

Please respond to the Portsmouth office

December 3, 2012

<u>Via Hand Delivery</u>

Debra A. Howland Executive Director & Secretary New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429



Re: Lakes Region Water Company, Inc.; DW 10-141

Dear Ms. Howland:

Order No. 25,391, approved Lakes Region Water Company's ("Lakes Region" or the "Company") affiliate agreement with LRW Water Service, Inc. ("LRW"), subject to a condition that required that the Company submit, no later than December 1, 2012, "a schedule of market rates charged by LRW Services' competitors for services rendered to Lakes Region on a recurring basis, to be considered in adjustment of the affiliate agreement between LRW Services and Lakes Region."

Lakes Region notes that the Commission's order could be construed in two ways: to require Lakes Region to provide the rates charged by competitors "to Lakes Region on a recurring basis"; or, to require Lakes Region to provide the "market rates charged LRW Services' competitors" for the same services that LRW normally provides to the Company. For the purposes of this response, the Company has assumed that the Commission intended the latter interpretation. The Company does not normally receive services from LRW's competitors and does not have information to respond to the Commission's order if the former interpretation was intended by the Commission.

Under the Affiliate Agreement approved by the Commission (Exhibit 10), LRW charges a rate of \$50 which includes the "pick up" i.e. vehicle charges. Lakes Region sought information from LRW's competitors and publicly available sources such as Commission decisions, web sites, etc. Lakes Region obtained the following information for comparison:

Concord Office

10 Centre Street PO Box 1090 Concord, NH 03302-1090 603-224-7791 1-800-640-7790 Fax 603-224-0320

Attorneys At Law Gary B. Richardson John F. Teague James F. Raymond Barton L. Mayer Charles W. Grau Bridget C. Ferns Heather M. Burns Lauren Simon Irwin Matthew R. Serge Michael S. McGrath* Marilyn Billings McNamara Lisa M. Hall James A. O'Shaughnessy

Hillsborough Office

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Attorneys At Law Douglas S. Hatfield Margaret-Ann Moran Steven J. Venezia*

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> Attorney At Law Robert Upton, II

Portsmouth Office

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*Also admitted in MA

- C&C Water Services, Inc. The Company obtained a letter stating that C&C Water Services, Inc., charges "a rate of \$60/hour per operator for additional work performed outside of normal maintenance outline in each system's contact."
- Lakeland Management. On May 1, 2012, the Commission approved an affiliate agreement between Lakeland Management and C&C Water Services, Inc., that provides for Lakeland to "pay C & C a monthly fee of \$3,798, an hourly rate for a licensed water operator of \$60, an hourly rate for a mechanic of \$50, and a quarterly rate for billing services of \$2,450." See Order No. 25,357 in Docket No. 2011-269.
- **Pennichuck Corporation**. Lakes Region received the enclosed invoice from Pennichuck for project in which Pennichuck hired LRW to rebuild a pump station at its Northern Shores system. The invoice was sent in error but shows a labor rate of \$99 per hour, plus electrician and truck charges. The components of the labor rate are unclear but support the reasonableness of LRW's hourly rates.
- Other information. The Company and LRW do not have additional information relative to the market rates charged by competitors of LRW. However, based on their experience, the Company and LRW believe that the rates under the affiliate agreement are highly competitive, if not below market rates, for the services provided.

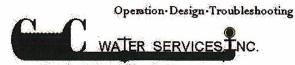
Lakes Region's Affiliate Agreement with LRW (Exhibit 10), provides for LRW to charge a rate of \$50 which includes "pick up" i.e. vehicle charges. The enclosed information, and the Company's experience, indicate that the rates charged by LRW are highly competitive, if not below that charged by LRW's competitors in the market. The Company therefore recommends that the rates in the Affiliate Agreement remain in effect.

I hope that this information is responsive to the Commission's order. If you or the Commission have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours.

Justin C. Richardson jrichardson@upton-hatfield.com

JCR/sem Enclosure(s) cc: Service List DW 10-141 (Via Electronic Mail)



Certified Water Supply Operators By New Hampshire Drinking Water Boundwater Bureau

November 30th, 2012

Tom Mason,

It was requested from Lake Region Water to C&C Water Services that we provide our standard rates for a water operator's work. Under any contracted water system that C&C Water Services operates, we charge a rate of \$60/hour per operator for additional work performed outside of the normal maintenance outline in each systems contract. This is our standard rate as of the current calendar year.

Regards,

Nh in

Alex Crawshaw Crawshaw President, C&C Water Services



25 MANCHESTER STREET, PO BOX 1947 MERRIMACK, NH 03054-1947 603/882-5191 FAX 603/913-2344 WWW.PENNICHUCK.COM

> LAKES REGION WATER CO., INC. 420 GOVERNOR WENTWORTH HWY MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254

Customer #:00000005684 Invoice #:1206070 Invoice Date:10/31/2012 Terms:Net 30 days 1.5% Over 30 Days

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5.	Invoice for ,,		
	04-1	Data	Total
a second s	Qty	Rate	<u>Total</u>
Labor	39.50	\$99.8408	\$3,943.71
ELECTRICIAN	590.46	\$1.2500	\$738.08
Truck	10.00	\$24.2810	\$242.81
		Total:	\$4,924.60
		Deposit	\$0.00
		Grand Total Due:	\$4,924.60

Description: 092 - Jobbing Expense - CORE

Repair-Cost incured related to faulty well at Northern Shores pump station.



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 MANCHESTER
 STREET, PO
 BOX 1947

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 03054-1947
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092-1206070 1201741

\$4,924.60