

780 N. Commercial Street
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105-0330

Matthew J. Fossom
Senior Regulatory Counsel

603-634-2961
matthew.fossom@eversource.com

April 30, 2021

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: VERIFIED JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF
ABENAKI WATER COMPANY BY AQUARION COMPANY**

Dear Director Howland:

Pursuant to Rule Puc 202.01(c), Abenaki Water Company (“Abenaki”) and Aquarion Company (“Aquarion”) (together, the “Joint Petitioners”) submit the enclosed “Verified Joint Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of Abenaki Water Company by Aquarion Company.”¹ RSA 369:8, II is the controlling statutory authority for this transaction. Under that law, “the approval of the commission shall not be required if the public utility files with the commission a detailed written representation no less than 60 days prior to the anticipated completion of the transaction that the transaction will not have an adverse effect on rates, terms, service, or operation of the public utility within the state.” RSA 369:8, II(b)(1).

The Petition sets forth a detailed explanation of why this transaction will have no adverse effect on rates, terms, services or operations. The Petition demonstrates that no changes to Abenaki’s rates, terms or conditions of service are proposed, and that culmination of the transaction will actually be beneficial to Abenaki’s customers, through service by an organization with greater financial strength, broad operating experience, and substantial technical capabilities and resources. The information contained in the Petition is verified by signed affidavits of Donald J. Morrissey on behalf of Aquarion Company and Donald J.E. Vaughan on behalf of Abenaki Water Company.²

¹ In accordance with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission’s Temporary Changes in Filing Requirements dated March 17, 2020, which suspends all rules requiring filing of paper copies until further notice, the Joint Petitioners are submitting this filing in electronic form only. The Joint Petitioners will file paper copies when the suspension is lifted, if requested.

² Mr. Morrissey is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Aquarion Company and Mr. Vaughan is the Vice President of Operations of New England Service Company, the parent company of Abenaki Water Company.

As required by Rule Puc 202.01(c), the Petition includes a copy of the Purchase and Sale Agreement (“PSA”) memorializing the transaction and a detailed representation concerning the effects of the transaction.

The anticipated completion date for this transaction is by the end of 2021 subject to receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals, which the parties are seeking by or before November 1, 2021. This filing is timely under RSA 369:8, II(b)(1) as the Joint Petitioners are making this submission more than 60 days prior to that anticipated closing date. The Joint Petitioners are requesting the Commission to determine that the transaction will have no adverse effect on rates, terms, service, or operation of Abenaki and allow the transaction to be approved as filed per RSA 369:8, II(b)(2).

Please include the following individuals on the Commissions’ service list for this proceeding:

Matthew Fossum, matthew.fossum@eversource.com
Daniel Venora, dvenora@keeganwerlin.com
Jessica Buno Ralston, jralston@keeganwerlin.com
Debra Szabo, dszabo@aquarionwater.com
Donald Morrissey, dmorrissey@aquarionwater.com
J. J. Cranmore, jcranmore@cfmlawfirm.com
Jennifer DiBella, jdibella@cfmlawfirm.com
Donald Vaughan, dvaughan@newenglandservicecompany.com
Nicholas LaChance, nlachance@newenglandservicecompany.com

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Fossum
Senior Regulatory Counsel

cc: Office of Consumer Advocate, Litigation
Christa Shute
Donald Kreis
Jayson Laflamme
Christopher Tuomala
Robyn Descotueau