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January 25, 2023

By email (ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov)

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman NH Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. – DW 20-117

Step 1 - Settlement Agreement

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Order dated October 18, 2022, for this matter, enclosed please find for the Commission's consideration a *Settlement Agreement – Step I Rates* with attachments, entered into by The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., the New Hampshire Department of Energy, and the Town of Atkinson.

Ms. Karen Steele (intervenor) and the Town of Danville (intervenor) object to the Settlement Agreement, as both did for the Settlement Agreement on Permanent Rates. The Office of Consumer Advocate replied indicating it takes no position on the Settlement Agreement. At the time of the writing of this letter, the Town of Hampstead has not responded to The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc.'s request for comment. A copy of the proposed Settlement Agreement – Step I Rates was circulated to the parties the afternoon of January 20, 2023.

Consistent with the Commission's Temporary Changes in Filing Requirements (March 17, 2020) due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Company will not file any paper copies.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Anthony Augeri

Anthony Augeri, Esq. General Counsel

TA/ht enclosures

e cc: service list