

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

DW 17-145

HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

Petition to Transfer Utility Assets and Franchise and for Related Approvals

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 20, 2017, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition to: (i) expand its franchise within the Town of Strafford and operate a water system within that franchise area; (ii) acquire the assets of Bow Lake Estates Water Works, Inc. (Bow Lake), and (iii) charge its current consolidated water rates in the new franchise area once water meters are installed. HAWC is a New Hampshire corporation and regulated water utility that provides service to approximately 3,600 customers in the Towns of Atkinson, Chester, Danville, East Kingston, Fremont, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton, Nottingham, Plaistow, Salem and Sandown. Bow Lake is a regulated public water utility serving approximately 40 customers in a limited area of the Town of Strafford.

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/2017/17-145.html>

The filing raises, *inter alia*, issues related to the following: RSA 374:22, 374:26 and 374:30 regarding the transfer and exercise of franchises and the proposed sale of Bow Lake, the terms of the sale, and the purchase price to be paid, and HAWC's financial, managerial, and technical abilities to operate as a utility in the franchise area of Strafford; RSA 374:28 and

discontinuance of the authority of Bow Lake to operate as a public utility; and RSA 378:3 and HAWC's request to charge its consolidated rate of \$10.00 per month plus a consumption charge of \$5.02 per 100 cubic feet of water.

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 Bow Lake Estates Water Works, Inc. shall be joined as a necessary party to this docket; and it is

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 October 31, 2017 at 10:00 a.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. Rule Puc 203.15(d) shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, HAWC, Bow Lakes, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and to establish a procedural schedule for review of the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, HAWC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by 1) publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 11, 2017, 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 October 31, 2017, and 2) mailing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 13, 2017, to all current and prospective customers of Bow

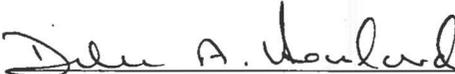
Lake, as well as the Clerk of the Town of Strafford, by first class U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than October 16, 2017, and said mailing be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 31, 2017; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Hampstead Area Water Company, Bow Lake and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 27, 2017, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests 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 October 31, 2017.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of October, 2017.

Attested by:



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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Docket #: 17-145-1 Printed: October 03, 2017

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.**