



NHPUC 24AUG'16AM10:12

August 23, 2016

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

RE: DW 16-804, Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire Petition for Authorization for Temporary Emergency Connection with Wiggin Farm Homeowners Association.

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing in behalf of the Town of Hampton to alert you to several items with regard to the above Petition.

First, Aquarion's letter to you of August 8, 2016, which is the Petition for Authorization for Temporary Emergency Connection with the Wiggin Farm Homeowners Association, was not copied to the Town of Hampton to my knowledge.

Second, the Town of Hampton has only learned about this proposed emergency interconnection indirectly through the Town of North Hampton Water Commissioners.

Third, from examination of the August 17, 2016 letter of Mark A. Naylor, the Director of Gas & Water Division, it appears that all that would be needed for the Association and Aquarion to make the connection permanent after the temporary interconnection expires on September 15, 2016 would be the submission of a schedule as to when the permanent connection will be completed. The Town of Hampton's understanding of the law is to the contrary, namely: that a petition for a permanent connection would need to be filed by Aquarion with the Commission and the currently served towns would be afforded the opportunity to respond to such a petition, since such a connection would, in essence, expand the service franchise of Aquarion into a fourth town for the first time. Please be advised that any grant of a permanent connection for the Wiggin Farm Homeowner's Association and/or a new franchise area without these procedural safeguards would be immediately appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court as violative of the Commission's authority.

Fourth, the Town of Hampton strongly objects to any permanent connection with Stratham because Aquarion is already at risk for not being able to meet the demand for water in its current service territory. Attached please find a chart that Aquarion officials presented to the Town of Hampton Selectmen at a meeting on July 25, 2016. This chart shows that on two dates in July of 2016 the production capacity of Aquarion was dangerously close to not meeting demand. It is

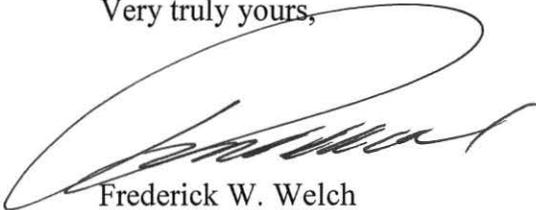
my understanding that this particular chart was not shown by Aquarion water officials to the Town of North Hampton Selectmen at a subsequent meeting with those Selectmen.

Fifth, the Town of Hampton is about to experience rapid commercial growth in the Exeter Road area near one of Aquarion's water tanks that will involve a new health care facility (Cornerstone at Hampton) in excess of 100 beds, as well as a hotel development also of about 100 beds and other developments that will further place significant demands on Aquarion's existing insufficient capacity to meet its current needs. See attached Sewer and Pumping Status Schematic showing the locations of these developments and their gallon per day of sewage to be generated, which is an indication of what their demand for water will be. In the event of a fire of significant size in Hampton or North Hampton, it is unclear that there will be sufficient water to fight such a fire. Aquarion is already in drought mode and has put out a ban on sprinkling of lawns to avoid taxing its already questionable capacity.

Sixth, at the Selectman's meeting on July 25, 2016, Aquarion officials admitted that they did not have a very good handle on their capacity.

Under all these circumstances, Aquarion should not be proceeding to add more demand on a permanent basis to its service territory. The Wiggin Way subdivision in Stratham is not the only one to be experiencing water shortages in Stratham to my understanding and extension of service permanently to this subdivision would likely only be the beginning.. Aquarion's intentions about filing a permanent petition to extend its territory permanently into Stratham have not yet been made clear to the Town of Hampton, despite our asking about them directly to Mr. McMorran in recent e-mails.

Very truly yours,



Frederick W. Welch
Town Manager

Enclosures: 6 copies

cc. Hampton Board of Selectmen
Town of North Hampton Water Commissioners
Michael Magnant, Rye Town Administrator
Service List (Electronically)

Demand v. Production

