

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 13-314

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment 2014-2015 Projects

Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,628 Granting Petition

February 7, 2014

Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc. (Aquarion) provides water service in the Towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye. On November 1, 2013, Aquarion filed for approval of its proposed 2014-2015 capital projects under its Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment (WICA) pilot program. The purpose of the pilot is to accelerate the replacement of aging infrastructure and to allow recovery of WICA projects through a rate surcharge.

Aquarion seeks approval of 2014 capital projects having a construction budget of \$1,018,568 and preliminary approval for its 2015 projects totaling \$847,000. Aquarion also submitted, for informational purposes, its list of projects proposed for 2016. Aquarion did not file for a surcharge to recover 2013 costs because it wishes to postpone final review of its 2013 project costs and associated rate increase so as not to exacerbate the rate increases recently approved in its general rate case, Docket No. DW 12-085. Aquarion's postponement also affects its earlier request for approval to substitute projects in its 2013 construction year. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, is posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2013/13-314.html>.

Subsequent to Aquarion's filing, Staff, the North Hampton Water Commission, Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), and the towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye had an opportunity for discovery and met with Aquarion in a technical session. Staff, the North Hampton Water Commission, and Town of Hampton support the 2014 WICA projects; the OCA does not oppose them. Staff, the OCA, and North Hampton Water Commission support delaying the surcharge for 2013 costs. The Town of Hampton did not oppose the substitution of 2013 projects.

Based on Aquarion's filings and Staff and the parties' recommendations, the Commission approved Aquarion's 2014 schedule of proposed WICA projects and provided its preliminary approval of Aquarion's schedule of 2015 proposed WICA projects. The Commission deferred consideration of Aquarion's recovery of 2013 costs and motion to substitute projects until Aquarion files its surcharge request.

While there is no indication of any opposition to the proposed projects and budgets, the Commission's approval of Aquarion's WICA filing was on a *nisi* basis in order to ensure that all interested parties receive notice of this docket and have an opportunity to request a hearing. Each party has the right to have an attorney present to represent the party at the party's expense. All persons interested in responding to the Order *Nisi* may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than February 24, 2014 for the Commission's consideration. Any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than March 3, 2014. The Order *Nisi* shall be effective March 7, 2014, unless the Commission orders otherwise.