



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 12, 2021

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DW 17-062 Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc.

Dear Ms. Howland,

I am writing to express the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service's (the "Department's") support for Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc.'s ("Aquarion's") Petition for Approval of Franchise Expansion, Acquisition of Assets, and Application of Existing Rates (the "Petition"), in the above-captioned docket.

As indicated in the Petition, Aquarion's requested franchise expansion is a direct result of Administrative Order No. 17-006 WD (the "Order"), issued by the Department on March 29, 2017. The Order was issued to address public health issues at the Wiggin Way Homeowners' Association public water system in the Town of Stratham due to both water quantity and quality deficiencies associated with source capacity and arsenic contamination. Pursuant to its authority under RSA 485:4, II, the Department determined that an extension of water service from Aquarion to the Wiggin Way HOA water system was "the most feasible and cost-effective option to address the Water System's arsenic and low water quantity issues," and that Aquarion "has adequate water supply and system capacity to serve" the Wiggin Way HOA water system. Order at ¶¶ 82-83. The Order required Aquarion to seek PUC approval of a temporary connection to the Wiggin Way HOA water system, Order at 9, which was approved by the Commission on May 10, 2017. The Order further required Aquarion to seek PUC approval of a franchise expansion into Stratham for a permanent interconnection. *Id.*

The Order was appealed to the New Hampshire Water Council by the Town of Hampton and the North Hampton Water Commission. After a hearing, the Water Council denied the appeal finding the Department had complied with the requirements of RSA 485:4, II. The Town of Hampton declined to appeal the Water Council's decision, which became final on November 25, 2019.

Consistent with the requirements of the Order, the Petition seeks approval of a permanent interconnection with the Wiggin Way HOA water system in the Town of Stratham. Such an interconnection remains necessary under the Order to deliver an adequate supply of clean water to the residents of Wiggin Way in the most feasible and cost-effective manner. The Department respectfully

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supports approval of the Petition in furtherance of the Order and the public health and safety determinations made by the Department pursuant to RSA 485:4, II.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Kernen".

Brandon Kernen
Administrator – Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

cc: Service List in DW 17-062