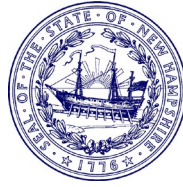


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 19, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: DW 22-032 Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. Request for Change in Rates, DOE's Assented-to Request to Enlarge Time to File Recommendation on Utility's Proposed Rate Case Expense Surcharge and Tariff Pages to October 23, 2023

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. ("PWW" or "the Company") filed its proposed rate case expense recoupment surcharge and proposed tariff pages on August 28, 2023. On August 31, 2023, the Commission requested the New Hampshire Department of Energy ("DOE" or "Department") to file a recommendation as to whether the Commission should approve the proposed surcharge and tariff pages by September 20, 2023. *See Procedural Order Re: DOE Recommendation (August 31, 2023)*. For the reasons provided below, the Department respectfully requests that the Commission extend the requested deadline to October 23, 2023.

After the Company's August 28, 2023 filing, the Department sent the Company informal data requests on or about August 31, 2023 and formal data request on September 5, 2023 to which the Company provided responses on September 14, 2023. However, the Department requires additional time to further review this record and provide a comprehensive report and recommendation to the Commission.

The Department's request is consistent with Commission requirements. *See N.H. Code of Admin. Rules Puc 202.04*. Circumstances "would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request is granted" because the Department acted promptly to obtain discovery responses after the Company made its filing, yet nonetheless requires additional time to provide a thorough recommendation. In the opinion of the Department, the enlargement of time would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. *See Puc 202.04*. By and through counsel, the Company assents to the relief requested here. *See id.* Accordingly, the Department asks the Commission to enlarge the deadline for filing a recommendation from September 20, 2023 to October 23, 2023.

Consistent with the Commission's current practice, this letter is being filed in electronic format.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Mary E. Schwarzer*

Mary.E. Schwarzer  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner  
Department of Energy

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