

DW 03-161

CENTRAL WATER COMPANY, INC.

**Order Scheduling Prehearing Conference
and Suspending Proposed Tariffs**

O R D E R N O. 24,210

September 24, 2003

On August 25, 2003, Integrated Water Systems, Inc. filed on behalf of Central Water Company, Inc. (Central), with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) certain revised tariff pages. Integrated Water Systems, Inc. owns and operates Central. Locke Lake Colony Association is the predominant homeowners association for customers of Central. The proposed tariff changes would require Central's water customers to install meter pits with pad at a cost of \$767.00, if performed by Central. Central also proposed updated costs per foot estimates for the installation of 2, 4 and 6 inch pipe. These costs would be applied to all main extensions.

Prior to rendering a decision as to whether or not approving the proposed tariff pages would be in the public good it is necessary to investigate certain issues, inter alia, rates, fares and charges in accordance with RSA 374:2 and RSA 378; whether the revised pipe installation costs are just and reasonable; whether these upgrades are required to meet service standards pursuant to RSA 374:1; whether Central will require meter pits for all new and or existing customers; whether any

customers have been charged for the installation of meter pits prior to Commission approval of the proposed tariff; whether Central has required customers to install meter pits at their own expense prior to Commission approval of the proposed tariff; and the safety, integrity and reliability of the water system as a result of installing meter pits and whether the inclusion of meter pits for all customers would result in just and reasonable rates.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Central Water Company Inc.'s NHPUC NO. 1 Water, first revised pages 6, 13, and 14 be and hereby are suspended; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.05, be held before the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission located at 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire on October 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at which each party and Commission Staff will provide a preliminary summary of its positions with regard to the revised tariff pages; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Prehearing Conference may be tape recorded unless a party, at least 5 days in advance of the Prehearing Conference, requests a transcript, in which case the Commission shall order a stenographic record, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.05(d); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing

Conference, Central, Commission Staff, and Intervenors hold a technical Session to review the noticed issues; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, Central notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 3, 2003, in the *Concord Monitor* and the *Suncook News*, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 29, 2003, as well as written notification to the Locke Lake Colony Association, to any and all builders and contractors previously informed of a requirement to install meter pits in new properties in the Locke Lake Colony area, as well as any property owner in the Locke Colony area notified of, and/or charged for installation of a meter pit, by sending a copy of this notice by first class mail post marked no later than October 8, 2003; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Central and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 24, 2003, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.02 (a)(2); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 29, 2003.

By Order of the Public Utilities Commission of New

Hampshire this twenty-fourth day of September 2003.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary