

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

July 16, 2008

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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities commission
21 N. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301



Re: DW 08-073, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (PWW)
Permanent Rate Filing – Staff Recommendation on PWW’s Waiver Request

Dear Ms. Howland:

Contemporaneous with its filing for a Permanent Increase in Rates on June 23, 2008, PWW filed a Motion for Waiver of Puc 1604.01(a)(1), which requests the submission of internal financial reports and a Waiver of Puc 1203.02(c) concerning mailing to each customer a statement of the proposed rate schedules applied for and identifying those rates applicable to the recipients.

The Staff recommends the Commission grant the waiver to Puc 1604.01(a)(1) in that, for the most part, the information necessary to conduct a thorough review of the PWW’s rate filing is already available at the Commission or will be available through discovery and therefore the waiver of the rate case filing requirements in Puc 1604.01(a)(1) requested by PWW serves the public interest and will not disrupt the orderly conduct of the proceeding.

PWW has requested waiver of 1203.02(c), which requires PWW within 30 days from the filing of the petition to send to each of its customers a statement of the proposed rate schedules and identifying those rates applicable to the recipients of said statement. PWW contends that “[t]he cost of providing such a mailing to each of PWW’s 25,000 customers would be prohibitive and would significantly increase the company’s rate case expense. The company projects the printing and mailing costs would approximate \$20,000 for this effort. In further support of the requested waiver, the company believes that it can provide sufficient notice to its customers of the proposed rate increase through display ads in local newspapers such as the Nashua Telegraph and the Union Leader, publication of the Order of Notice, and through information on its web site. For these reasons, the company believes it can satisfy the intent of Puc 1203.02(c).

While Staff applauds PWW’s attempt to minimize the rate case expenses associated with a separate mailing, we recommend that both the intent of Puc 1203.02(c) to provide individual

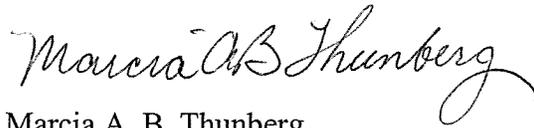
July 15, 2008

DW 08-073

Staff Recommendation on Waiver

notice of the company's proposal as well as a minimization of rate case expense can be achieved by waiving the time limit of 30 days for those customers on a quarterly billing cycle and directing PWW to include individual notice to customers of the proposed applicable rates in the next billing. This will obviate the additional expense of a separate mailing while assuring the customers are fully aware of the company's proposal. Therefore, Staff recommends the Commission waiver only the 30-day window in Puc 1203 .02(c) and not the entire rule itself so that notification is extended to the next billing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia A. B. Thunberg".

Marcia A. B. Thunberg
Staff Attorney

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Docket #: 08-073 Printed: July 16, 2008

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WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DISCOVERY, FILE 7 COPIES (INCLUDING COVER LETTER) TO:**
DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR & SECRETARY
NHPUC
21 SOUTH FRUIT STREET, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

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