

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 16-123

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Petition for Monthly Billing

ORDER OF NOTICE

On January 25, 2016, Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire (Aquarion) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a request to change the way it bills certain customers. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-123.html>.

Aquarion serves approximately 9,000 customers in the towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye. Aquarion bills metered and private fire customers on a quarterly basis, in advance of providing service, and requires payment from the customers within 30 days. Aquarion also charges the same monthly customer charge to all customers, regardless of the number of days within the billing period.

Pursuant to RSA 378:1, Aquarion seeks permission to change from quarterly billing to monthly billing for metered and private fire customers, on a service rendered basis beginning May 1, 2016. Aquarion also proposes to switch billing its service charges from in-advance to in-arrears; to change its payment due date from 30 days to 25 days; and to change from a uniform monthly customer charge to a customer charge calculated on a per diem basis depending on the number of days in the billing cycle. Additionally, Aquarion asks to defer its recovery of working capital related to the proposed billing changes, approximately \$23,000, until the

company's next rate case. Aquarion contends that the changes are authorized by RSA 378:1 and are consistent with the public good for a number of reasons. Aquarion expects the costs of the proposed changes to be outweighed by the benefits to the company and customers.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to RSA 378:1 *et seq.* and whether Aquarion's proposed changes to the way it collects charges for services from customers are just and reasonable. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Aquarion, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Aquarion to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Aquarion shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 23, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before April 4, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission

seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Aquarion and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 4, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 7, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this ninth day of March, 2016.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.