

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 22-068

LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY, INC.

Petition for Step Adjustment

Procedural Order Re: Approval of Settlement on the Issue of Rate Case Expenses

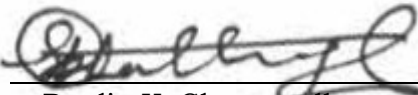
On August 19, 2022, Lakes Region Water Company, Inc. (LRWC) filed a petition for a step adjustment to its permanent rates approved in Docket No. 20-187. *See* Order No. 26,633 (May 27, 2022 amended on July 12, 2022). On March 27, 2023 the Commission issued Order No. 26,790 approving the step adjustment as requested. Post approval, LRWC filed a request for approval of rate reconciliation and rate case expenses in both this docket and the companion docket, DW 20-187. *See* July 28, 2023 motion. Pursuant to N.H. Admin. R. Puc 1906.01 the Commission authorized recovery of rate case expenses in the amount of \$75,166.35 in Docket No. 20-187. *See* Order No 26,905 (November 21, 2023). In addition to the rate expenses approved in Docket 20-187, LRWC has requested an additional \$19,245.01 for rate case expenses associated with the adjudication and approval of Step I. *See* October 26, 2023 Settlement at 9. The additional rate expenses would be assessed evenly across the LRWC customer base. Each customer would pay \$10.52.¹

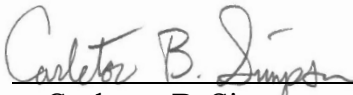
N.H. Admin. R. PUC 1905.05 defines “Rate case expenses” as those non-recurring expenses incurred by a utility in the preparation or presentation of a full rate case proceeding before the commission, necessary for the conduct of the rate case. The

¹ Terms of recoupment of the \$10.52 is dependent on the rate class the customer resides in. LRWC has proposed that customers in the consolidated tariff system pay a surcharge of \$5.26 for two quarters. Customers of Dockham Shores and Wildwood would pay \$1.32 over eight quarters.

Commission notes that it is not customary for the Commission to approve rate case expenses for step proceedings. The Commission requests that within thirty days of issuance of this order the settling parties file written legal briefs concerning the legal basis and any precedent for requesting recovery of expenses relating to the step adjustment proceeding.

So ordered, this twenty-first day of November, 2023.


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-068

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