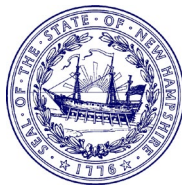


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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October 23, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: DW 22-032: Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. Request for Change in Rates
DOE's Position Statement regarding Rate Case Expense Recovery (with redacted attachments)

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pursuant to RSA 12-P:2, IV, please accept this letter as the New Hampshire Department of Energy's (DOE) position statement in the above-referenced matter.

On August 28, 2023, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (PWW or Company) filed documentation in support of \$37,496.34 in rate case expenses and proposed recovery of this amount via a proposed surcharge of \$0.10 per allowed customer account per month over a proposed recovery period of twelve months. ($\$37,496.34 \div 29,124 \text{ customers} \div 12 \text{ months}$) PWW's filing was made pursuant to Commission Order No. 26,862 dated July 27, 2023 (approving settlement agreement); Settlement Agreement (May 10, 2023) (Section 4.7 Rate Case Expense Surcharge); Procedural Order Re: Request to Extend Deadline for DOE Analysis (Oct. 5, 2023).A

The DOE reviewed PWW's rate case expense submission and propounded one round of discovery on September 5, 2023, to which the Company provided responses on September 14, 2023.¹ As a result of its discovery responses, on September 28, 2023, PWW submitted a revised rate case expense filing. That filing supplemented and corrected documentation contained within the Company's original filing, as well as reduced PWW's proposed recovery by \$840.00 to a revised amount of \$36,656.34.² However, this adjustment does not materially alter PWW's originally proposed surcharge of \$0.10 per customer per month over twelve months.³

As a result of its review, the DOE supports PWW's recovery of \$36,656.34 in rate case expenses via a proposed surcharge of \$0.10 per allowed customer account per month over a proposed recovery period of twelve months. Additionally, pursuant to RSA 12-P:2, IV, the DOE does not

¹ PWW's Responses to the DOE's Set 6 Discovery are attached to this correspondence. The Company has redacted its responses to DOE 6-1(c) rate sheet, 6-1(c)NHBL proposal, and 6-3 NHBL invoice.

² Please also see PWW's Response to DOE 6-4.

³ $\$36,656.34 \div 29,124 \text{ customers} \div 12 \text{ months} = \$0.10 \text{ per customer per month}$

recognize a need to further supplement this docket's record as it pertains to this matter and considers it complete for consideration by the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jayson P. Laflamme

Jayson P. Laflamme
Director, Water Group
Regulatory Support Division

Attachments: PEU's Discovery Responses to DOE Discovery Set 6 (Redacted)

cc: Service List

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