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May 2, 2023

Mr. Daniel C. Goldner  
Chairman  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**Re: Docket No. DE 23-009  
Squam River Hydro, LLC  
Preliminary Response to Petition**

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Enclosed please find the Town of Ashland's preliminary response to the petition of Squam River Hydro, LLC, ("Squam River") asking the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC" or "Commission") to reconnect Squam River's hydropower facilities and compensate it for certain alleged costs. This response is filed pursuant to the Commission's March 31, 2023 Order of Notice and Puc 203.15, in particular, 203.15 (d) (1), which provides that at the initial prehearing conference, scheduled for May 18, 2022, the Commission shall consider, among other things, statements of preliminary, non-binding positions. The Town of Ashland's preliminary response is structured in the nature of an answer that would be filed in a civil matter.

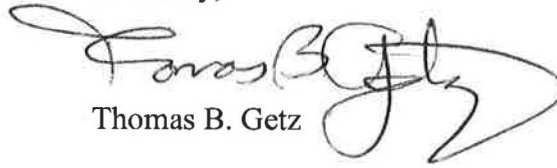
In summary, the Town of Ashland's preliminary position is that the Commission lacks jurisdiction over Squam River's claims and that the Town of Ashland's obligations under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act ("PURPA"), if any, are matters for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Town of Ashland believes that the issue of jurisdiction should be addressed as a threshold matter through the filing of briefs. As provided in the Order of Notice, Ashland will confer with Squam River and the Department of Energy prior to the prehearing conference regarding a proposed procedural schedule.

This response is filed electronically only consistent with the Commission's March 17, 2020 suspension of the requirement to file paper copies. Copies have been provided to the Office of Consumer Advocate and the service list.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May 2, 2023  
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas B. Getz', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Thomas B. Getz

Cc: Service List