

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 14-319

Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.

Request for Franchise, Rates, and Financing Approval for Snow's Brook, Plaistow

**Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,757 Granting Approval of Franchise,
Acquisition of Assets, and Application of Existing Permanent Rates**

January 16, 2015

In Order *Nisi* No. 25,757, the Commission approved a petition by Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC), to expand its franchise in Plaistow, New Hampshire, and provide service to residents of Snow's Brook Elderly Community (Snow's Brook). The Commission also approved HAWC's request to acquire and finance the purchase of the Snow's Brook distribution system, and to apply its existing, consolidated rates to Snow's Brook customers. 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/2014/14-319.html>.

HAWC described the terms of its agreements with Hillcrest Estates, LLC (Hillcrest), related to the Snow's Brook development. These agreements define HAWC's and Hillcrest's undertakings including: HAWC's construction of the Snow's Brook water distribution system to serve thirty four customers, HAWC's payment to Hillcrest of \$34,000 in \$1,000 per-hook-up installments, Hillcrest's grant of water rights and easement deed, and Hillcrest's contribution to HAWC of the remaining portion of the system assets, with a value of \$342,000, as Contribution in Aid of Construction. HAWC also provided evidence of the Department of Environmental Services' (DES) approval the two Snow's Brook wells. HAWC proposed to charge the Snow's

Brook customers its existing consolidated rates. These include a \$10.00 base charge per month and a consumption charge of \$5.02 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed.

The Commission found HAWC's request to provide water service to customers in the Snow's Brook development consistent with the public good, as required by RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26. Also, the Commission found that HAWC satisfied the DES suitability and availability requirements for water systems under RSA 374:22, III. With regard to HAWC's proposed financing, the Commission found the intended use and terms to be reasonable and consistent with the public good, as required by RSA 369:1. In addition, the Commission found that HAWC's consolidated rates are just and reasonable for the Snow's Brook development and authorized HAWC to charge those rates to those customers, on a service-rendered basis as of the effective date of the order.

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 February 13, 2015. 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 February 2, 2015. Any party interested in responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than February 9, 2015. 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 February 13, 2015, unless the Commission orders otherwise.