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September 9, 2021

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman N.H. Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: Docket No. DW 20-080, Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. and Town of Salem Petition to Transfer Service Territory and Assets and to Commence Business Affidavit of Publication

Dear Chairwoman Martin:

As required by Order No. 26,509, issued August 16, 2021, in the above captioned-proceeding, please find an affidavit of publication filed on behalf of the Town of Salem ("Salem") and Pennichuck East Utility, Inc ("PEU"). As directed, the Order *Nisi* was published in a statewide newspaper of general circulation, viz, *The Union Leader*, and posted on the Salem and PEU websites, no later than August 26, 2021. Also, enclosed are screenshots from the Salem and PEU's websites.

Consistent with the Secretarial Letter dated March 17, 2020, suspending the requirement to file paper copies, the affidavit of publication is filed electronically only. Copies have been provided to the Office of Consumer Advocate and the service list.

Very truly yours,

Thomas B. Getz

TBG:smm Enclosures

FANTASY FOOTBALL

McCaffrey and other good options

By Neil Greenberg The Washington Post

Christian McCaffrey is the consensus No. 1 pick in fantasy leagues this season, and for good reason. The 25-year-old running back was a top-three performer at the position in 2018 and 2019 and likely would have reached those heights in 2020 had he not been limited to three games after suffering a high-ankle sprain and dealing with shoulder and thigh injuries.

Since entering the league in 2017, McCaffrey has averaged 1,825 yards from scrimmage and 14 total touchdowns per 16 games which, when added to his 100 receptions per 16 games, produces nearly 23 fantasy points per contest, nearly 14 more fantasy points than an average running back.

According to our wins above replacement metric, which attempts to predict how likely your fantasy team is to win a weekly

matchup based on a single player's performance, Mc-Caffrey is projected to lead the league with 9.8 WAR in 2021, almost three wins above replacement more than the next best running

Now that McCaffrey is "back to 100% (healtȟ)" and ready to roll, he's a slam-dunk choice for the top pick in your fantasy

But who should be No. 2? That depends on what you are looking for.

If you want the highestrated pick, one that won't earn snickers from the peanut gallery, go with Dalvin Cook. A plurality of fantasy drafters — 46%, according to thousands of mock drafts audited by Fantasy Football Calculator — are choosing Cook at No. 2 in 12-team, point-per-reception fantasy leagues. The Minnesota Vikings running back carried the ball a career-high 312 times for 1,557 yards and added 44 catches for 361

yards out of the backfield

last season. His 17 total touchdowns were also tied for the third-most behind Saints running back Alvin Kamara and Packers wideout Davante Adams.

Plus, Minnesota is projected to play one of the easiest schedules for running backs during the typical fantasy football regular season.

Here's is a ranking of the best players in the first round according to wins above replacement:

1. Christian McCaffrey (RB-CAR): 9.8 wins above replace-

2. Dalvin Cook (RB-MIN): 7.2 3. Alvin Kamara (RB-NO): 7.0 4. Ezekiel Elliott (RB-DAL): 7.0 5. Austin Ekeler (RB-LAC): 6.8 6. Derrick Henry (RB-TEN): 6.3 7. Davante Adams (WR-GB):

8. Travis Kelce (TE-KC): 5.9 9. Patrick Mahomes II (QB-KC):

10. Aaron Jones (RB-GB): 5.6 11. Stefon Diggs (WR-BUF): 5.6 12. Darren Waller (TE-LV): 5.6

from Manchester Water Works. Id. The Interconnection Agreement memorializes a joint public works program for the provision of water services pursuant to RSA Chapter 53-A. Id.

The interconnection project is divided into phases, with Phase I's funding comprised of funds from DES's Drinking Water and Drinking

ronmental Services (DES), ad-

dresses water contamination and

capacity issues within certain

Southern New Hampshire com-

munities, including Windham, by facilitating water transmission

Groundwater Trust Fund and the State of New Hampshire MtBE settlement funds. Petition at 36. 135. The Interconnection Agreement provides that, as a part of Phase I, Salem will construct, own, operate and maintain a 20-inch and 12-inch water transmission main, along Route 28 and Route 111, respectively, in Windham. The total projected cost of water main installation is \$14.9 million.

PEU's current franchise encompasses all of Windham. Windham does not own or operate its own public water system. Attachment to Petition at 125. The Interconnection Agreement states that PEU will surrender a portion of its Windham franchise rights to Salem in order for Salem to serve customers in Windham. Petition at 2-3. The franchise exchange directly affects 17 PEU customers who would then be served by Salem after the franchise approval. Id. The Petitioners indicated that PEU would remove its meters from those 17 customer locations, to be replaced by meters installed by Salem. Testimony, Donald L. Ware, at 131.

The Agreement identifies how to transmit water supply from Manchester Water Works (MWW) to meet domestic water demands in the towns of Windham, Salem, Atkinson, Hampstead and Plais-Two supply volumes from MWW form of this project; 1.0 million gallons a day (MGD) defined as Phase I flows and 3.13 MGD defined as Phase II flows. Attachment to Petition at 10-11. II. POSITIONS OF PARTIES

The Petitioners represented the franchise exchange is for the public good, pursuant to RSA374:30, in part, because it is a crucial component of a project that addresses water capacity and contamination issues in a timely and cost effective manner. Petition at 4, 137. In addition, PEU asserts that the franchise exchange is necessary for three additional reasons.

First, PEU stated that ownership of the franchise by Salem would have save ratepayers money by avoiding incurring unnecessary income tax expenses. Testimony of Donald L. Ware, at 129. If PEU were to accept the water mains after construction, the plant would be considered a contribution in aid of construction (CIAC) which PEU estimates would result in approximately \$5.1 million of income tax liability, increasing the project cost by approximately 34%. Id. According to PEU's tariff, may have to collect that money from DES. By transferring its franchise to Salem, and there-by allowing Salem to take owner-ship of the mains, PEU represented tax liability would be avoided as municipalities are not subject

to state or federal income tax. Second, PEU stated that if it than Salem, it would be subject to approximately \$400,000 in Town Windham and State of New Hampshire annual property taxes. Id. at 130. PEU estimated it would need to collect \$360,000 from the Towns of Plaistow and Salem, and the Hampstead Area Water Com-Inc., to cover that tax because PEU believes those entities are the primary beneficiaries of water transported through the mains. PEU stated that by transferring its franchise to Salem, and thereby allowing Salem to take ownership of the mains, the property tax liability concerns would be avoided as municipalities are not subject to local or state property tax, result-

ing in lower purchased water Third, PEU stated the franchise exchange would have additional benefits to the Company and its customers. PEU currently serves a portion of an area near Route 111, which is contaminated by MtBE, but the PEU wells providing water are at maximum capacity and cannot provide additional water to serve the entire area contaminated by MtBE. The addition of a 12-inch main to that area will provide safe drinking water and allow further development. Id. PEU also stated that the franchise exchange would benefit the Company by reducing the water demand on its burdened system by approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons per day. Id. at 131. PEU represents the franchise transfer would also reduce PEU's existing property tax liability. PEU also represented the assets to be transferred to Salem (1,400 feet of eight-inch water main, 17 water services and two hydrants) have no value for ratemaking purposes because the property was all CIAC. PEU represented that the transfer will not result in any disadvantages to its current customers. Id. at 132. PEU asserts the franchise exchange is for the public good because it is crucial to a project seeking to resolve water capacity and contamination issues effectively. Thus capacity and contamination issues are a primary ver of the project.

B. Town of Salem Salem asserted it possesses

financial, managerial and technical expertise to furnish water service to Windham as required by RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26.

1. Financial Salem stated it has operated a municipal water utility since 1905, when the Town purchased the private Salem Water Works Company. Salem represented that the Water Fund's unrestricted fund balance is currently \$2.1 million dollars which represents 51% of the water fund's operating budget. Salem represented it annually

reviews the rates to ensure that

the fund remains fiscally stable. Salem asserts over ten million dollars of capital improvements have been approved by Salem voters in the past five including securing water rights through purchases of Merrimack Source Development rights from Manchester Water Works. Annual revenues for the water system in 2018 were approximately \$3.6 million and capital investment in that year amounted to approximately \$2.4 million.

2. Managerial Salem represented its Utilities Division has twelve full-time employees and provides water service to over 7,700 homes and businesses in Salem, distributing on average over 2.3 million gallons of drinking water per day. Salem asserts it uses two reservoirs for drinking water; Canobie Lake from the months of May through October, and Arlington Pond from October through May. 3. Technical

Salem represents it has significant technical experience resulting from operating its water system that comprises over 140 miles of water main, including 1,750 valves and 932 hydrants. 4. <u>Tariffs</u>

The Petitioners represented PEU customers in Windham pay \$7.51 per 100 Cubic Feet under charge Windham residents rates 15% above the rates charged to Salem residents (currently, \$3.65 per 100 Cubic Feet), that is, \$4.20 per 100 Cubic Feet. As a result of these proposed rates, Salem claims it should not be considered a public utility, pursuant to RSA 362:4, III-a (a)(1), and should thus remain unregulated by the Commission. Id. 3-4,

As part of Department of Energy Staff (Energy) discovery, the Petitioners represented Salem and PEU may enter into a wholesale water contract with Salem. Salem represented municipal approval has not yet been obtained for such a contract.

C. DES

DES confirmed "the subject public water system meets the suitability and availability criteria" of RSA 374:22, III. Petition at 140. DES further stated that it supported the franchise exchange as it is in the public good and in the best interests of both PEU's and Salem's customers, allowing both to continue to provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. **D. Windham**

Windham also supported the Petition, including the franchise transfer from PEU to Salem and Salem's provision of water service to Windham residents.

E. Energy

Energy recommended the Commission approve the franchise and asset transfer from PEU to Salem, and recommended the Commission grant Salem permission to provide water service in the proposed franchise area of Windham. Energy, however, recommended that the Commission's approval of exemption from Commission regulation be temporary.
Energy asked the Commission

to direct the Petitioners to submit the wholesale water agreement once it is approved and finalized by all parties. Energy, also, recommended the Commission direct the Petitioners to file monthly updates regarding the status of the whole sale contract. Energy requested that the monthly report provide ers added each month, and served by Salem, are not charged a rate 15% greater than its municipal customers. If Salem indicates otherwise, Energy recommended that the Commission hold a hearing as soon as possible to determine why Salem should remain exempt from pursuant to regulation, 362:4, III-a(b). Energy further recommended that the Commis-sion include a definitive time period for its temporary approval, not to exceed one year from the date of its initial order, at the end of which, if the wholesale contract is not finalized, or abandoned by the Petitioners, the Commission may hold a hearing to determine whether or not Salem should be

A. Transfer of PEU Fran-

considered a regulated utility. **III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS** chise and Assets to Salem "Any public utility may transfer or lease its franchise, works, or system...when the shall find that it will be for the public good and shall make an order assenting thereto, but not otherwise." RSA 374:30. The record supports finding the transfer is for the public good for several reasons. First, transfer of the franchise and assets to Salem will avoid incurring unnecessary income tax and property tax expenses and thereby reduce costs passed on to ratepayers. Second, Salem's ability to provide clean drinking water to customers facing a possibly contaminated water supply, and the alleviation of PEU supply concerns in its existing franchise area, are benefits of the transfer for the public good. Third, the franchise exchange will enable interconnection project, per the Interconnection Agreement, to be completed. Fourth, PEU currently has a water capacity issue impacting its ability to serve a portion of an area near Route 111, which is contaminated by MtBE. The addition of a 12-inch main to that area will provide safe drinking water and allow further development. Id. In addition, the franchise exchange would benefit the Company by reducing the water demand on its burdened system by approximately 10,000 to 15,000 gallons per day. Finally, based on the Petition and supporting pre-filed testimony, PEU's transfer of franchise and assets to Salem will not result in any economic or detrimental impact on current PEU customers. As a result, we find the transfer of the franchise and assets to be for the public good, and approve the

r, pursuant to RSA 374:30. B. Salem's Provision of Water Service in Windham

Pursuant to RSA 374:22, "[n]o person or business entity shall commence business as a public utility within this state ... without first having obtained the permission and approval of the commission." The Commission will grant a request for franchise authority if it RSA 374:26. When determining whether a proposed franchise is for the public good, the Commission assesses, among other things the managerial, technical, and financial expertise of the petitioner. Hampstead Area Water ny, Inc., Order No. 26,301 at 4 (October 22, 2019). Under RSA 374:22, III, no water company shall obtain the permission or approval of the Commission to operate as a public utility without first satisfying any DES requirements concerning the suitability and availability of water. The record supports Salem's demonstrated managerial, technical, and financial expertise required to provide water service in the franchise area. Salem's has served its municipal water customers for more than a hundred years and has made numerous capital improvements to maintain that system. Further, Petitioners have provided the statement from DES verifying that Salem has suitable water available, pursuant to RSA 374:22, III. For all of these reasons, we find Salem's operation the additional franchise in Windham is for the public good, and therefore approve Salem's franchise expansion.

C. Salem's Exemption from Regulation as a Public Utility

to RSA 362:4, Pursuant III-a(a)(1), the Commission may exempt municipal corporations serving new customers outside their municipal boundaries from regulation, other than for franchise territory expansions, if they charge rates to outside customers that are no higher than 15% above rates charged to customers inside the municipal boundaries, and the Commission finds such exemption consistent with the public good. RSA 362:4, III-a(a)(2) further provides that municipal corporations furnishing water services shall not be considered a public utility if it supplies bulk water pursuant to a wholesale rate or contract to another municipality, village district, or water precinct. Salem has represented that it will not charge its new, non-municipal customers a rate more than 15% above the rates it charges its municipal customers. Based on that representation, we find that granting Salem exemption from public utility status, so long as it meets its commitment on rates, is for the public good. Accordingly, we grant the exemption.

D. Wholesale Contract for PEU to Purchase Water from Salem

The pending negotiations of a bulk water purchase by PEU were not discussed in the petition and testimony provided by PEU and Salem. Ĕnergy discussed the potential bulk sale in its recommendation, however, the contract's terms are not currently finalized or approved by either PEU or Salem. As a result, we cannot consider the wholesale contract in this order. We instruct the parties to report on the progress of this wholesale contract at six month intervals until the contract is either finalized and submitted for Commission approval, or aban-

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby
ORDERED NISI, that subject

to the effective date below, PEU's as described in this order and in the Petition is APPROVED, pursuant to RSA 374:30; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Salem's operation as a public utility in certain areas of the Town of Windham and Salem's provision of water service in those areas is **APPROVED,** pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Salem's exemption from regulation as a public utility, except for any franchise expansion, is **APROVED**, so long as its rates to outside customers are not more than 15 percent above its munici-

pal rates; and it is **FURTHER ORDERED,** that Salem and PEU shall report to the Commission in writing within six months of the effective date of this order, and each six months thereafter, on the status of the negotiations concerning PEU's bulk water

purchase from Salem; and it is FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this order to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general those portions of the state where operations are conducted and posted to its website, such publication and posting to be no later than August 26, 2021 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before September

13, 2021; and it is **FURTHER ORDERED,** that persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than September 2, 2021 for the Commission's consideration; and

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than September 9, 2021; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, this order shall be effective tember 16, 2021, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date;

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall file a compliance tariff with the Commission on or before October 6, 2021, in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b). All compliance tariff filings shall be annota

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixteenth day of August,

> Dianne Martin Chairwoman Daniel C. Goldner Commissioner

(UL - Aug. 20)

Tebow

linebacker.

'We knew that it was an uphill battle for Tim," Meyer said Tuesday. "Players loved him. Locker room loved him. But it was the right thing."

Meyer had been widely criticized for giving Tebow this opportunity. The criticism was nonsense. Why not give a shot to a player you knew and who had done amazing things for you? Those who thought Meyer was just going to hand Tebow a job were out of their mind.

Meyer is a terrific coach. His job is to build his best team and win games. He

part of the record of either

similar policy the next day.

Connecticut officials

and the state interscholas-

tic athletic association did

a neat thing the other day.

They trotted out some star

other student-athletes and

their families to get vacci-

nated. The message carries

• I'm not anywhere near

a press box, so I'm cheering

for the North Manchester

Dusted off the old "H" ball

• Thanks to readers who

Hooksett Little Leaguers.

cap and I'm wearing it

pointed out Goffstown

• Sunday, Oct. 3, is

looming as a lower-the-

blinds kind of sports day:

Steelers at 4:25 p.m. and

some respectable 1 p.m.

NFL games, too. It's also

the final day of the MLB

regular season and who

knows what might be on

home Tuesday for 12

straight home dates, six

with Binghamton and six

with Portland. However,

the Sea Dogs series is re-

ally an eight-game series

ers are mixed in there,

two games under .500

Portland.

because two doublehead-

including the completion

of a game suspended in the

fourth inning. New Hamp-

shire started play Thursday

(43-45) and 10 games off

Double-A has been

the season under a new

the pace of division leader

playing the second half of

restricted-shift rule, requir-

ing two infielders on each

their feet on the dirt when

a pitch is thrown. It's one of

many experiments by MLB,

The date is Saturday,

side of second base and

which now controls the

minor leagues.

• The Fisher Cats return

Pats vs. Tom Brady at night,

World Series in 2000.

preceded by Packers-

went to the Little League

proudly.

the line?

more weight coming from

peers, don't you think?

student-athletes to urge

The Pac-12 announced a

Notebook

couldn't have looked his other players in the eye if he had kept Tebow on the team. Players know better than anyone who deserves to make it and who

From Page B3

doesn't. Meyer said it was clear Tebow wasn't just overmatched at tight end. He wasn't going to be able to help on special teams.

Thankful for the highs and even the lows, the opportunities and the setbacks," Tebow wrote on Twitter. "I've never wanted to make decisions out of fear of failure and I'm grateful for the chance to

have pursued a dream ...

"We know that ... God works all things together for good. Romans 8:28."

A long career in broadcasting appears to be ahead for Tebow. He has spent the past six seasons working for ESPN and the SEC Network as a football analyst. He is very good

No one knows the game better. No one has experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in

sports quite like he has. "Elite warrior," Meyer called Tebow. "Elite competitor."

That is the way all of us should remember Tebow.

Legal Notice

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DW 20-080 PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, **Petition to Transfer Service Territory and Assets and** to Commence Business Order Nisi Approving Transfer of Service Territory and Assets and to

Commence Business

ORDERNO. 26.509 August 16, 2021 In this order, the Commission approves Pennichuck East Utility's (PEU) transfer to the Town of Salem (Salem) of a portion of its franchise, together with certain PEU assets located in the Town of Windham (Windham), grants Salem's request for permission to provide water service in that limited area of Windham, and grants Salem an exemption from public utility status and from Commission rate regulation for its proposed water service outside its

municipal boundaries.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

On May 21, 2020, PEU and Salem (together the Petitioners) filed a petition along with supporting pre-filed testimony (Petition). Petitioners requested the Commission approve the transfer of portions of PEU's service territoabutting Routes 28 and 111 in Windham along with certain assets to Salem pursuant to RSA 374:30 and RSA374:26. In addition, Salem asked the Commission for permission to commence business in the Town of Windham, pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 362:4, III-a. (a). The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at New Hampshire Public <u>Utilities Commission (nh.gov)</u>.

PEU is a regulated public utility serving water customers in the southeastern region of New Hampshire, and is a subsidiary of Pennichuck Corporation, which is owned by the City of Nashua. PEU's authority to provide water service in Windham stems from Southern New Hampshire Water Company, Order No. 17,597 (May 10, 1985). Salem and Windham are municipalities existing under New Hampshire law, RSA Chapter 31. Salem owns and operates a public water system providing service in Salem. PEU is a regulated water utility pursuant to RSA 362:2 and 362:4

According to the Petition, PEU and Salem, among other parties, are signatories to the Agreement Regarding the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project (Interconnection Agreement), Petition at Attachment A, approved by the New Hampshire Attorney General on April 22, 2019. Petition at 2. The Interconnection Agreement, developed in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Envi-

 Manchester's Siad Haji, 21, is still in the learning Earthquakes) career, but he did play 16 minutes and 6 minutes in consecutive

up for Granite Stater Zach Sanford, who agreed to a one-year contract (\$2 million) with the St. Louis Blues earlier this month. With the signing, the rugged forward avoided arbiat the close of the upcom-

So expect Sanford to go

 Think the Univerforward to the upcoming college hockey season? Four of the top five picks in the recent NHL draft are expected to enroll at total, went in the draft's first round.

• Rest in peace, Tony Esposito, Phil's little brother, one of the better goalies of Trophy and three Vezina Trophies, and brought the Chicago Black Hawks to the Stanley Cup Final twice before losing to the Canadiens both times ('71 and '73).

He did win an NCAA title at Michigan Tech, in 1966, under legendary coach John MacInnes. The Huskies blasted Boston College 8-2 in the final at Brown University's Meehan Auditorium.

• Thinking back to that Washington Post story we ran in late June about how lucky the Red Sox were. It was all based on sabermet-

Guess that luck ran out. cduffy@unionleader.com

Sept. 4, for Londonderry High grad Noelle Lambert's competition in the Tokyo Paralympics. Heats and finals the same day. Lambert will run the 100 meters in

the T63 division (abovethe-knee amputee). stages of his MLS (San Jose games in July. No points yet

this season. Huge season coming tration and will be eligible for unrestricted free agency

ing season. hard to the net. Very hard.

sity of Michigan is looking Michigan. Five Wolverines,

my youth. He won a Calder

UNION LEADER CORPORATION

PO BOX 9555 MANCHESTER, NH 03108

PUBLISHER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF New Hampshire ss: COUNTY OF Hillsborough

Personally appeared before the undersigned, a notary public within and for said county and State, SUSAN CARRIER publisher representative of the New Hampshire Union Leader, a newspaper published at Hillsborough County, State of New Hampshire who, being duly sworn, state on oath that the advertisement of:

MCLANE MIDDLETON PROFESSIONAL AS

(Name of Institution)

a true copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in said newspaper on the following dates: 08/20/2021,,,

Publisher Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day 08/20/2021

0

My commission expires: 02/07/2023

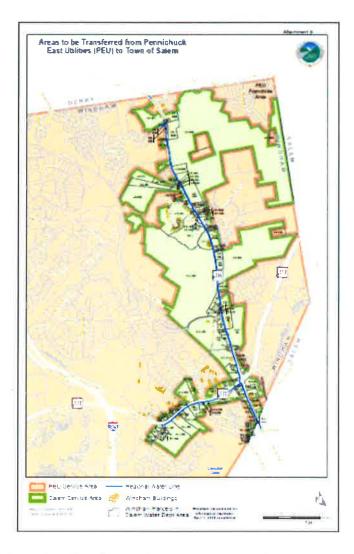
(Seal)



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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DW 20-080



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Attachment

Size

PUC Service Map Filing 541.4 KB

PUC DW 20-080

197.93 KB

Source URL: https://www.townofsalemnh.org/home/news/public-utilities-commission-dw-20-080

Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. and Town of Salem Petition

In this order, the Commission approves Pennichuck East Utility's (PEU) transfer to the Town of Salem (Salem) of a portion of its franchise, together with certain PEU assets located in the Town of Windham (Windham), grants Salem's request for permission to provide water service in that limited area of Windham, and grants Salem an exemption from public utility status and from Commission rate regulation for its proposed water service outside its municipal boundaries.