

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 16-828

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

**Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment (WICA)
2017 Surcharge and Project Approvals**

**Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,977
Granting Petition**

January 13, 2017

In an order *nisi* issued today, we granted the relief requested in the petition of Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc. (Aquarion), which includes approval of a 2017 WICA surcharge of 5.69 percent, approval of Aquarion's 2017 WICA projects, and preliminary approval of that company's 2018 projects. 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/2016/16-828.html>. The order was issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested parties receive notice of the Commission's determination and have the opportunity to request a hearing prior to the effective date of the order.

Aquarion is a regulated public utility as defined by RSA 362:2 and 362:4 and provides water service to approximately 9,000 customers in the Towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye. In DW 08-098, the Commission approved a pilot Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment (WICA) program, intended to accelerate the replacement of aging infrastructure and to allow Aquarion to recover through a surcharge on customer bills, between distribution rate cases, the fixed costs of non-revenue producing capital improvements completed and placed in service to customers.

In the order *nisi*, the Commission found the 2016 projects prudent, used and useful, and approved a surcharge of 5.69 percent as just and reasonable, for effect for service rendered on and after January 1, 2017. The approval is estimated to result in a total WICA surcharge of \$2.42 on the monthly bills of Aquarion's average, single family residential customer, based on an average usage of 5.94 hundred cubic feet per month. This results in an estimated monthly increase of \$0.72 in the average WICA surcharge over that for 2016. The Commission approved the projects Aquarion proposed for 2017, and gave preliminary approval for the projects proposed for 2018. Last, the Commission directed Aquarion to calculate and file its 2016 achieved rate of return and achieved rate on equity for Commission review.

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 January 27, 2017. 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 January 23, 2017. Any party interested in responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than January 26, 2017. 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 January 27, 2017, unless the Commission orders otherwise.