

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 14-186

CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Extension of Water Service in the City of Dover

Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,712 Approving Franchise Expansion

August 28, 2014

On July 14, 2014, the City of Somersworth (Somersworth) filed a petition pursuant to RSA 362:4 III-a and RSA 374:22 seeking after-the-fact approval to provide water service to three residential properties which it has served for many years. These properties are located at 167 Varney Road, 170 Varney Road, and 193 Blackwater Road in the City of Dover and are tax Map A, Lot 32; Map A, Lot 36-Q; and Map A, Lot 21, respectively. Somersworth states that it cannot locate any prior Commission authorization for it to serve outside of its corporate boundary, thus it has filed for approval to remedy this oversight.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2014/14-186.html>.

Somersworth states that providing service to these properties will not necessitate any water line expansion or associated costs, that customers own the service line from the curb stop to their homes, and that it will continue to serve these customers on the same terms and rates as it provides within its corporate boundaries. In addition to its petition, Somersworth provided

supporting documentation, including a copy of the City of Dover's concurrence with Somersworth's request.

Commission Staff (Staff) recommended Commission approval of Somersworth's request based on Somersworth's managerial, technical, financial, and legal expertise, and also notified the Commission that Somersworth's franchise expansion request satisfied the suitability and availability criteria of RSA 374: 22, III, according to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

By order *nisi* dated August 28, 2014, the Commission granted Somersworth's petition to expand its franchise to provide water service to the proposed franchise area.

To ensure that all interested parties receive notice of this docket and have an opportunity to request a hearing, the Commission delayed the effectiveness of its approval until September 26, 2014. All persons interested in responding to the Commission's approval may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than September 15, 2014. Any party interested in responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than September 22, 2014. Following consideration of any comments and requests for hearing received, the Commission may further extend the effective date of its approval. The Commission's approval shall become final and effective September 26, 2014, unless the Commission orders otherwise.