

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 14-022

HAMPSTEAD AREA WATER COMPANY, INC.

Request to Expand Franchise in Atkinson, New Hampshire

Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,672 Granting Request

May 30, 2014

Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) is a regulated public utility pursuant to RSA 362:2 and RSA 362:4 and provides water service to over 3,200 customers in southern New Hampshire. On January 23, 2014, HAWC filed a petition for authority to provide water service to proposed franchise areas in the Town of Atkinson. According to HAWC, the groundwater in the vicinity of one of the proposed franchise areas has been contaminated with 1, 4-Dioxane. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested HAWC to provide water service to the affected area. The project is known as the Emery Drive Extension. HAWC also requests to expand its franchise in an additional area east of Route 121, consisting of 1,125 acres.

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/2014/14-022.html>.

The Emery Drive Extension project would serve up to thirty (30) homes north of West Side Drive along the Emery Drive, Oak Ridge Drive, and Deer Run Road. The extension will be connected to HAWC's Atkinson-Hampstead core system. The EPA will construct the extension and HAWC will assume ownership and operation once it is completed. HAWC also requests approval to acquire a portion of PEU's franchise in the vicinity of the extension project and PEU agrees to convey the franchise to HAWC.

The additional franchise area involves a tract owned by HAWC's affiliate, Centerview Hollow Land Company, LLC, as well as adjacent land where HAWC has received numerous requests for hookups. HAWC plans to charge it current tariff rates in these new franchise areas. The Town of Atkinson, Board of Selectmen supports HAWC's franchise request. On April 24, 2014, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a letter stating it had reviewed the filing, had conducted discovery, and that it recommended the Commission approved HAWC's petition.

Based on HAWC's filings and Staff's recommendation, the Commission approves HAWC's petition. The Commission authorizes HAWC to expand its franchise in Atkinson, acquire the assets associated with the Emery Drive Extension, acquire a portion of PEU's franchise, and charge the existing consolidated rates within the new franchise areas. In order to ensure that all interested parties receive notice of this docket and have an opportunity to request a hearing, the Commission delays the effectiveness of its approval until June 30, 2014. All persons interested in responding to the Commission's decision to approve HAWC's petition may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than June 17, 2014. Any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than June 24, 2014. Following consideration of any comments and request for hearing received, the Commission may further extend the effective date of its approval. The Commission's approval of HAWC's request shall become final and effective on June 30, 2014, unless the Commission orders otherwise.