

August 24, 2023

Via Electronic Mail Only

Daniel Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket No. DW 20-184 - Request for Change in Rates Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc.
Aquarion rate case expense and rate recoupment adder tariff suspension inquiry

Chairman Goldner:

On March 31, 2023 Aquarion Water Company New Hampshire (“Aquarion” or the “Company”) filed its Rate Case Expense Recovery and its Rate Recoupment Adder filings. Recovery of both of these items, subject to review and adjustment by the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“DOE”) and other Settling Parties, was authorized by Commission Order No. 26,659, approving the settlement agreement on permanent rates in this docket.

On May 12, 2023 the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) issued Order No. 26,818 suspending both tariffs¹ for six months until September 1, 2023 so that the DOE could conduct its analysis and provide a recommendation and so the Commission could review all materials and approve the tariffs. On June 9, 2023, Aquarion submitted an amended Rate Case Expense filing, in consultation with and on the recommendation of the DOE, reducing the rate case expense surcharge from the originally filed \$3.51 to \$3.44.² On July 14, 2023, the DOE filed its recommendation that both tariffs be approved by the Commission (the rate recoupment adder filed on March 31 and the modified rate case expense adder filed on June 9), without qualification or modification. No party to this docket has contested either filing or the DOE’s recommendation. Aquarion respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving the two tariffs before next Friday, September 1. In the absence of Commission action on or before September 1, 2023, Aquarion will put both the rate case expense surcharge and rate recoupment adder into effect on September 1, consistent with Puc 1603.07.

¹ The rate recoupment adder is represented in Original Tariff Pages 20 and 21; the rate case expense surcharge is represented by Original Tariff Page 22.

² The cover letter on Aquarion’s March 31 rate case expense filing contained a typographical error stating that total recovery was for \$408,223, but the actual amount was \$403,345, which brings the surcharge down from \$3.51 to \$3.47. Aquarion further identified another \$3,420 for removal from the surcharge through the DOE audit process, resulting in a final surcharge amount of \$3.44, which is reflected in the filing on June 9, 2023.



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

Attached for reference is a newly updated Rate Case Expense Surcharge tariff page, Original Page 22, reflecting today's date as the "Issued Date", and the final audited surcharge amount of \$3.44 per customer per month for the next 12 months, proposed for recovery by the Company and recommended for recovery by the DOE. Also attached are newly revised Original Tariff Pages 20 and 21, reflecting updated issued and effective dates. Should the Commission issue an order effectuating the surcharge and the adder, Aquarion would need to amend the corresponding tariff pages to include references to the order in the footers and resubmit to the Commission's tariff administrators for approval, which is also why the Company respectfully requests Commission approval of both the rate case expense surcharge and rate recoupment adder in advance of September 1, so that the requisite tariff pages can be reviewed and approved for implementation September 1.

Consistent with current Commission policy, this filing is being made electronically only; paper copies will not follow. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Regards,

Jessica A. Chiavara
Senior Counsel, Eversource Energy
o/b/o Aquarion Water Company of New
Hampshire, Inc.

Attachments

cc: DW 20-184 Service List