

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 17-___

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Petition to Charge Seasonal Rates for Emergency Interconnection

NOW COMES, Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc. (“Aquarion”) and respectfully petitions the Commission for authority to charge seasonal rates for a temporary, emergency interconnection that will provide water service to the Wiggin Way Homeowners Association (“Wiggin Way”). In support of this request, Aquarion states as follows:

1. Aquarion is a regulated water utility providing water service in the towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye.
2. Wiggin Way Homeowners Association (“Wiggin Way”) operates a public water system (“Water System”) in Stratham that is fully built-out and serves 43 residences on Balsam Way, Christie Lane, Wiggin Way, and Winterberry Lane. This area directly abuts Aquarion’s service territory in North Hampton. See Attachment A, Site Locus.
3. Wiggin Way’s water sources include three bedrock wells, however, in recent years, Wiggin Way’s wells have experienced chronic production and arsenic problems.
4. On March 29, 2017, pursuant to its authority under RSA 485:4, II and RSA 485:58, the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) issued Administrative Order No. 17-006 WD and ordered Aquarion to interconnect with Wiggin Way. See Attachment B, NHDES Administrative Order.

5. The relevant provisions of the NHDES Administrative Order are:
- a. Aquarion is to “immediately seek PUC approval to allow the temporary connection of the Water System to its water distribution system on an emergency basis.”
 - b. Wiggin Way is to “immediately connect the Water System to the Aquarion water distribution system on a temporary emergency basis and Aquarion shall allow the temporary interconnection per RSA 485:4, II.”

6. Aquarion seeks to temporarily interconnect with Wiggin Way on Winterberry Lane in North Hampton at the North Hampton-Stratham town line to provide emergency water service to Wiggin Way. Aquarion proposes to install a 2-inch high-density polyethylene pipe and a 2-inch meter at this interconnection point. Aquarion will construct the temporary interconnection pursuant to applicable industry standards and specifications. Water supplied through this interconnection will allow Wiggin Way to provide water service through its distribution system to its member residents.

7. The proposed interconnection will be within Aquarion’s existing franchise territory. This interconnection is similar to Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.’s (“PWW”) service to the Tyngsborough Water District (“TWD”) prior to its Special Contract with TWD. That service was through an interconnection point and meter located within PWW’s franchise in Nashua. See *Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.*, Order No. 23,212, in Docket No. DE 98-191 (May 10, 1999). Prior to the Special Contract, PWW charged TWD its general tariff rates.

8. Pursuant to Aquarion’s existing tariff, specifically Third Revised Page 13, it provides water service to customers who take water service for a period of less than four consecutive quarters at a rate of \$5.619 per 100 cubic feet of water and a Per Season meter

charge of \$1,873.05 for 2-inch meters. Aquarion seeks to charge Wiggin Way the seasonal rate because the proposed service is for less than four quarters and such service has traditionally been afforded a rate structure different than that charged long-term customers by Aquarion's past cost of service studies. Also, the exact nature of a permanent solution to Wiggin Way's water supply needs has not yet been determined which makes it difficult to propose an appropriate permanent rate on a temporary basis. Aquarion has other Miscellaneous Charges for connections and cross-connection testing which will also apply to the temporary, emergency interconnection. These are listed on First Revised Page 11 of Aquarion's tariff.

9. Aquarion proposes to charge the seasonal rate and any applicable Miscellaneous Charges to Wiggin Way through October 31, 2017 for the temporary, emergency water service. This deadline will alleviate concerns of freezing and will afford time to determine a permanent solution to Wiggin Way's water supply problems.

10. As stated in the testimony of Carl McMorran the water service to Wiggin Way is expected to draw 6,000 gallons per day on average. See Attachment C, Testimony of Carl McMorran at 5. This water usage is consistent with the use of Aquarion's average residential customer. This temporary interconnection is not expected to have an adverse impact on the water service to Aquarion's existing customer base. *Id.* See also, Attachment B, para. 82 (NHDES "has determined that Aquarion has adequate water supply and system capacity to serve the residents of the Wiggin Farm and Winterberry subdivisions without adversely affecting its existing customers.")

11. In Docket No. DW 16-804, Order No. 25,938, the Commission previously authorized Aquarion to charge Wiggin Way seasonal rates for service taken through a temporary,

emergency interconnection. In re-examining its tariff, Aquarion posits that its present tariff rates are applicable within its service territory and to the temporary interconnection and that no additional Commission approval is necessary. This position is also based on the Commission's past precedent such as PWW's service to TWD pursuant to its general tariff rates.

Notwithstanding this position, and in an effort to eliminate any question the towns of Hampton, North Hampton, and Rye, and the NHDES and North Hampton Water Commission may have as to Aquarion's authority to charge the seasonal rates for this interconnection, Aquarion seeks express Commission approval to charge Wiggin Way the above-described rates.

WHEREFORE, Aquarion respectfully requests that the Commission:

A. Authorize Aquarion to charge its seasonal rates and any applicable Miscellaneous Charges to Wiggin Way for service provided through the temporary interconnection in North Hampton from the date the interconnection is established through October 31, 2017;

B. Provide such other relief as is just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted:

AQUARION WATER COMPANY
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

By its Attorney,



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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 13th day of April, a copy of this status update and motion has been sent by electronic mail to the Office of the Consumer Advocate as well as the following municipal corporations within Aquarion's service territory: Town of Hampton, Town of North Hampton, North Hampton Water Commission, and Town of Rye. In addition, a copy of this motion has been sent by first class mail to the North Hampton Water Commission.



Marcia A. Brown, Esq.