STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 20-117

HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

Request for Change in Rates

<u>Procedural Order Re: Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule</u> <u>and Request for Hybrid Hearing</u>

On February 18, 2022, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Energy) filed a motion requesting the Commission to amend the current procedural schedule by extending the March 8, 2022 deadline for filing a settlement or rebuttal testimony to March 16, 2022. Energy stated that settlement negotiations were ongoing, but more time is needed to finalize a settlement agreement. In addition, Energy stated that its engineering consultant requires more time to finalize and file rebuttal testimony. No objections to Energy's motion were filed.

Accordingly, Energy's request to extend the March 8, 2022 deadline to March 16, 2022 is granted. *See* N.H. Admin. R., Puc 202.04. Due to a scheduling conflict, however, the March 23, 2022 hearing date has been rescheduled. The hearings in this matter are now scheduled on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>March 24</u>, and <u>Friday</u>, <u>March 25</u>, 2022, beginning both days at 9:00 a.m.

Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) previously filed a request for a hybrid hearing format for the hearing on permanent rates, stating that some of HAWC's witnesses are unable to attend in person. No objections to HAWC's request, submitted on February 3, 2022, were filed. The Commission has begun reviewing hybrid hearing requests relating to hearings scheduled after March 1, 2022 more critically, given New Hampshire's improving COVID-19 statistics. In this instance, it does not find that HAWC

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has sufficiently stated a good reason why the final hearings on March 24-25, 2022 should not be held in person. Accordingly, HAWC's request for a hybrid hearing is DENIED.

So ordered, this first day of March, 2022.

Daniel C. Goldner Presiding Officer

Chairman

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 20-117

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Email Addresses

ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov aaugeri@lewisbuilders.com wbaldwin@atkinson-nh.gov douglas.brogan@gmail.com adminasst@townofdanville.org sambosox@gmail.com cressmandg@atkinson-nh.gov robyn.j.descoteau@energy.nh.gov julianne.m.desmet@oca.nh.gov kfarahsb@gmail.com dfox@raftelis.com josie.gage@oca.nh.gov david.n.goyette@energy.nh.gov lojogut@gmail.com ahansen@atkinson-nh.gov tklaes@blueridgecs.com donald.m.kreis@oca.nh.gov jayson.p.laflamme@energy.nh.gov charlie@hampsteadwater.com anthony.j.leone@energy.nh.gov nm1w@nm1w.com karen.j.moran@energy.nh.gov chris@atkinsoncc.com harold@lewisbuilders.com smorse@hampsteadnh.us dmullinax@blueridgecs.com smurphy@hampsteadnh.us amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov shawn_oneil@mail.rit.edu ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov dpatch@orr-reno.com k.Alan.richards@gmail.com mary.e.schwarzer@energy.nh.gov howard@energytactics.com gspero@atkinson-nh.gov sspyveewater@gmail.com

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> stephenpstcyr@yahoo.com karen.sue.steele@gmail.com john@lewisbuilders.com sally.theriault@comcast.net christopher.r.tuomala@energy.nh.gov lwarnock@hampsteadnh.us hfdfpb@comcast.net rawlew04@comcast.net hwood@lewisbuilders.com mworthen@hampsteadnh.us