

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NH-PUC 26FEB'19AM8:55

February 26, 2019

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

Re: DW 15-199 – Abenaki Water Company – Belmont Sewer (“Abenaki – Belmont”)
Staff Report of City of Laconia Sewer Billings

Dear Ms. Howland:

On February 12, 2019, Staff filed a letter recommending that the Commission approve a 6.30 percent increase in Abenaki – Belmont’s sewer rate resulting from an increase in the City of Laconia’s (Laconia) sewer charges. Staff also recommended that Abenaki – Belmont’s proposed rate increase should become effective as of the date of the Commission’s order approving the rate adjustment.

On February 14, 2019, Abenaki – Belmont filed a letter that was generally supportive of Staff’s recommendation with the exception of the proposed effective date of the rate increase. Abenaki – Belmont, instead, requested an effective date of December 1, 2018 which coincides with the date that Laconia’s rate increase ostensibly became effective. Abenaki – Belmont argued that Staff’s proposed effective date would cause it to incur three months of expense to Laconia which it would not be able to recover from its customers.

During the course of reviewing Abenaki – Belmont’s request for an effective date of December 1, 2018, the Commission asked Staff to determine 1) the billing cycle over which Laconia bills Abenaki – Belmont for sewer usage, ie, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, etc, and 2) whether Laconia bills Abenaki – Belmont “in arrears” or “in advance” for sewer usage. To answer these questions, Staff inquired of Krista Larson, Assistant Director of Laconia’s Department of Public Works. Ms. Larson stated that Abenaki – Belmont is billed quarterly in arrears by the City of Laconia for sewer usage. Therefore, the February 1, 2019 billing date indicated in Attachment B of Staff’s February 12, 2019 recommendation letter would reflect prior usage by Abenaki – Belmont for the three months from November 2018 through January 2019.

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February 26, 2019

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jayson P. Laflamme
Assistant Director, Gas-Water Division

cc: Service List

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 15-199-1 Printed: February 26, 2019

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**

DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**