

DW 13-305

LORDEN COMMONS SEWER COMPANY, LLC

Permanent Rate Case

Order Authorizing Recovery of Rate Case Expenses

ORDER NO. 25,713

September 3, 2014

In this order, the Commission approves Lorden Commons' request to recover \$8,241.19 in rate case expenses through a \$20.60 per quarter surcharge on customers' bills for eight billing quarters.

I. BACKGROUND

On June 13, 2014, the Commission issued Order No. 25,677 approving permanent rates for Lorden Commons Sewer Company, LLC (Lorden Commons). The Order authorized Lorden Commons to file for recovery of its rate case expenses within thirty days. In accordance with the Order, Lorden Commons requested recovery of \$8,241.19 in rate case expenses. The expenses were for accounting services provided by Stephen P. St. Cyr & Associates, and for the cost of hearing transcripts related to this proceeding. Lorden Commons proposed that this amount be collected through a quarterly surcharge of \$20.60 per customer over eight quarterly billing periods.

On August 5, 2014, the Commission's Staff (Staff) recommended approval of Lorden Commons' request and the proposed recovery period. Staff stated that it had conducted a thorough review of Lorden Commons' filing and had reviewed supporting invoices provided by

Lorden Commons during discovery. Staff concluded that the expenses requested for recovery were reasonable and necessary for the rate case.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has historically treated prudently incurred rate case expenses as a legitimate cost of business appropriate for recovery through rates. *See EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc., d/b/a National Grid NH*, Order No. 25,064 at 6-7 (January 15, 2010). Consistent with that policy, we have reviewed Lorden Commons' rate case expense summary as well as Staff's recommendations. The expenses are for accounting services as well as for fees associated with transcribing the hearing in this proceeding. We find those expenses reasonable and necessary for Lorden Commons' rate case. Lorden Commons proposes to recover the expenses through a surcharge to each customer of \$20.60 per quarter for eight billing quarters. This will result in a total of \$164.82 being recovered from each customer. We find that the proposed recovery amount and recovery period will not be unduly burdensome to customers. Therefore, we find that recovering the surcharge over eight quarterly billing periods will result in just and reasonable rates pursuant to RSA 378:7. Accordingly, we will approve Lorden Commons' imposition of a surcharge in the amount of \$20.60 per customer for eight quarterly billing periods.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby


ORDERED, that Lorden Commons Sewer Company, LLC, is authorized to recover \$8,241.19, representing its prudently incurred rate case expenses; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Lorden Commons Sewer Company, LLC, is authorized to collect a surcharge in the amount of \$20.60 per customer per quarter for eight quarterly billing periods or until the full amount is collected, whichever is earlier; and it is

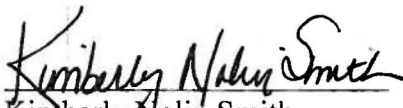
FURTHER ORDERED, that Lorden Commons Sewer Company, LLC, shall file a compliance tariff within fourteen calendar days of the date of this order reflecting its rate case expense surcharge.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this third day of September, 2014.


Robert R. Scott
Commissioner


Martin P. Honigberg
Commissioner

Attested by:


Kimberly Nolin Smith
Assistant Secretary