

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DW 08-052**

**PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT CO.**

**Permanent and Temporary Rate Proceeding**

**Order Suspending Proposed Tariffs  
and  
Scheduling Prehearing Conference and Temporary Rate Hearing**

**ORDER NO. 24,857**

**May 23, 2008**

On May 2, 2008 Pittsfield Aqueduct Company (PAC) filed a petition for temporary rates and for an increase in permanent rates. PAC currently provides water service to approximately 650 customers in Pittsfield and to approximately 1,109 customers in what PAC refers to as its North Country systems: Birch Hill in Conway, Sunrise Estates in Middleton, and Locke Lake Colony in Barnstead. PAC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Pennichuck Corporation.

PAC seeks an overall increase in gross annual revenues of \$957,641. PAC requests separate rates for its Pittsfield customers and for its North Country customers, applying the revenue increase as follows: \$200,503 from general metered and fire protection customers in Pittsfield (a 44.01 percent increase) and \$757,138 from North Country customers (a 239.52 percent increase). PAC also requests a step increase in rates to its North Country customers to cover capital improvements planned for completion by November 2008. This proposed step increase would generate \$228,836 in additional revenues, which is a 72.39 percent increase.

The proposed rate increases would result in an increase of \$181.76 to the average annual residential bill for Pittsfield customers and an increase of \$682.72 to the average annual residential bill for North Country customers. If approved, the new average annual residential bill

would be, respectively, \$593.58 and \$1,159.92.

PAC requests temporary rates take effect on June 1, 2008 on a service-rendered basis, or the date of which customers are notified, whichever is sooner. PAC proposes a \$150,377 increase in revenues from customers in Pittsfield, which corresponds to a 33.01 percent temporary rate increase; and a \$567,854 increase in revenues from North Country customers, which corresponds to a 179.64 percent temporary rate increase.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: RSA 378 and the just and reasonableness of rates, fares, and charges; the recently filed cost of service report and any findings, allocations, and overall recommendations contained therein, RSA 378:27 and RSA 378:29 and the imposition of temporary rates and recoupment of the difference between temporary and permanent rates; RSA 378:28 and whether the calculation of rate base represents prudent investment in property that is used and useful; and the determination of a reasonable rate of return, including an appropriate capital structure. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at the party's own expense.

**Based on the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that Pittsfield Aqueduct Company, Inc.'s NHPUC NO. 5 WATER, Fifth Revised Page 38 pertaining to general metered service in Pittsfield; Fifth Revised Page 39 pertaining to municipal fire protection service in Pittsfield; Fifth Revised Page 40 pertaining to private fire protection service in Pittsfield; Fifth Revised Page 38 pertaining to permanent rates and the proposed step adjustment for general metered customers in PAC's North Country systems are hereby suspended in order to conduct a thorough investigation prior to rendering a final order in this proceeding; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, PAC, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow PAC to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, PAC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by mailing a copy of this order by first class mail to the town clerk of each town PAC provides water service in no later than June 13, 2008 ; by publishing a copy of this Order no later than June 13, 2008, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 16, 2008; and by mailing by first class mail a notice, drafted in consultation with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division, to all customers no later than June 13, 2008; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to PAC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 11, 2008, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said  
Objection on or before July 16, 2008.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-third day of  
May, 2008.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Graham J. Morrison  
Commissioner

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Clifton C. Below  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director and Secretary

Any individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Preferably, notification of the need for assistance should be made one week before the scheduled event.