

DW 99-154

HOLIDAY ACRES WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES COMPANY

Petition for Step Adjustment

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariff Revisions and Scheduling
Prehearing Conference**

O R D E R N O. 23,347

November 17, 1999

On December 31, 1996, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 22,470 in Docket No. 96-242 adopting a Settlement Agreement (the Agreement) between Holiday Acres Water and Wastewater Services Company (Holiday Acres) and the Commission Staff (Staff) establishing permanent rates. The Agreement contained a commitment from Holiday Acres to undertake various system improvements. Once these improvements were completed, the Agreement indicated that Holiday Acres would submit a filing to the Commission, at which time the appropriate procedure to evaluate such filing would be determined, whether through a full rate case, a step adjustment or a streamlined proceeding pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 611.

On October 20, 1999, Holiday Acres filed with the Commission a petition, accompanied by supporting testimony and schedules, for step increases in both their water and sewer rates. Holiday Acres proposes an increase in water revenues of \$39,864 which represents a 100% increase in currently stipulated water rates. The Company also proposes a \$9,264 increase in

sewer revenues, representing an 8% increase in currently stipulated sewer rates.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the appropriate procedure to evaluate the request for increased rates, magnitude and reasonableness of the proposed rate increases, appropriateness of the proposed rate design including a metered rate and conservation rate, reasonableness of the costs associated with certain system improvements, cost of capital, operation and maintenance expenses, and status of the Company's system of accounting.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the proposed tariff pages of Holiday Acres Water Company NHPUC Tariff No. 1 - Water, Revised Page 18 and Holiday Acres Sewer Company NHPUC Tariff No. 1 - Sewer, Revised Page 14 be and hereby are 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 December 8, 1999 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.05(c) shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Prehearing Conference may 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, Holiday Acres, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Holiday Acres 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, Holiday Acres shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than November 29, 1999, in a newspaper with statewide circulation or of general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before December 8, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Holiday Acres 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), to each of its customers and the Allenstown Town Clerk by first class U.S. mail, postmarked no later than November 29, 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 Holiday Acres and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before December 3, 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 December 7, 1999.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventeenth day of November, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch Chairman	Susan S. Geiger Commissioner	Nancy Brockway Commissioner
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Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary