

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ABENAKI WATER COMPANY, INC.

AND

AQUARION COMPANY

**Joint Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of Abenaki Water Company by
Aquarion Company**

Docket No. DW 21 – 090

**Petition of REPRESENTATIVE
VILLAGE SHORE ESTATES ASSOCIATION for Intervention**

Pursuant to the Order of Notice issued by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission on May 4, 2021 in the above-captioned proceeding, N.H. Code Admin. Rules PUC 203.17, and RSA 541-A:32, Village Shore Estates Association by/through its President, Cristy L. Bresson hereby petitions for leave to intervene in this matter. In support of its petition, Village shore Estates Association states as follows:

Rule PUC 203.17 provides that the Commission shall grant petitions to intervene in accordance with the standards of RSA 541-A:32. RSA 541-A:32, part of the Administrative Procedure Act, provides that a petition to intervene shall be granted upon a showing that the petitioner has “rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests” that may be affected by the proceeding, and “the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention.”

Moving forward with the automatic approval of an acquisition of this size and complexity of Abenaki Water Company, Inc. (“AWC”) by Aquarion Company (“AC”) under the authority granted in RSA 369:8, 11(b) is not appropriate in this circumstance. Rather, all parties would be

better served if the Commission conducted a reasonable and timely investigation and/or review of this matter first. A rush for automatic approval could result in issues being overlooked that would not be in the public interest. A further complication is that AWC is in the midst of a rate case (see DW 20-112) that will impact Village Shore Estates Association which is an associated community of approximately 95 residential homes that are residential customers and rate payers of AWC. Rushing the approval of the proposed acquisition of AWC by AC while a rate case involving one of the parties (AWC) to the acquisition seems to be a situation fraught with conflicts and issues that need to be thoroughly examined. For the reasons stated above, there will be impact to the rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests of Village Shore Estates Association, as an association of customers and rate payers.

Village Shore Estates Association is an associated community of approximately 95 residential homes that are residential customers of AWC and would be adversely affected by the said Joint Petition for Approval of the Acquisition of AWC by AC.

The acquisition of AWC by AC will have an impact on various aspects of the utility, including, but not limited to, the services, rates, affiliate agreements and other contractual obligations, decision making responsibilities, corporate structure and resources. AWC's pending rate case (DW 20-112) will be impacted by this acquisition and as an associated community of customers and rate payers, Village Shore Estates Association will also be directly impacted. It is in the public interest to thoroughly evaluate the merit and impact of the proposed acquisition. An automatic approval of the proposed acquisition is akin to cramming the acquisition down the throats of the rate payers, who are directly impacted by said acquisition, without allowing the process of review that has been established by the legislature. The only parties benefiting from an automatic approval of the proposed acquisition is AWC and AC and

that is not equitable to Village Shore Estates Association as a community of utility customers and rate payers.

WHEREFORE, Village Shore Estates Association respectfully requests that this honorable Commission:

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

Sincerely,

Village Shore Estates Association by Cristy L. Bresson

Village Shore Estates Association
Cristy L. Bresson
Resident
11 Surrey Drive
Bow, NH 03304
603-507-3535 (cell)
603-226-8951 (home)
cristy.bresson@allianzrm-us.com

5/13/2021

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.

*Village Shore Estates Association
by Cristy L. Bresson*

Village Shore Estates Association
Cristy L. Bresson