

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Lakes Region Water Company, Inc.
Docket No. 20-187

Petition to Intervene from of Lake Ossipee Village Homeowners, Freedom, NH

Pursuant to the Order of Notice issued by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission on 3/8/21 in the above-captioned proceeding, N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, and RSA 541-A:32, The **Lake Ossipee Village Homeowners (LOV)**, represented by Carol Stansell, Richard and Kimberly Masse and Irving (Bud) and Patricia Hadley, hereby petition for leave to intervene in this matter. In support of its petition, **LOV Homeowners** states as follows:

1. Lakes Region Water has petitioned for a rate increase for all customers in their Consolidated Rate. Lakes Region claims to have “made substantial investments in system improvements to 19 water systems since its last rate case in order to replace aging infrastructure and to improve the quality of service to customers”, resulting in an operating income deficiency of \$85,520.00.
2. We, Carol Stansell, 18 Independence Drive, Freedom, NH 03836, Richard and Kimberly Masse, 56 Liberty Lane, Freedom, NH 03836, and Irving (Bud) and Patricia Hadley, 8 Liberty Lane Freedom, NH 03836, are representing the homeowners who have responded to our request for support in this matter. To date, we have received signatures from over 95 homeowners in LOV who wish to express opposition to this petition for a rate increase.

3. We, the LOV Homeowners, are an unorganized group (no homeowners association) of roughly 225 homes served by Lakes Region Water Company Inc. We are one of the largest communities served by LRWC. The development consists of primarily vacation homes owned by out of state residents. Many of our homeowners are seniors and retirees, or very young families, most with limited income.
4. The LOV Homeowners currently pay the highest consolidated rate to LRWC at \$184.89 per quarter or \$739.56 per year per home. This amounts to a yearly amount of \$171,577.92 payable to LRWC from LOV homeowners alone. The proposed increase would increase these figures to \$221.52 per quarter, \$886.08 per year, and \$205,576.56 per year payable to LRWC from LOV homeowners alone. This would constitute a yearly increase in revenue to LRWC of \$33,922.64, or a 39.67% increase from LOV homeowners alone. This is significantly higher than the proposed increase of 18.10%. Historically, since 2004, when LRWC purchased the LOV water system, our rates have gone from \$35.00 per quarter or \$140.00 per year, to the current rates of \$184.89 per quarter and \$739.56 per year. To date the increase has been a realized rate increase of 528.26% from our original rates. This LRWC proposed rate increase would push this percentage of overall rate increase to 632.91%, again for the LOV Homeowners alone.

It is difficult to decipher what the financial impact will be to other water systems served by LRWC, as information provided by them appears inconsistent and incomplete. For example, in the Mason Exhibit 1 (Attachments -T. Mason, provided to the PUC on 1/15/21) the list of Troubled Water Systems purchased by LRWC does not include all water systems purchased. Additionally, this document states that LRWC purchased LOV Water in 1999, when in fact they did not purchase until 2004. That same document states that LRWC serves 232

customers in LOV, but tax records record only 223. Also, this same document states that Hidden Valley and 175 Estates serves 119 and 44 customers respectively in one location, and 26 and 42 customers in the subsequent notes. In all of the documents provided by LRWC, there is no list of all systems served by the company, and no total of homes serviced. Without the service totals for all communities served, calculating actual realized increase in income to LRWC from all communities served is impossible.


Most importantly, we are unaware of ANY substantial system improvements made to our system since LRWC purchased in 2004. All increases to date have covered improvements to or acquisition of other systems, with no benefit to us and considerable financial burden to LOV homeowners.


In conclusion, We the LOV Homeowners find that the financial records provided by LRWC and the subsequent criteria supplied to be insufficient to prove financial hardship needed to warrant this increase. We in LOV have seen virtually no benefit to the increases already granted to LRWC in the past. We hereby express extreme opposition, as it would result in serious financial impact to our group of homeowners.


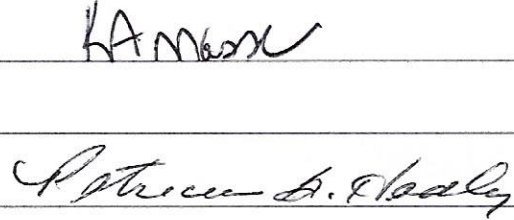
WHEREFORE, LOV Homeowners respectfully request that this honorable Commission:

- A. Grant the petition for intervention, and
- B. Provide any other such relief as it deems appropriate.

Sincerely,






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April 5, 2021

Certificate of Service

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

Signature



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