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July 14, 2021

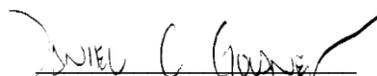
Re: DW 21-090 Verified Joint Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of Abenaki Water Company by Aquarion Company – Notice of Ex Parte Communication

To the Parties:

On July 2, I received a voicemail from NH Representative Douglas Trottier on the Commissioner's Office voicemail line. The reason for the call was not given, only a return number. I returned Representative Trottier's call. Representative Trottier expressed that he had been receiving water quality concerns from his constituents. To the best of my recollection, the water quality concerns were general in nature; I don't recall anything of a specific nature, other than at some point in the call he made a reference to what I took to be the Abenaki case docketed as DW 21-090. I communicated that commissioners are prohibited from engaging in ex parte communications in a cases pending before the Commission and that I could not comment on the case. Accordingly, no substantive or material comments concerning this docket were received or offered.

Shortly after the call ended with Representative Trottier, I received another call and, seeing that it was from a 603 area code, I answered the call. I didn't catch the name of the caller, who was excited and talking fast. I picked up that the caller was talking about water quality, but I still did not understand the reason for his call. When the caller mentioned something about a cul-de-sac and water quality it occurred to me that his call could be connected to this docket. I told him I couldn't comment on pending cases due to ex parte rules. But the caller kept talking; he mentioned an attorney's name and Commissioner comments at which point I concluded that he had either been an observer or participant in the Abenaki hearing or talked to someone who had participated. Beyond these elements I don't recall and any specific details, except that he characterized his concerns as serious. To extricate myself from the call in a polite manner, I suggested he talk to OCA if there was anything he wanted in the record. To end the call, I reiterated the requirements placed upon me to abstain from ex parte communication and refrain from comment on pending matters. Again, no substantive or material comments concerning this docket were received or offered.

The purpose of this letter is to make all parties aware that I received these phone calls as well as the nature and extent of the calls. This disclosure is being made in the abundance of caution as no substantive conversation occurred with either individual. I am confident that my objectivity and impartiality is unaffected by the brief interactions with these individuals in which I reminded both individuals of my ethical responsibilities. At no point will I consider these conversations in the pending matter. I can and will judge the facts at issue in the docket based solely on the record, and decide the case impartially based on those facts and applicable laws.


Daniel Goldner
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-090

Printed: 7/14/2021

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