

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

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

Docket No. DW 20-184

Motion to Amend the 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) approve the proposed amended procedural schedule attached hereto as Attachment A. In support of this request, the Department states as follows:

1. On March 24, 2021, the Commission approved by secretarial letter a proposed procedural in the pending rate case filed by Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc. (Aquarion or the Company).

2. The Commission partially amended the procedural schedule by Procedural Order Re: Proposed Amended Procedural Schedule (Order) on October 19, 2021. The Commission's partial amendment included the postponement of the November 10, 2021 technical session to December 6, and the data requests and response times that followed the technical session. The Commission noted that the "remainder of the current procedural schedule shall remain in effect until further ordered." Order at 1.

3. All parties to this docket met in technical session on December 6, 2021, which included the following: Aquarion; the Office of the Consumer Advocate; the Town of Hampton; the Town on North Hampton; and the Department (collectively, the Parties). The Parties discussed, among other things, the proposal to modify the procedural schedule going forward due to the effect of

the one-month delay of the November technical session. The Parties tentatively agreed to a proposed adjustment in the current procedural schedule as set forth in Attachment A.

4. The Department contends that the proposed procedural schedule modification should be approved as it allows the Parties to adjust to the one-month delay of the postponed technical session, including an adjustment in the dates for testimony submission. As the proposed procedural schedule allows the Parties to better prepare for resolution of this proceeding, the Department contends that the adjustment would serve the public interest.

5. The Department further contends that it is in the public interest to grant the extension of this procedural schedule as an extension of time, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 202.04, as it will not cause undue hardship or inconvenience, nor will it unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. To the contrary, not approving the proposed procedural schedule modification would adversely affect the rights of all parties, as the current deadline for submission of testimony is little more than a month after the rescheduled technical session. The additional time, furthermore, would allow the Parties to continue striving towards possible settlement of this proceeding.

6. The Parties agreed that the proposed adjustment to the procedural schedule, as set forth in Attachment A, would supersede the remainder of the currently-effective procedural schedule. The Parties, furthermore, agreed that a separate Settlement Track would not be requested at this time. The Parties instead agreed that, if settlement were achieved prior to the final hearing, the Parties would submit the settlement agreement and request a hearing soon thereafter.

7. At the time of this filing, all parties involved in this proceeding the Parties agree to the relief requested in this Motion.

WHEREFORE, the Department respectfully requests that this honorable Commission:

- A. Approve the proposed amended procedural schedule, as attached; and
- B. Grant such other and further relief as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

December 14, 2021

N.H. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

By: /s/ Christopher R. Tuomala

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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.

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Requested Procedural Schedule Modification

January 12, 2022	Technical Session/Settlement Conference @ 9 AM
March 2, 2022	Party Testimony
March 23, 2022	Data Requests – Testimony
April 6, 2022	Responses to Data Requests
April 13, 2022	Technical Session/Settlement Conference @ 9 AM
May 11, 2022	File Settlement or Rebuttal Testimony
May 18, 2022	Hearing on Permanent Rates