

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 23-020

HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

Request for Step II Adjustment

Procedural Order Re: Town of Atkinson Petition for Intervention; Additional Time to Accommodate Statements of Position of Towns of Atkinson and Hampstead re: Proposed Settlement; and Rescheduling of Final Hearings

On May 16, 2023, the Town of Atkinson (Atkinson) filed a timely petition to intervene in this docket. Atkinson did not indicate, in its May 16, 2023, filing, the positions of other parties to this proceeding regarding its petition. Atkinson filed its petition to intervene pursuant to the terms of the Commission's May 4, 2023 prehearing order in this matter. At the May 2, 2023 prehearing conference in this matter, representatives of Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC, or the Company), and the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) indicated that they would not object to Atkinson's participation in this proceeding as an intervenor. (No written objections to Atkinson's petition to intervene were filed).


Having reviewed Atkinson's petition to intervene and considered the arguments in favor of intervention presented therein, the Commission has GRANTED Atkinson's request to intervene, finding that the standard for discretionary intervention in RSA 541-A:32, II has been met for Atkinson, insofar as the intervention of Atkinson would be in the interests of justice and would not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings. See N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.17.

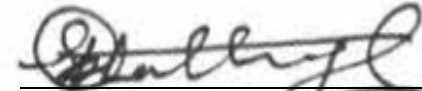
On August 17, 2023, HAWC filed with the Commission, on behalf of itself and DOE, a Settlement Agreement – Step II Rates (Settlement Agreement). In its filing, the Company indicated that Atkinson, and the Town of Hampstead (Hampstead), an approved intervenor

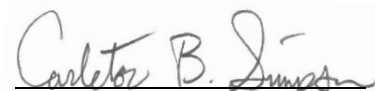
in this proceeding, had not responded to HAWC with their positions regarding the Settlement Agreement. Also, HAWC stated in its filing that two other parties to this proceeding, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), and approved intervenor, Ms. Karen Steele of Atkinson, indicated their objection to the Settlement Agreement proposal.

In light of these facts, the Commission hereby makes the following procedural rulings in this matter. First, in light of the apparent opposition of the OCA and Ms. Steele to the proposed Settlement Agreement, and the need to accommodate case presentations of the parties accordingly, the final hearing for this matter scheduled for September 13, 2023 is hereby CANCELLED, and two new hearing dates of Tuesday, September 26 and Wednesday, September 27, 2023, each commencing at 9:00 a.m., are hereby SCHEDULED. Furthermore, HAWC is to continue to request the positions of Atkinson and Hampstead regarding the Settlement Agreement, with a filing regarding their respective positions, or any joinder of Atkinson and/or Hampstead to the Settlement Agreement, to be made no later than September 15, 2023.

So ordered, this eighteenth day of August, 2023.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 23-020

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