

**EXHIBIT C**  
**PROMISSORY NOTE**

\$2,520,000.00  
(DWGT-68)

Concord, New Hampshire  
December 5, 2023

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, Abenaki Water Co., Inc., a New Hampshire corporation with a principal place of business at 37 Northwest Drive, Plainville, Connecticut 06062 (the "Maker"), promises to pay to the State of New Hampshire with an address of c/o Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095, or its order (the "Payee"), the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$2,520,000.00) or such lesser amount as shall be disbursed from time to time to Maker by the Payee pursuant to a Loan Agreement of near or even date by and between Maker and the Payee (the "Loan Agreement"), in lawful money of the United States, together with interest thereon at the annual rate of one percent (1%) until the earlier of (i) December 1, 2024 or (ii) the date of substantial completion of the Improvements (as defined in the Loan Agreement) as determined by the State ("Interest Rate Change Date") and commencing on the Interest Rate Change Date at the annual rate of 3.17% (the interest rate at any given time, the "Applicable Interest Rate") until paid in full as set forth herein. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meaning given to them in the Loan Agreement.

1. Payments. The interest and principal of this Note shall be paid as follows:

(a) Commencing on the first day of the sixth month after the Interest Rate Change Date, interest only shall be paid in six (6) consecutive monthly installments on the first day of each month.

(b) Commencing with the first day of the twelfth month after the Interest Rate Change Date, the principal and interest of the Note shall be paid in Three Hundred (300) consecutive equal monthly installments of principal and interest on the first day of each month with the installment amount calculated to amortize the principal balance of the Note over the 300 month period at the Applicable Interest Rate; provided, however, that the Maker shall have the option to elect prior to the first installment payment under paragraph 1(a) to have the interest accruing prior to the Interest Rate Change Date be capitalized and added to the principal amount of the Note rather than paid in the first installment of interest to be paid pursuant to paragraph 1(a); so long as the sum of the principal balance of the Note plus interest accruing prior to the Interest Rate Change Date (such sum being the "Capitalized Amortization Amount") shall not exceed \$2,520,000.00, and if the sum of unpaid principal plus interest accruing prior to the Interest Rate Change Date exceeds \$2,520,000.00, such excess amount of interest shall be due and payable with the first payment of interest pursuant to paragraph 1(a) above. If the Maker elects to have such interest capitalized, then the Capitalized Amortization Amount shall be paid in Three Hundred (300) consecutive equal monthly installments of principal on the first day of each month, commencing with the first day of the thirteenth month after the Interest Rate Change Date, with interest with the installments calculated to amortize the Capitalized Amortization Amount over such 300 month Period at the Applicable Interest Rate.

2. Prepayment. The Maker shall have the right to prepay any or all sums due under

this Note without penalty. Prepayments shall be applied first to accrued interest and then to principal. Partial prepayments of principal shall be applied against the outstanding principal balance; provided, however, that the Maker shall continue to make principal payments in the amounts specified above and on the dates specified above, with interest on the outstanding principal balance recomputed accordingly, until the Maker's obligations under this Note are satisfied in full.

3. Due Date; Late Payment. All payments of principal and interest shall be due on or before the due date specified above; provided, however, that the Maker shall not be deemed in default hereunder if payment is received by the Payee on or before 4:00 p.m. of the seventh day following the due date. The Maker agrees to pay a late charge of five percent (5%) of the amount of any payment due under this Note that is not paid within seven (7) days of its due date.

4. Applicable Interest. The Maker expressly agrees that the Applicable Interest Rate specified in this Note shall be the applicable interest rate due (i) on amounts outstanding during the term hereof and (ii) with respect to any amount outstanding on and after the maturity date hereof. The interest rate on this Note shall be calculated on the basis of an annual rate of interest applied to twelve thirty-day months over a three hundred sixty (360) day year.

5. Default; Acceleration. The Maker shall be in default of this Note, and all principal and accrued interest thereon shall immediately become due and payable, without notice or demand, upon the occurrence of any of the following events: (a) failure to make prompt payment of any principal or interest installment due hereunder (or within such grace period as may be provided herein), (b) the failure of the Maker to observe or perform any of the other obligations to the Payee under this Note, and the same remains unremedied for a period of thirty (30) days after the date of notice thereof to the Maker by the Payee, (c) the occurrence of an Event of Default under the Loan Agreement or (d) a default or event of default under any Security Instrument (as defined in the Loan Agreement) or (e) a default in any other obligation of the Maker to the Payee, whether now existing or hereinafter incurred.

If the Maker shall file a petition under any section of the Bankruptcy Code, shall make an assignment for the benefit of creditors, shall have a receiver appointed over its affairs who shall not be discharged within sixty (60) days from the date of appointment, or shall have filed against it a petition under a section of the Bankruptcy Code, or any debtor-creditor act, which petition shall not be dismissed within sixty (60) days of the date of filing of the same, then the balance of principal and interest remaining unpaid on this Note shall become due and payable forthwith without demand or notice.

6. Costs of Collection. If this Note is not paid in full when it becomes due, or if any payment required hereunder shall not be paid when due, or within such grace period as may be expressly provided herein, the Maker agrees to pay all costs and expenses of collection, including attorneys' fees, regardless of whether legal proceedings have been formally commenced.

7. Waiver of Presentment. The Maker hereby waives presentment, demand for payment, notice of dishonor, and all other notices or demands in connection with the delivery, acceptance, performance, default, or endorsement of this Note.

8. Non-Forfeiture of Rights. It is agreed and understood that the waiver by the Payee of any particular default in the terms of this Note shall not constitute waiver of any further default and that acceptance of any payment after it is due shall not be deemed a waiver of the right to require prompt payment when due on all other sums and that acceptance of any payment after default shall not cure said default or operate as a waiver of any rights of the Payee hereunder unless otherwise agreed in writing.

9. Payments, Notices. All payments due under this Note, and any notice required to be made hereunder shall be directed to the Payee or to the Maker, as the case may be, at the addresses above specified, or such other address as the Payee and the Maker may hereafter direct, in writing.

10. Binding on Successors, Etc. The obligation of this Note shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns of the Maker herein and shall inure to the benefit of the successors or assigns of the Payee herein or any holder hereof. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Maker shall not assign this Note without the prior written consent of the Payee.

11. Gender. Whenever the content so requires, reference herein to the neuter gender shall include the masculine and/or feminine gender, and the singular number shall include the plural.

12. References. All references herein to the Loan Agreement and the Guaranty shall be construed to refer to such instruments as they may be amended from time to time.

13. Governing Law. The Note has been made in the State of New Hampshire, and the provisions hereof shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire (excluding the laws applicable to conflicts or choice of laws).

14. Jurisdiction. The Maker hereby consents to the jurisdiction of all state and local courts of the State of New Hampshire and the United States District Court of the District of New Hampshire in connection with any suit to enforce any rights of the Payee under this Note.

15. Security. The Maker's obligations hereunder are secured by the Security Instruments.

16. Sovereign Immunity. Nothing contained in this Note, the Loan Agreement, or any guaranty guarantying this Note shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Payee, which immunity is hereby reserved to the Payee.

EXECUTED as of the day and year first above written.

**ABENAKI WATER CO., INC.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. Walsh  
Vice President, MA and NH Operations and  
Water Quality and Environmental Management  
Duly Authorized