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February 29, 2008

## <u>VIA E-MAIL TRANSMISSION</u> CONFIRMING COPY VIA U.S. MAIL

Debra A. Howland Executive Director and Secretary NH Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket #DW 04-048

City of Nashua's Petition for Valuation Pursuant to RSA 38:9

Dear Ms. Howland:

This will respond to Marcia Thunberg's letter of February 22, 2008, on behalf of staff in response to the joint motion for approval of a Water Supply and Indemnity Agreement (the "Agreement") filed by the Town of Milford and the City of Nashua on February 21, 2008.

As we understand it, staff raises three main issues: (1) whether the Commission has jurisdiction to enforce the Agreement; (2) whether Milford and Nashua seek to reopen the evidentiary record; and (3) whether Milford's position, as set forth in its brief and reply has changed. We address each of these issues in turn.

The joint motion does not require the Commission to decide whether it has jurisdiction to enforce the Agreement. Rather, Milford and Nashua have simply asked the Commission to approve the Agreement pursuant to RSA 38:11 and :17 as a condition of any approval of Nashua's petition.

Nothing in the joint motion suggests that Milford or Nashua wish to reopen the evidentiary record. The Agreement resolves some of the issues in dispute between Nashua and Milford in this docket. The joint motion notifies the Commission of the resolution of these



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issues and in that respect is consistent with the objectives of Puc 203.20(f). To suggest that the Commission should not be informed when parties have resolved some of their differences is to argue that the Commission must decide an issue once the record is closed even if that issue has been mooted.

Finally, we believe that the state of the record is clear with respect to Milford's position in this docket. The Commission has received Milford's prefiled testimony, heard Milford's cross-examination of the Nashua panel, heard Chairman Daniels's testimony, and received Milford's post-hearing submissions. The Agreement resolves certain clearly identified issues, and its provisions speak for themselves. Beyond that, nothing was intended and nothing should be inferred regarding Milford's position.

Very truly yours,

Bryan K. Gould, Esq.

Byzu K. Goerld

BKG:bmb

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