

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. DW 17-165

Abenaki Water Company, Inc. – Rosebrook Division
Permanent Rate Proceeding

MOTION TO EXTEND STEP II FILING DEADLINE

NOW COMES, Abenaki Water Company, Inc.’s (“Abenaki” or “Company”) pursuant to Puc 203.07, and hereby requests the Commission extend the deadline for filing for recovery of its costs related to its Commission-approved Step II. In support of this request, Abenaki states as follows:

1. On December 27, 2018, by Order No. 26,205, the Commission approved a settlement agreement whereby Abenaki would be eligible for recovery of certain costs in a Step II rate mechanism. The scope of what costs would be eligible for inclusion in the Step II were ordered to be the subject of further proceedings. Order 26,205 at 13.

2. The Staff and parties engaged in those proceedings between February and March, 2019. On July 15, 2019, Staff filed its recommendation and recommended that the Commission allow Abenaki to submit costs related to certain proposed engineering designs intended to address chronic high pressure¹, which has been one of Abenaki’s goals since acquiring the system. The proposed engineering designs are to cover: general system improvements, a new transmission main and associated booster station, two additional pump stations, and pressure reduction valves. Importantly, Staff noted that Abenaki’s engineering consultant, Horizons,

¹ See Abenaki’s Pressure Reduction presentation, filed on June 18, 2018, for a description of its proposed phased approach to addressing the high pressure.

would need approximately seven months to complete the engineering designs. For that reason, Staff recommended that the Commission extend the Settlement Agreement's September 30, 2019 filing deadline to March 31, 2020.

3. On July 18, 2019, Abenaki filed its concurrence with Staff's recommendation but requested a more expedited deadline than March 31, 2020. In hopes of an August approval and successful discussions with Omni Mount Washington, LLC ("Omni") to obtain easements, Abenaki requested the filing deadline be December 31, 2019.

4. On October 23, 2019, in Order No. 26,300, rendered its decision on Staff and the parties' recommendations. The Commission clarified that it would not rule prospectively on the scope or costs of Abenaki's Step II engineering designs until it had an opportunity to review them. The Commission extended the September filing deadline to December 31, 2019.

5. Since the date of that order and notwithstanding numerous contacts, Abenaki has been unable to commence discussions with Omni relative to easements and, consequently, it has been unable to finalize the engineering designs. Therefore, Abenaki requests the Commission extend the filing deadline to December 31, 2020 so that Abenaki may have more time to resolve these obstacles to its filing.

6. Abenaki has been in conversation with Staff concerning the infeasibility of completing the engineering designs by December 31, 2019. In contacting Staff and the parties relative to this motion, Staff takes no position and Abenaki had not yet received positions of the remaining parties as of the time of this filing.

WHEREFORE, Abenaki respectfully requests the Commission:

- A. Extend the deadline for filing for recovery of its Step II costs until December 31, 2020; and
- B. Grant such other relief as is just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

Abenaki Water Company, Inc.

By its Attorney,
NH BROWN LAW, PLLC

Dated: December 27, 2019

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing motion has been emailed this day to the docket-related service list.

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