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July 8, 2022

Daniel C. Goldner, Chair
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

Re: DW 20-071 Atkinson Area Waste Water Recycling, Inc.
New Hampshire Department of Energy position statement regarding request for recovery of rate case expenses.

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pursuant to RSA 12-P:2, IV, and the DW 20-071 Settlement Agreement approved by Commission Order No. 26,547,¹ please accept this letter as the New Hampshire Department of Energy's (DOE) position statement in the above-referenced matter regarding the Atkinson Area Waste Water Recycling, Inc's (Company) request for recovery of rate case expenses.

On November 23, 2021, the Company filed its request to recover rate case expenses in the amount of \$48,062.85 over 36 months from 65 customers, resulting in a monthly surcharge of \$20.54 per customer. The Company subsequently increased the amount it was seeking for rate case expense recovery to \$53,794.88 over 36 months. The Company also increased its customer count from 65 customers to 67 customers, as it inadvertently did not count the respective residential buildings' water meters used to measure the utility room and the irrigation system usage. The Company's updates resulted in a revised proposed monthly surcharge of \$22.30.²

The DOE analyzed the filing, issued discovery, reviewed responses, which are attached to this letter, and met with the Company on June 14, 2022. As a result, the Company agreed to reduce the amount of the expenses it was seeking to recover by \$1,823.42 resulting in a final rate case expense recovery amount of \$51,791.46. The Company also agreed to increase the timeframe for which it was seeking recovery from 36 months to 42 months. The net result is a revised monthly surcharge of \$18.47 per customer per month.

As indicated during the course of the rate case, the customer base from which rates, as well as rate case expenses, will be recovered has not yet fully materialized.³ As a result, the Company is requesting, and the DOE supports, a total recovery timeframe that will not cease

¹ See Commission Order No. 26,547 at 7.

² See DOE 5-3.

³ See Commission Order No. 26,547 at 5 & 6, Settlement Agreement at 5 & 6, DOE 4-7(c), and DOE 5-4(b).

until the Company fully recoups the total proposed rate case expense amount of \$51,791.46. Pursuant to the agreement between DOE and the Company, no customer will be subject to the monthly surcharge beyond the 42-month proposed recovery period after they first begin service with the Company. As such, the Company also agreed to include with its PUC Annual Report filings, a report detailing the status of its collection of rate case expenses.⁴

Based upon the above, the DOE takes no exception to the Company's updated request for full recovery of rate case expenses totaling \$51,791.46 through a monthly customer surcharge of \$18.47 over 42 months after each of the contemplated customers first begins service with the Company or until such time as the full rate case expense recovery is achieved by the Company. The DOE sent a draft of this letter to the Company prior to filing, and the Company indicated its full assent to the proposals made therein. The DOE therefore does not recognize a need to further supplement this docket's record and considers it complete for consideration by the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Anthony J. Leone

Anthony J. Leone
Utility Analyst, Water Group
Regulatory Support Division

Attachment: AAWWR, Inc. responses to DOE Data Requests Set 4 & 5
cc: Service List

⁴ See DOE 4-7 & 5-4.