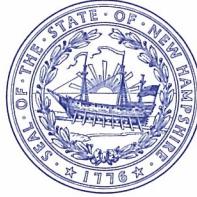


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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AND SECRETARY  
Debra A. Howland



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November 20, 2008

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit St., Ste. 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DW 08-098 – Aquarion Water Company, Inc.  
Proposed Procedural Schedule for Permanent Rate Proceeding



Dear Ms. Howland:

Staff, Aquarion, Office of the Consumer Advocate, Town of North Hampton, North Hampton Water Commission, and Robert Cushing met in a technical session on November 5, 2008 and, with the exception of the Town of Hampton, developed the below procedural schedule for the Commission to consider and approve. The Town of Hampton has indicated that it would agree to the procedural schedule and effective dates for temporary rates if Aquarion would agree to a certain, lower, temporary rate figure. Notwithstanding that, Staff and the parties have agreed to conduct discovery electronically, to the extent practicable, to minimize mailing paper. Staff and the parties will also provide copies of filings with the Commission to the service list electronically, again, to the extent practicable. With respect to discovery deadlines, it is the intent of Staff and the parties to use the close of business as the deadline for distributing discovery on the date specified.

As you see below in the temporary rate phase, there is a deadline for the company to respond to permanent rate requests. This deadline has been added to accommodate the need for some parties to identify their questions as they arise, regardless of whether they pertain to temporary rate issues or permanent rate issues, and to provide the company more time to respond to these expanded requests.

With respect to the evening public comment hearing that the Hearing Examiner stated the Commission intends to schedule, the intervenors request that the hearing take place earlier in the schedule, rather than later.

With respect to the settlement sessions noted below, Staff and the parties reserve the right to hold or cancel the settlement discussions at other times without seeking Commission approval. If settlement discussions listed on the procedural schedule are to be cancelled or rescheduled, we will inform the Commission of the change but not seek the Commission's approval.

**Temporary Rate Phase**

Data Requests to Company, Set 1	12/10/08
Responses from Company to temp. rate requests	12/31/08
Responses from Company to perm. rate requests	1/9/09
Hearing on Temporary Rates @ 10:00 AM	1/13/09

**Permanent Rate Phase**

Data Requests to Company, Set 2	3/5/09
Responses from Company	3/26/09
Data Requests to Company, Set 3	4/9/09
Responses from Company	4/30/09
Technical Session @ 9:00 AM	5/14/09
Staff/Intervenor Testimony	6/9/09
Technical Session/Settlement Conference, 9:00 AM	6/16/09
Data Requests to Staff/Intervenors	6/19/09
Responses to Data Requests	7/1/09
File Settlement or Rebuttal Testimony	7/9/09
Hearing 10:00 AM	7/14/09, 7/15/09

In addition, Staff and the parties are discussing a potential settlement regarding temporary rates and are optimistic regarding the potential for agreement on the level of those rates. In recognition of Aquarion's agreement to the foregoing schedule, Staff and certain parties have agreed that temporary rates should be effective on a service rendered basis as of December 15, 2008. For the period from December 15, 2008 through February 1, 2009 temporary rates, would be deemed to be the same as the rates currently in effect. The proposed level of temporary rates in effect beginning February 1, 2009 is still the subject of discussion among the parties and Staff. If agreement is reached on this issue, a stipulation will be submitted in advance of the hearing on temporary rates scheduled for January 13, 2009. As noted above, the Town of Hampton is not in agreement with the above effective dates for temporary rates in the absence of an agreement on temporary rate.

Consistent with past practice, the Staff and the parties recognize that the difference between the permanent rates approved by the Commission at the conclusion of the case and the temporary rates in effect at various times during the case would be deferred for collection through a surcharge to be implemented at the conclusion of this proceeding.

DW 08-098 – Aquarion Water Company, Inc.  
Proposed Procedural Schedule  
November 20, 2008

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this proposed procedural schedule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia A.B. Thunberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marcia A.B. Thunberg  
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner

cc: Service List

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Docket #: 08-098      Printed: November 20, 2008

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BULK MATERIALS:

Upon request, Staff may waive receipt of some of its multiple copies of bulk materials filed as data responses. Staff cannot waive other parties' right to receive bulk materials.

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