

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DW 16-806
PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC.
Petition for Change in Rates

ASSENTED TO MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Staff submits this Assented to Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule and in support thereof states as follows:

1. Staff, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc., (PWW) and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), collectively, (the Parties) previously met in a technical session on November 21, 2016 at the commencement of this rate case to establish a procedural schedule for the remainder of the proceeding.
2. Staff filed the proposed procedural schedule agreed to by the Parties on December 5, 2016. The Commission adopted the procedural schedule on December 13, 2016.
3. During this proceeding, the Parties have reached an agreement on temporary rates and filed a settlement agreement with the Commission. The settlement agreement on temporary rates was approved by the Commission in Order No. 25,990 on February 17, 2017. Since that time, the Parties have continued to exchange discovery and conducted several face-to-face meetings. The Parties have reached a critical stage of the case and believe that settlement is a significant possibility, but need additional time to finalize their negotiations.

4. The procedural schedule calls for Staff and OCA testimony to be submitted by April 27 with ensuing data requests to Staff and OCA to be delivered by May 11. Rebuttal testimony is due to be filed by PWW on June 29 or the Parties must submit a settlement agreement. A hearing on the merits has been scheduled for July 25-26.
5. The Parties have had meaningful and productive discussions and are scheduled to continue to do so. Staff requests that the procedural schedule be temporarily suspended so that negotiations can continue without the need for Staff and the OCA to file testimony at this time or engage in further discovery by PWW. The Commission has granted requests to suspend the procedural schedule where the parties have announced that a settlement agreement was pending. *Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.*, Order No. 25,214 (April 26, 2011).
6. Staff will promptly notify the Commission immediately of any other changes that are needed to the procedural schedule in the event that negotiations are unsuccessful. The proposed final hearing dates set for July 25-26 should not be suspended as part of this request.
7. Staff, the Office of Consumer Advocate and PWW have reviewed this motion and assent to the relief requested.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Grant this Assented to Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule for the reasons stated therein; and
- B. Grant such other relief as is just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,
Commission Staff

Date: 4/26/17

By:  _____

John S. Clifford, Esq.
Staff Attorney
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Ste. 10
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2431

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 26th day of April, 2017, I caused a copy of the foregoing to be delivered to Commission with service made electronically on all parties to the service list.

 _____
John S. Clifford

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

Executive Director@puc.nh.gov
amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov
brian.buckley@oca.nh.gov
carolann.howe@pennichuck.com
cgw@rathlaw.com
donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov
donald.ware@pennichuck.com
james.brennan@oca.nh.gov
jay.kerrigan@pennichuck.com
jayson.laflamme@puc.nh.gov
john.clifford@puc.nh.gov
larry.goodhue@pennichuck.com
mab@rathlaw.com
mark.naylor@puc.nh.gov
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
pradip.chattopadhyay@oca.nh.gov
robyn.descoteau@puc.nh.gov
rvh@rathlaw.com
steve.frink@puc.nh.gov
wfa@rathlaw.com

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.