

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

DW 17-176

**LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY, INC.
WILDWOOD WATER COMPANY, INC.**

Petition for Transfer of Utility Assets and Franchise and for Related Approvals

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 13, 2017, Lakes Region Water Company, Inc. (Lakes Region), and Wildwood Water Company, Inc. (Wildwood) (together, the Joint Petitioners) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a joint petition seeking: (1) approval to transfer Wildwood's water utility assets and franchise to Lakes Region pursuant to RSA 374:22 and :30; (2) permission for Wildwood to discontinue operations as a public utility pursuant to RSA 374:28; and (3) permission for Lakes Region to modify Wildwood's existing tariff to reflect Lakes Region as the owner of the Wildwood water system and to reflect Lakes Region's existing, approved terms and conditions, pursuant to RSA 378:3.

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/2017/17-176.html>

Lakes Region is a New Hampshire corporation authorized to operate as a public water utility in the State of New Hampshire. Lakes Region provides water utility service to approximately 1,760 customers in 18 separate systems located in the Lakes Region and Mt. Washington Valley.

Wildwood is a New Hampshire corporation authorized to operate as a public water utility in the State of New Hampshire. Wildwood serves 49 customers in the Town of Albany.

The purchase price is \$25,000, which is detailed in the Asset Purchase Agreement attached to the Joint Petition as Exhibit A. The sale is conditioned on Commission approval and other typical closing conditions. Contemporaneously with the acquisition of Wildwood's assets and franchise, Lakes Region seeks permission to modify Wildwood's existing tariff to reflect Lakes Region as the owner of the Wildwood water system and to reflect Lakes Region's existing, approved terms and conditions.

The filing also raises, *inter alia*, issues related to the following: 1) whether it is in the public good to approve the proposed sale of Wildwood, the terms of the sale, and the purchase price to be paid including any acquisition premium under RSA 374:30; 2) Lakes Region's financial, managerial and technical abilities and its request to operate as a utility in the franchise areas of Wildwood under RSA 374:4; 3) Wildwood's request to cease operating as a utility under RSA 374:28; and 4) Lakes Region's request for tariff revisions under RSA 378:3.

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 January 23, 2018 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. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

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

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the joint petitioners shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by mailing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than January 10, 2018, to all current and known prospective customers of Wildwood as well as the Clerk of the Town of Albany, New Hampshire, by first class U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than January 17, 2018, and documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before January 19, 2018; 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 seven copies of a petition to intervene with copies sent to the joint petitioners and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before January 19, 2018, 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 January 23, 2018.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of January, 2018.


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.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov
adean@coopercargillchant.com
alexander.speidel@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
burnhamcompanyinc@gmail.com
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
jayson.laflamme@puc.nh.gov
jrichardson@upton-hatfield.com
leah@Lakesregionwater.com
lrwater@lakesregionwater.com
mark.naylor@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
robyn.descoteau@puc.nh.gov
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov

Docket #: 17-176-1 Printed: January 03, 2018

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.