STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 14-075

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Verified Petition to Credit Customers for Benefit Arising from Change in Tax Regulations

Order *Nisi* Affirming Approval of Three-Year Amortization Period and Motion for Protective Order

ORDER NO. 25,761

February 6, 2015

In this Order *nisi*, the Commission affirms its approval of Aquarion's proposal to amortize a previously-approved, deferred liability as a credit to customers over a period of three years, and its grant of Aquarion's motion for protective treatment of confidential information filed in support of the proposal. This order *nisi* is necessary due to the prior order nisi failing to take effect, because Aquarion failed to satisfy the publication requirement provided in the prior order. The order is being issued on a *nisi* basis to ensure that all interested persons receive notice of the Commission's determination and have the opportunity to request a hearing prior to the order taking effect.

On January 12, 2015, the Commission issued Order *nisi* No. 25,750, approving Aquarion's proposed credit amortization schedule and motion for protective treatment. The Commission set an effective date of January 26, for service rendered on or after January 1, with several conditions precedent. As relevant here, one condition required Aquarion to publish a summary of the order *nisi* "once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted," by January 16, 2015.

On February 3, 2015, Commission Staff (Staff) notified the Commission that Aquarion had not fulfilled that condition. Consequently, the notice and opportunity to be heard, which the *nisi* process affords, was not provided to the public. As a result of Aquarion's failure to timely publish, Order *nisi* No. 25,750, by its terms, did not take effect. In this order, the Commission affirms, and incorporates by reference, Order *nisi* No. 25,750, which can be found on the Commission's website at

http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Orders/2015orders/25750w.pdf.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that Aquarion's request to amortize a previously-approved tax benefit to customers over a three-year period beginning for service rendered on or after January 1, 2015, is hereby APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Aquarion shall file properly annotated tariff pages in compliance with this order no later than 15 days from the issuance date of this order, as required by N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 1603.

FURTHER ORDERED, that Aquarion's motion for protective order is GRANTED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Aquarion shall cause a summary of this Order *nisi* to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than February 16, 2015, and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before March 3, 2015; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which

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states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than February 23, 2015, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than March 2, 2015; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *nisi* shall be effective March 6, 2015, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixth day of February, 2015.

Martin P. Honigberg Chairman Robert R. Scott

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland Executive Director