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14 July, 2004

Ms. Debra Howland
Executive Director
NH Public Utilities Commission
8 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301-7319

Subject: Request for Intervener Status, Pennichuck Water Works Eminent Domain Hearings

Ref: Dockets No. DW 04-48 and DW 04-56

Dear Ms. Howland:

I herewith request to be granted **Intervener Status** during the upcoming Hearings concerning acquisition through Eminent Domain of the Pennichuck Water System (PWS) by the City of Nashua (reference Dockets No. DW 04-048 and DW 04-056).

As a long-time resident in the City of Nashua I am a ratepayer for water services provided by PWS. These water services have been altogether satisfactory, and as a customer I fail to see the public benefit in taking this company public by eminent domain.

Nothing in the long history of PWW's existence indicates mismanagement with providing water services. In fact, such acquisition could be <u>very harmful</u> as the City of Nashua has a history of providing very expensive services with a bloated bureaucracy and political cronyism, and our water utility bills can be expected to skyrocket following the public taking of this water utility. The City of Nashua has no expertise in managing a water utility and would have to contract out management to a private agency. None of our other utilities (electric, phone, gas) are public, and I fail to see the interest of the public being served by taking the water utility public.

Furthermore, a <u>Merrimack District Water Commission</u> has been created that will employ convoluted charter rules to govern the three utilities currently combined under the PWS to continue to serve the many local communities should the public acquisition be successful, which may also not be in the public interest.

On 14 January 2003 a public vote was taken during a special election pursuant to RSA 38:3 to permit the City of Nashua to proceed to establish a water works system. The voters were given no information other than the "pro-forma" language of RSA 38:3. For

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> I personally brought action into Hillsborough County Superior Court to force the City of Nashua to provide detailed "pro" and "con" information to the voter), as required by Nashua City Charter for a Referendum (ref. <u>Court Docket</u> 02-E-0441, Fred Teeboom v. City of Nashua), but the Court denied my Petition under a technicality. Thus, the voters were denied the benefit of seeing both sides of this complex argument prior to casting their vote.

example, the voter was not provided with the information than available to the city in a study commissioned by the City of Nashua, namely that capital improvements (over and above the purchase price) exceeding \$70 million will be necessary in the next 10 years to bring the PWW system up to acceptable infrastructure, operations and maintenance standards.<sup>2</sup>

For these reasons I request to be granted **Intervener Status** in these hearings. I recognize this request to be late, but only recently returned from an extended absence from the state and just yesterday was made aware of the scheduled hearings on 27 and 28 July.

I hope the commission will favorably grant my request.

Sincerely.

Fred S. Teeboom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See <u>Rizzo Associates Report</u> titled, "Summary report-Comprehensive Review Pennichuck Water System," dated 1 November 2002, pages VIII thru X.