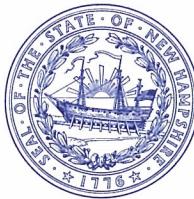


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

October 14, 2008

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
N.H. Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429



Re: DW 08-088 Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.
Staff Recommendation on Company's Motion to Amend Petition

Dear Ms. Howland:

On October 6, 2008, Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. (HAWC) filed a motion to amend its petition to request authority to impose rates in the franchise area it seeks. Staff has reviewed this motion and does not object to HAWC's request. HAWC's request is similar to past dockets, such as Docket No. 07-133 and Docket No. DW 07-133, wherein essentially the same requests as the instant docket were made: approval to expand franchise, install or acquire assets to effectuate service in the new franchise area, financing approval, and authority to impose rates. Since the Commission has been amenable to considering these multiple issues in a single docket, Staff does not consider HAWC's instant motion to be unreasonable.

Additionally, on the issue of should customers be re-noticed due to this amendment, Staff believes the present notice is sufficient. The order of notice already noted that RSA 378:3, pertaining to rate changes, was an issue to be addressed in this docket. Pursuant to RSA 378:14, no utility shall provide free service to customers. HAWC has tariff schedules on file with the Commission which identify the consolidated rates HAWC applies throughout its franchise. These rates are applicable irrespective of individual franchise expansions. Thus, Staff believes the notice adequately notices the public that rates for the new franchise area will be an issue in this docket and that additional notice is not necessary.

Staff recommends the Commission grant HAWC's motion in its final order in this docket. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Marcia A. B. Thunberg
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

cc: Service List