

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 12-063

CONCORD STEAM CORPORATION

**Petition for Approval of Issuance of Securities
and Waiver of Certain Filing Requirements**

Order Approving Debt Financing and Filing Requirement Waiver

ORDER NO. 25,344

April 9, 2012

On March 14, 2012, Concord Steam Corporation (Concord Steam), a public utility supplying steam service primarily to commercial and institutional customers in Concord, filed a request for approval of issuance of securities pursuant to RSA 369:1. Pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 201.05, it also requests a waiver of certain filing requirements of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1107.02. The petition seeks Commission approval to finance \$12,869 to purchase a pickup truck. On March 26, 2011, Staff filed a memorandum recommending Commission approval of the financing and waiver request.

On March 7, 2012, Concord Steam ordered a 2010 model Ford pickup truck from a local dealer and expects to take delivery on April 21, 2012. The Ford Motor Credit company will finance the purchase at 2.9 percent interest, the loan to be repaid in 60 monthly installments of \$231. Concord Steam states that the Ford truck is to replace a Dodge truck that is 11 years old and is malfunctioning; Concord Steam will trade in the Dodge truck to the Ford dealer for \$750 to help defray the cost of the new truck. Concord Steam states that the truck to be financed is necessary for day-to-day utility operations.

Pursuant to Puc 201.05, Concord Steam also seeks a waiver of certain filing requirements of Puc 1107.02, specifically; the filing of an adjusted balance sheet, adjusted income statement, statement of capitalization ratios, and a copy of a shareholder vote approving the financing. Concord Steam asserts that granting the waiver is in the public interest given the small amount of indebtedness relative to the cost associated with preparing these schedules.

Staff, in its recommendation, expressed its support for approval of the financing, noting that Concord Steam is replacing an existing truck that is used in utility operations but has outlived its useful life, that the new truck is being purchased locally at market cost, and that the terms of the financing are favorable. Staff also recommended granting Concord Steam's request for a waiver, as the amount of the financing is *de minimis* and will have a negligible impact on Concord Steam's balance sheet, income statement, and capitalization ratios. Staff noted that Concord Steam's 2010 annual report showed a net plant value of \$6.4 million, and long-term debt of approximately \$656,000. Given the nature and the amount of the loan, Staff opined that a shareholder vote for approval was not necessary. Staff also opined that requiring Concord Steam to prepare and file an updated balance sheet, income statement and statement of capitalization ratios would result in additional costs to Concord Steam and would not aid the Commission in its review of the financing petition.

Pursuant to Puc 201.05, the Commission may waive Puc 1107.02 if it finds that the waiver serves the public interest and does not disrupt the orderly and efficient resolution of matters before the Commission.

Based on our review of Concord Steam's petition, we conclude that the applicable standards for a waiver are satisfied and the requested issuance of the long term debt is consistent

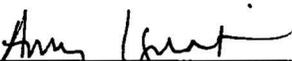
with the public good. The financing will allow Concord Steam to replace an existing vehicle that is necessary for providing utility service without requiring a substantial capital outlay or excessive interest charges. Under the proposed financing, Concord Steam will see only a modest increase in its long term debt. We also find Concord Steam's contentions related to its request of a waiver of certain of the filing requirements of Puc 1107.02 to be persuasive. Accordingly, we will approve the financing and grant a waiver of certain requirements of Puc 1107.02, as outlined in Concord Steam's petition.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the petition of Concord Steam for the issuance of \$12,869 in long term debt is hereby APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission grants a waiver of N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1107.02(b)(4), 1107.02(b)(5), 1107.02(b)(6), and 1107.02(b)(10).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of April,
2012.



Amy E. Ignatius
Chairman

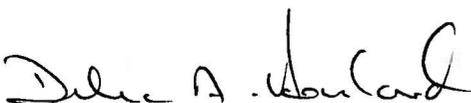


Michael D. Harrington
Commissioner



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Attested by:



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director