

DW 99-038

**EASTMAN SEWER COMPANY**

**Petition for Permanent Increase in Rates**

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariff Revisions and Scheduling**

**Prehearing Conference**

**O R D E R    N O.    23,245**

**June 28, 1999**

On June 1, 1999, Eastman Sewer Company (Eastman or the Petitioner) filed with the Commission a petition seeking a permanent rate increase of approximately 28% for its 488 residential and 2 commercial customers. This constitutes an increase in annual revenues of \$28,185.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues regarding the reasonableness of the proposed rate increase related to operations and maintenance, rate of return, rate case expenses, management contract, rate design between residential and commercial customers, all of which require a thorough investigation.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that Eastman's NHPUC NO. 1 Sewer proposed rate schedule is hereby suspended; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.05, be held before the Commission located at 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire on July 22, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., at which any one or more of the issues set

forth in N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.05(c) shall be considered; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** the Prehearing conference shall be tape recorded unless a party, at least 5 days in advance of the Prehearing conference, requests a transcript, in which case the Commission shall order a stenographic record, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.05(d): and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Eastman, the Staff of the Commission and any intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Eastman to provide any amendments or updates to its filing, as well as to establish a proposed procedural schedule for the duration of the proceeding; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, Eastman Sewer Company notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 9, 1999, in a newspaper with statewide circulation and of general circulation in that portion of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 21, 1999; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that Eastman serve a summary of its proposed rate change and a copy of this Order in accordance with

N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 1604.03(g), on current and known prospective customers and the Grantham Town Clerk by first class U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than July 9, 1999; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Eastman Sewer Company and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 19, 1999, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.02 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 22, 1999.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New  
Hampshire this twenty-eighth day of June, 1999.

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Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Thomas B. Getz  
Executive Director and Secretary

Any individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the American with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Preferably, notification of the need for assistance should be made one week before the scheduled event.