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June 8, 2023

Heidi K. Tombarello
Legal Counsel
Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.
54 Sawyer Avenue
Atkinson, NH 03811

Re: Docket No. DW 20-117
Request for Change in Rates
Tariff Pages: 1st rev pg 1; 6th rev pg 34
Tariff No. 3
Effective Date: April 28, 2023

Dear Attorney Tombarello:

Employees of the Public Utilities Commission have reviewed the tariff filing received on May 5, 2023, and revised on May 15, 2023, in the above-captioned proceeding and cannot confirm compliance at this time for two reasons. First, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) submitted a First Revised Page 1 with a new effective date, issue date, and authorization footer. However, based on the associated redline version of that page, HAWC did not make any changes to Page 1. Pursuant to N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 1603.05(a), a utility that proposes to revise less than fifty percent of its tariff must submit the entire page on which any revision occurs. Under this rule, a utility is not required to file a new title page for the tariff each time it files a revised version of a single page in the tariff. As HAWC did not explain why it had filed a new title page when it did not make any changes to that page, it should either submit an explanation as to why it filed a new title page or withdraw that page from its filing.

Second, on the Sixth Revised Page 34, HAWC included two authorization lines. On May 15, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed comments recommending that HAWC include the revision history of Page 34 on the tariff page. It appears that HAWC refiled the tariff page in response to DOE's comments to include two authorization lines, one of which appears before the signature line and includes a more complete revision history of the page, and the second of which appears below the signature line and includes only the order authorizing the most recent changes.

Puc 1603.06(m)(1) and (o) require utilities to include, at the bottom of a revised tariff page: "A statement . . . that the tariff is 'Authorized by NHPUC Order No. ____ in Docket No. ____, dated ____.'" In applying this rule, many other utilities have included a more complete revision history in the statement. The Commission has approved pages applying this practice in the past.

In the Commission's view, HAWC could follow this practice, which is consistent with the DOE's recommendation, by eliminating the former authorization line that currently appears at the bottom of the page and moving the more complete authorization line to the bottom of the page. In any case, HAWC should refile this tariff page to eliminate the inclusion of two authorization notations.

In accordance with the Secretarial letter issued March 17, 2020, this letter will be filed electronically only at this time.

Please e-mail me at tariffs@puc.nh.gov if I can be of future assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben Martin-McDonough

Ben Martin-McDonough
Tariff Administrator

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