

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 22-002

**PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC.
PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC.
PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT COMPANY, INC.**

Petition for Approval of Miscellaneous Utility Service Fees

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariff Rates, Convening an Adjudicative Proceeding,
and Providing Notice of a Prehearing Conference**

O R D E R N O. 26,585

February 17, 2022

This order suspends proposed tariffs for miscellaneous utility service fees filed by Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (PWW), Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. (PEU), and Pittsfield Aqueduct Company, Inc. (PAC), pending further investigation. The Commission's investigation will occur through an adjudicative proceeding. This order convenes the adjudicative proceeding and provides notice of a prehearing conference scheduled for March 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

On January 18, 2022, PWW, PEU, and PAC (collectively, the Companies) jointly filed proposed tariffs for miscellaneous utility service fees. On January 26, 2022, the Office of the Consumer Advocate filed a letter of participation.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are available on the Commission's website at

www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-002.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

PWW, PEU, and PAC seek authority to implement increases in multiple fees included in the Miscellaneous Utility Service Fees schedule in each company's

respective tariff. In their joint filing on January 18, 2022, the Companies filed revised tariffs with proposed changes in fees.

The proposed fees are as follows:

Description of Service	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
PWW, PEU, and PAC		
A. Initiation of Service	\$20.00	
i. New Service		\$108.00
ii. Transfer of Service		\$30.00
B. Service Pipe Connection	\$160.00	\$230.00
C. Service Connection, Disconnection, and Collection Charge		
i. During Business Hours	\$46.00	\$67.00
ii. During Non-Business Hours	\$63.00	\$95.00
D. Returned Check	\$15.00	\$18.00
E. Design Review/Inspection/ As Built Fee for Main Pipe Extension	\$3.00 per foot	\$3.44 per foot

The revised tariffs include an effective date of February 18, 2022.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents the following issue: whether the proposed changes to the miscellaneous utility service fees, for which PWW, PEU, and PAC seek approval in their joint petition, are just and reasonable as required under RSA 374:2, and RSA 378:5 and 7. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address this issue.

The Commission will be conducting the prehearing conference scheduled in this matter in person. Parties may, however, file a written request for the Commission to also use video teleconferencing to conduct the proceedings. Parties should support the request with reasoning as to why the hearing should use video teleconferencing, such as a health condition, or to reduce the cost of witness travel. Any party requesting a hybrid hearing format to accommodate those who will be participating remotely should

file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the prehearing conference date. If the Commission determines that a hybrid approach will be used, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform, and a remote hearing link will be posted on the Commission's website.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 374:2, and 378:5 and :7, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, at its offices located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, on March 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., at which each party should be prepared to address any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that during the prehearing conference, the Commission will consider the matters listed in Puc 203.15(c) and (d), including the establishment of a procedural schedule governing the remainder of the proceeding. Parties and potential parties are encouraged to facilitate the development of a procedural schedule by conferring prior to the prehearing conference, so that the presiding officer can address any matters on which there is disagreement during the prehearing conference. Any procedural schedule, however, will not be approved until after the prehearing conference and after consulting the Commission's calendar; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, the Companies shall make appropriate personnel available for the parties, to hold a technical session to review the filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is,

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to the Companies and any other parties on the service list, on or before March 14, 2022. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before March 23, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission. Pursuant to the secretarial letter issued on March 17, 2020, which is posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Secretarial%20Letters/20200317-SecLtr-Temp-Changes-in-Filing-Requirements.pdf>, all Commission rules requiring the filing of paper copies are suspended until further notice. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

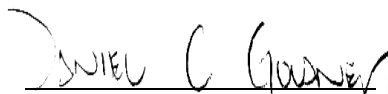
FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written

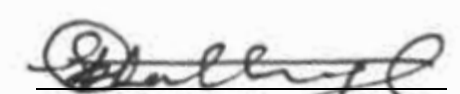
pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

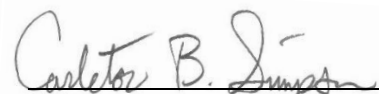
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, the Companies shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, with such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 7, 2022. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventeenth day of February, 2022.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 22-002

Printed: 2/17/2022

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