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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
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July 21, 2023

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

Re: DW 23-020 Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., Request for Step II
Adjustment, *DOE’s Assented- to Request to Enlarge Time*

Dear Chair Goldner:

Under the current procedural schedule, the parties are to file a settlement agreement on or before July 27, 2023. See Commission Order Re Proposed Procedural Schedule (May 22, 2023).

The parties have engaged in diligent discovery and productive technical sessions. As a result, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (“HAWC” or “the Company”) has recently been updating schedules and updating its revenue requirement. During the following week, it is expected that the Company will contact its cost-of-service consultant, who will review new material to propose updated rates. Those rates will also need to be presented to all the parties in this docket for further consideration. In the opinion of the New Hampshire Department of Energy (“the Department” or “DOE”) these tasks cannot be accomplished by July 27, 2023.

Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests that the Commission amend the procedural schedule as follows, without changing the scheduled September 13, 2023 hearing date:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Propose New Schedule</u>
File Settlement	July 27, 2023	August 10, 2023
File Tech Statement/Rebuttal	August 10, 2023	August 24, 2023
Technical Session <u>9am-noon</u>	August 24, 2023	August 31, 2023
Hearing	Sept. 13, 2023 9 am	unchanged

The Department’s request for this enlargement of time is consistent with the Commission’s Procedural Order (May 22, 2023) and 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 it is impossible to present a final and well-considered settlement agreement in the

remaining time, despite diligent effort. See Puc 202.04. In the opinion of the Department, the enlargement of time would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party, because the September 13, 2023 hearing date would not change. See Puc 202.04.

The Department has sought the assent of the other parties to this docket, and of the Town of Atkinson which has a pending request for intervenor status. HAWC, by and through counsel Anthony Augerri, assents. Karen Steele assents. The Town of Hampstead, by and through Laurie Warnock, assents. The pending intervenor, the Town of Atkinson, by and through John Apple, also assents. Thus, all parties (and the potential intervenor) assent.

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
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