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Debra A. Howland Executive Director and Secretary New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Walker Building 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: DW 04-048; City of Nashua/Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.

Copy: Service List (by e-mail)

Dear Ms Howland:

Sincerely

Lobject to Nashua's motion to <u>not</u> bifurcate DW 04-048.

To establish the value of PWW will require enormous amounts of effort and expense. The amount of paperwork on DW 04-056, mountainous at it is, will dwarf in comparison to all of the fact-finding to establish a fair price. On top of that, damages must be assessed.

Establishing a value is mute if the "Public Interest" is not met.

It would appear to be far simpler for the PUC to first establish the "Public Interest." If there is none, end of case and the PUC can proceed with damages but terminate all effort to establish value of PWW. The total effort is thus greatly diminished. To the contrary, should the PUC find "Public Interest" in the taking the price setting can commence without delay, and the total effort is the same as with no bifurcation. In other words, establishing "Public Interest" is effectively independent of establishing value and damages.

Of course, I am not an attorney. Bifurcation would naturally be contrary to the interests of the many paid attorneys involved in this case whose financial interests are served by seeing this case stretch as long as possible, thereby maximizing their billing. In fact, I suspect this is the main reason this case has already stretched as long as it has (reaching 3 years, and \$-millions spent between the parties) with little net results to show to date other than the PUC Order that only PWW may be considered subject to the public taking.

9 March 2005

