

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. DW 21-093

PETITION FOR FRANCHISE EXPANSION,
ACQUISITION OF ASSETS AND APPLICATION
OF EXISTING RATES

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STEVEN ROY

ON BEHALF OF THE WIGGIN WAY/WINTERBERRY
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 31, 2022

Testimony of Steven Roy

1. **Q: Please state your name.**
2. A: Steven Roy.
3. **Q: What is the name of your organization?**
4. A: Wiggin Way/Winterberry Homeowners' Association ("Wiggin Way").
5. **Q: What is your current position in the Homeowners Association?**
6. A: President.
7. **Q: Do you reside in the Wiggin Way community in Stratham?**
8. A: Yes.
9. **Q: Are residents of the Wiggin Way community currently incurring higher water bills than the average residential customer in New Hampshire?**
10. A: Yes.
11. **Q: What is the average annual bill and the amount that Wiggin Way customers are paying?**
12. A: The average yearly residential water bill in New Hampshire is \$577.44, per the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Exhibit 1 at p. 7. Each Wiggin Way household pays approximately \$1,200 per year. Because there is only one meter, each household pays the same amount regardless of actual water use.
13. **Q: Please explain what amounts are part of the \$1,200 figure.**
14. A: This cost is partly due to the high cost of the meter connection to Aquarion and the rate Aquarion charges Wiggin Way. Wiggin Way is also required to operate its own water system requiring a (1) a licensed operator (Pennichuck Water

Works, to which we pay monthly fees); (2) annual operating license fee to NHDES; (3) monthly, quarterly, annual and semi-annual water sampling and analysis costs; the costs of heating and maintaining our pumphouse (\$250 in heat per month in the winter); and repairs as needed (we just installed a new roof on the pumphouse). Additionally, we have had to pay for legal counsel for several years to advise Wiggin Way through the Water Council appeal of the Towns of Hampton and North Hampton and through this Public Utilities Commission docket.

15. Q: When the connection to Aquarion is made permanent, will Wiggin Way still be required to operate its own water system?

16. A: No. The costs associated with running our own system will go away.

17. Q: When the connection to Aquarion is made permanent, what do you expect Wiggin Way customers to pay annually?

18. A: We expect to pay the same as any other Aquarion customer.

19. Q: When did Wiggin Way first attempt to become connected to the Aquarion water system?

20. A: 2016. We had an agreement with Aquarion for Aquarion to purchase our system and connect it to Aquarion's system. NHDES was in agreement that this should happen.

21. Q: What prevented the connection?

22. A: The Towns of Hampton and North Hampton voiced their opposition to NHDES and Aquarion.

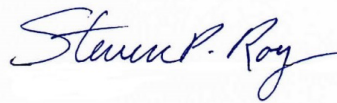
23. Q: When did NHDES order the connection?

24. A: March 29, 2017—almost five years ago using its authority under RSA 485:4, II.
25. Q: **As of the time NHDES ordered the connection, how long had Wiggin Way been dealing with water and well issues?**
26. A: Wiggin Way has suffered from water quality and water quantity issues since at least 2004.
27. Q: **What prevented the implementation of the 2017 NHDES order?**
28. A: The Towns of North Hampton and Hampton appealed NHDES’s order to the Water Council.
29. Q: **When did the Water Council uphold NHDES’s order?**
30. A: July 16, 2019.

AFFIRMATION

I, Steven Roy, affirm under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the testimony provided herein is true.

Date: January 31, 2022



Steven P. Roy