

Abenaki Water Company and Aquarion Company

DW 21-090

Aquarion Water Company's Responses to BOW (VSE)—Set 1

Data Request Received: June 14, 2021
Request No.: BOW (VSE) 1-3

Date of Response: June 21, 2021
Witness: N. LaChance
D. Szabo

REQUEST: **BOW(VSE) 1-3:** In Exhibit 3 of the 20-112 rate case docket, it estimates \$125,000 in 2021 for tank relining, isolation valves and pressure reducing valves, \$30,000 in 2022 for arsenic, and \$0 in 2023 as SCADA was already installed.

- a. Are there any plans post 2022 to continue to invest back into the system post acquisition? If so, what are they? If not why not?
- b. Why is the arsenic issue not being addressed sooner? With the merger taking primary focus for both water parties, will the proposed timeline as stated in the notice to residents be able to be held to? What assurances as rate payers do we have of this?

RESPONSE:

- a. Abenaki will continue to invest prudently in the water system after 2022 to ensure adequate water supply and address existing issues with the water distribution system.
- b. The Arsenic issue is in the process of being addressed. Design plans have been submitted to the NHDES, and are currently under review. It is not possible to move up the timeline to construct the improvements earlier because the plans must be approved, the project put out to bid, a proposal selected, and then the equipment ordered. In particular, once the treatment vessels and media are ordered, there is a four to six-week lead time for delivery. Lead time and/or delay of the equipment delivery would likely be the cause of any delay, and is outside of Abenaki's control. In regards to the focus of the water companies on the acquisition, Abenaki and its consultant continue to move the project forward.