

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 14-321

PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC.

Petition for Authority to Issue Long Term Debt

**Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,758 Approving Long Term Debt
and Granting Motion for Confidential Treatment**

January 21, 2015

In the Order *Nisi* No.25,758 the Commission approved a petition of Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. (PEU), under RSA 369:1, to take on long-term debt in the form of a \$510,000 loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), to fund investments in long-term capital assets used by PEU in service to customers. The Commission also granted PEU's motion for confidential treatment.

On November 17, 2014, PEU filed a petition seeking authority a proposed SRF loan of \$510,000, to fund its water-main replacement project in the company's W&E Community Water System in Windham, New Hampshire. With those funds, PEU will replace approximately 8,800 linear feet of substandard 2-inch polyethylene pipe. PEU's motion for confidential treatment sought protection of certain confidential bid information included in testimony filed with the petition. The filing and other docket filings, except for 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/2014/14-321.html>**.

The proposed SRF debt will supplement the \$550,000 SRF loan that the Commission approved last year in DW 14-020. *Pennichuck East Utility, Inc.*, Order No. 25,650

(April 15, 2014). The terms of the proposed debt are identical to the terms of the debt approved in DW 14-020 except for the amount borrowed. Combining both loans, PEU will borrow a total of \$1,060,000 at an interest rate of 2.72%, for a term of 20 years. Staff supported the proposed long-term debt as well as PEU's motion for confidential treatment.

The Commission determined that the bidding information filed by PEU constitutes "confidential, commercial, or financial information," and that the request for protection from public disclosure is consistent with the New Hampshire Right-to-Know law, RSA 91-A:5, IV. Accordingly, the Commission granted PEU's motion for confidential treatment.

Under RSA 369:1, the Commission granted approval of PEU's long-term debt as proposed in the company's petition. As required, the Commission found the terms and uses of the debt to be reasonable, prudent and consistent with the public good. The Commission's approval of the petition is conditioned upon the final terms not being substantially different from those proposed in PEU's filing. If any terms vary significantly, PEU will be required to seek additional Commission approval.

To ensure that all interested persons receive notice of this docket and have an opportunity to request a hearing, the Commission delayed the effectiveness of its approval until February 20, 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 6, 2015. Any party interested in responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than February 13, 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 20, 2015, unless the Commission orders otherwise.