

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire

DOCKET NO. DW 20-184

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN RATES

Petition for Approval of Step Adjustment

Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement dated June 1, 2022 (the “Settlement Agreement”) and filed on June 1, 2022 with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) in the instant docket, Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire (“Aquarion” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the Commission for approval of a step adjustment increase to be implemented and effective in accordance with the timeline provided in the Settlement Agreement. In support of this Petition, Aquarion states the following:

1. Pursuant to Section 4 of the Settlement Agreement, the Company is to be allowed one step adjustment to account for calendar year 2020 and 2021 plant-in-service and a 2021 known and measurable adjustment for wages, salaries, and benefits.
2. The Settlement Agreement was executed and filed with the Commission on June 1, 2022 and is pending approval in the instant docket. The Settlement Agreement requires the Company to submit its filing to commence review of the step adjustment, including project documentation, within 14 days of execution of the Settlement Agreement. This Petition and supporting testimony and attachments constitutes the Company’s filing for the step adjustment, to be implemented with the other rate adjustments as provided in the Settlement Agreement.

3. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Company is required to include the following information in support of its step adjustment: (a) the amount of the investments to be included in the step increase (by project) and detailed project descriptions including the initial budget, the final cost, the treatment of any related retirements, and the date each project was booked to plant in-service; and (b) project documentation including business cases, capital project expenditure applications, change order forms, project close out reports, and work orders (Settlement Agreement, §4.2). The Settlement Agreement establishes a not-to-exceed cap of \$1,561,436 for the step adjustment revenue requirement to be included in the proposed rate increase, effective upon Commission approval (Id.).
4. The step adjustment is subject to Department of Energy (“DOE”) audit and reconciliation based on the results of the audit and is also subject to final approval by the Commission.
5. The Company has complied with the requirements of the Settlement Agreement through submission of the following evidence in support of this Petition:
 - Testimony and supporting attachments sponsored by Debra A. Szabo and Daniel R. Lawrence describing the plant additions placed in service in 2020 and 2021, along with actual wages, salaries and benefit increases for 2021, including the revenue requirement calculation and supporting project documentation, and proposed rate treatment.
6. As described in the above-referenced testimony and supporting attachments, this filing demonstrates relevant support for the additions to the Company’s plant-in-service in

calendar years 2020 and 2021, and the 2021 known and measurable adjustment for wages, salaries, and benefits, consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

7. As described in the testimony and supporting attachments, the requested revenue requirement increase for this step adjustment is \$1,550,182, which is below the not-to-exceed cap. The step adjustment revenues would be collected through rates effective upon implementation of the other rate changes prescribed in the Settlement Agreement.
8. The rate adjustment requested by the Company in this filing will result in rates that are just and reasonable and in the public interest and therefore should be approved.

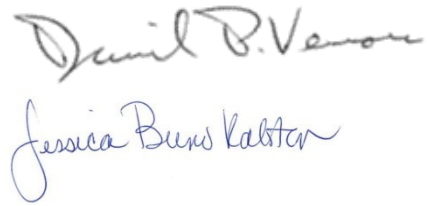
WHEREFORE, Aquarion respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Grant the Company's request for a step adjustment increase of \$1,550,182 as described in the supporting testimony and attachments;
- B. Schedule a hearing expeditiously to allow for a decision on the step adjustment in September 2022;¹ and
- C. Order such further relief as may be just and equitable.

¹ See Settlement Agreement, Appendix 3 (Exhibit No. 22 at Bates 52).

Respectfully submitted,

**Aquarion Water Company of New
Hampshire**
By Its Attorneys

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Daniel P. Venora" and the second is "Jessica Buno Ralston".

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Dated: June 15, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 15, 2022, I caused the attached to be served pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.11.

Jessica Burns Kalster
