BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 08-088

Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.

OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF FILING DEADLINE FOR TESTIMONY

- The procedural schedule in this proceeding requires the filing of testimony or a settlement agreement by the end of the day tomorrow. <u>See</u> Secretarial Letter of Debra A. Howland to the parties dated September 22, 2008.
- 2. The OCA received a proposed settlement agreement from the Company yesterday afternoon.
- 3. The OCA would like to respond to the settlement agreement, but it is concerned that doing so will leave it with insufficient time to finish its testimony if the parties are not able to reach a settlement.
- 4. The OCA seeks an extension of the deadline for filing its testimony until the end of the day Thursday, October 30.
- 5. Puc 202.04 (a) requires a party to request an extension of a deadline "before the expiration of the period originally prescribed."
- 6. The PUC shall grant a request for an extension of time if "(1) The party making the request has demonstrated that circumstances would cause undue hardship or inconvenience unless the request were granted; and (2) The extension would not unduly delay the proceeding or adversely affect the rights of any party." Puc 202.04 (c).
- 7. The OCA will experience undue hardship and inconvenience if the deadline for the filing of testimony is not extended. Without an extension, the OCA will not have sufficient time to respond to the settlement agreement and finish its testimony before the end of the day today.

- 8. Given the brief nature of the requested extension, the proceeding will not unduly delay the proceeding and the rights of the Staff and the Company will not be adversely affected.
- 9. Prior to the filing of this motion, the OCA made a good faith attempt to gain the consent of the other parties for the extension. *See* Puc 202.04(b). Staff and the Company do not oppose the OCA's request for an extension. The OCA emailed Ms. Grant and Mr. Wolters this morning and yesterday afternoon, respectively, but did not hear back from either one. The OCA did not contact the representative for the Town of Atkinson, as the Town's petition to intervene has not yet been granted by the Commission.

Wherefore, the OCA respectfully requests that the Commission extend the filing deadline for testimony until the close of business October 30, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Rorie E.P. Hollenberg

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing motion was forwarded this day to the parties by electronic mail.

October 22, 2008

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