the amount of rate case expenses is \$48,062.85 as reflected in the attachments, and "ROE" has been deleted before "Rate Expense schedules."

In accordance with PUC Order 26,547 dated November 9, 2021, the PUC ordered that "The settling parties agree that AAWW will only request recovery of rate case expenses and not expenses related to the request for a change in ownership. The request shall be filed within 30 days of the Commission order in this docket and shall conform with Puc 1905.02."

The Company is proposing a surcharge for 36 months of \$20.54/month to 65 customers for the recovery of \$48,062.85. In support of the Company's proposed surcharge, the Company is providing Rate Expense schedules, which summarize the rate case expenditures by date, vendor, amount, and cumulative amount. The individual invoices that support the rate case expenditures are also attached. At the bottom of the Deferred Rate Case Expenses schedule, the Company shows the total of the rate case expenditures to be recovered and develops the surcharge to be billed to customers.

AAWWR respectfully requests that the DOE Staff reviews the schedules, the supporting documentation and the proposed surcharge and draft its recommendation. AAWWR would appreciate having an opportunity to review the recommendation before it is filed with the Commission.

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Pursuant to the Commission's March 17, 2020 letter citing to the COVID-19 emergency, the Company will not file any paper copies.

If you, the Commissioners, DOE Staff and / or any other parties have questions and comments, please contact John Sullivan at John@lewisbuilders.com or 603-362-5333.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Anthony S. Augeri

Anthony S. Augeri, Esq.
General Counsel

TA/hw
enclosures
e cc: service list