

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

LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

Docket No. DW 20-187

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 May 14, 2021, the Commission approved by secretarial letter a proposed procedural in the pending rate case filed by Lakes Region Water Company, Inc. (Lakes Region or the Company). The Commission amended the procedural schedule on October 25, 2021, modifying the dates for Set 3 data requests and responses. The Commission further modified the procedural schedule on December 17, 2021, and cancelled the hearing included in the “Settlement Track” of the procedural schedule.

2. The current procedural schedule affords the parties to submit testimony on January 27, 2022. Per the Department’s filing on December 3, 2021, the Company and the Department strive towards settlement. The Company and the Department currently continue at that endeavor. To continue settlement negotiations, however, the Department and the Company need additional time. That includes a proposed adjustment of the procedural schedule to modify certain dates on the currently approved “Litigation Track,” as set forth in Attachment A.

3. The Department contends that the proposed procedural schedule modification should be approved as it allows the parties to continue settlement negotiations, while preserving due process rights of both the Department and the sole intervenor, Lake Ossipee Village Homeowners, by allowing additional time for the submission of testimony if settlement becomes untenable. The Department contends that the proposed adjustment would serve the public interest as it allows the parties to better prepare for resolution of this proceeding.

4. 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. The proposed procedural schedule maintains the dates for the hearing on permanent rates, thus not extending the overall investigation period, while preserving a party's due process right to submit testimony.

5. The Department, furthermore, requests that the proposed adjustment to the procedural schedule, as set forth in Attachment A, supersede the remainder of the currently effective procedural schedule

6. The Department contacted both the Company and Lake Ossipee Homeowners Association on January 7, 2022, and requested a response by January 11, 2022. At the time of this filing, Lakes Region agrees to the relief requested in this Motion. Lake Ossipee Homeowners Association to not respond to the request.

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.

January 12, 2022

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.