CHAIRMAN Martin P. Honigberg

COMMISSIONERS Kathryn M. Bailey Michael S. Giaimo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Debra A. Howland

## **STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

November 20, 2018

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website: www.puc.nh.gov

RE: DW 18-128, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. Petition for Emergency Service, Temporary Franchise, and Approval of Contract and Application of Existing Rates Extension of Deadline

To the Parties:

On November 15, 2018, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC or the Company), filed a motion to extend the special contract providing emergency water service to Tisdale Trailer Park (Tisdale) in Salem. HAWC and Tisdale entered into the contract due to E. coli contamination in Tisdale's water supply. The Commission previously approved HAWC's bulk water service agreement with Tisdale until November 1, 2018, the deadline for Tisdale's owner to decide if the wells were fit for rehabilitation. *Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.*, Order No. 26,174 (September 14, 2018). Tisdale's owner notified HAWC that rehabilitation efforts were unsuccessful and requested HAWC provide a permanent water service connection. HAWC is in the process of submitting a petition for franchise expansion to cover the Tisdale area. In the interim, HAWC motioned to extend the deadline, allowing HAWC to continue its provision of bulk water service to Tisdale pursuant to the terms of the special contract approved in Order No. 26,174.

On November 19, 2018, Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) filed a recommendation for Commission approval of HAWC's request. Staff requested that the deadline be extended to either the time the Commission issues an order on HAWC's forthcoming franchise expansion petition or April 30, 2019, whichever is sooner.

The Commission has determined that special circumstances still exist, requiring HAWC to provide an emergency connection to Tisdale, allowing Tisdale residents to have a potable water supply. The Commission also determined that, pursuant to RSA 378:18, the terms of the water supply contract are just and consistent with the public interest and has approved them. Given that the water supply is through a bulk contract on a temporary basis and anticipate a forthcoming filing by HAWC for a franchise expansion to the Tisdale area, the Commission decided that it did not need to waive the hearing requirements of RSAs 374:22 and :26 pursuant to RSA 378:9, as requested by HAWC in its motion.

The request for additional time is reasonable and will not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party. Accordingly, the Commission has granted the request. HAWC's water service agreement between itself and Tisdale is approved until April 30, 2019, or until an order is issued by the Commission on HAWC's forthcoming franchise expansion petition, whichever is sooner.

Sincerely,

July A. Woulad

Debra A. Howland **Executive Director** 

Service List (Electronically) CC: