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Environmental Law 

Utility Law

April 8, 2024

<u>VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY</u> Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301

Re: DW 23-101 – Pennichuck East Utility, Inc., Pittsfield Aqueduct Company, Inc., and Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. - Joint Petition for Approval of Consolidation Statement Regarding RSA 378:6 Twelve Month Limit on Rate Suspensions

Dear Chairman Goldner:

On Friday, March 29, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 26,985 and granted the City of Nashua's petition to intervene, granted the Motion to Amend the 2023 Joint Petition, granted the Joint Petitioner's motion for protective order and confidential treatment, granted the Joint Petitioner's motion to waive notice, and ordered the Joint Petitioners to publish the order on its website, send customer notices, publish the order in a newspaper, file an affidavit of publication, send letters to parties of Docket No. DW 11-026, and file an explicit waiver of rights regarding the 12-month limit on the Commission's ability to suspend the taking effect of rates under RSA 378:6. This letter pertains to the suspension.

On March 8, 2024, and amended on March 13, 2024, the Joint Petitioners filed tariffs for effect in about one years' time: March 8, 2025. On March 13, 2024, the Department of Energy requested the Commission suspend the rate schedules for twelve months. Such a suspension would terminate on March 7, 20<u>26</u>. Pursuant to the approved procedural schedule, hearings under the settlement or litigation track are expected to take place on November 18, 2024 or February 3, 2025, respectively. Both of these dates are before the effective date of the tariff schedules. The Joint Petitioners believe the Commission's authority to suspend the tariffs to March 7, 2026 provides ample opportunity for the Commission to investigate the proposed rates during 2024 and into 2025.

In addition, as requested, please accept this explicit assurance from Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. that it will not implement the filed tariffs until they are approved by the Commission, even if the Commission's investigation extends beyond the March 8, 2025 tariff effective date.

Very Truly Yours,

Marcia & Brown

Marcia A. Brown

cc: Electronic Docket Related Service List