

McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton Professional Association

100 Market Street, Suite 301 | Portsmouth, NH 03802 Tel: 603.436.2818 | www.mclane.com

SARAH B. KNOWLTON Direct Dial: (603) 334-6928 Email: sarah.knowlton@mclane.com Licensed in MA, ME and NH

October 27, 2009



OFFICES IN: MANCHESTER

CONCORD

PORTSMOUTH WOBURN, MA

**By Hand Delivery** 

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

> Re: DW 09-134 –Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. – Petition for Authority to Issue Long Term Debt

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am in writing in follow up to the Office of Consumer Advocate's ("OCA") October 15, 2009 letter to the Commission in the above-captioned docket. While the Company had received a prior draft of the letter from the OCA, the Company was unaware that the October 15 letter had been filed as it did not receive a copy. The Company has just become aware that the letter was filed and thus is now responding.

As set forth in the Company's petition and testimony, the Company believes that the proposed financing is in the public interest, particularly given current interest rates which are quite favorable. The predominant purpose of the financing is to re-finance debt that matures December 31, 2009. The Company is concerned that any delay in the financing that would preclude the Company from meeting the December 31 maturity date could result in increased debt costs. This would not be to the benefit of customers. The Company requests that the Commission proceed with the issuance of an order nisi approving its request. The Company does not believe that there is a legal entitlement to a hearing pursuant to RSA 369:1, or that a hearing is necessary in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours, Sarah B. Knowlton

cc: Service List (by electronic mail) PUC Librarian (by electronic mail) Thomas C. Leonard