



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

October 25, 2021
Sent Via Electronic Mail

Dianne Martin, Chairwoman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301

Re: Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. - Petition for Emergency Temporary Rate
for Water Supply Provided to Merrimack Village District

Dear Chairwoman Martin:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports Pennichuck Water Work's (PWW) petition for an emergency temporary rate. Approval of the petition would allow the Merrimack Village District (MVD) to feasibly and immediately minimize or eliminate the use of wells that produce drinking water contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above NHDES' maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 12 parts-per-trillion. This would be accomplished by purchasing water from PWW that complies with NHDES' maximum contaminant level (MCL).

MVD provides drinking water to a significant portion of Merrimack and to a limited number of homes in housing developments in Bedford and Amherst. The actions proposed in the petition will protect the health of over 28,000 people in regions of Merrimack, Bedford and Amherst by significantly eliminating the exposure to drinking water that violates NHDES' MCL. Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, endocrine system, or immune system, may experience increased cholesterol levels, and may have an increased risk of getting certain types of cancer. It may also lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.

The emergency temporary rate was developed to ensure it will not affect the cost of water for existing PWW customers.

NHDES has determined the approach to providing safe drinking water to MVD described in the petition is the most appropriate action to address the contamination in the drinking water until MVD completes the construction filtration systems to remove the PFOA in drinking water obtained from its wells.

NHDES is available as needed to assist in expediting the review of this petition. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact either Brandon Kernen, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Administrator (Brandon.Kernen@des.nh.gov or 603-271-1168) or me (Robert.Scott@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2958).

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Office of the Consumer Advocate
Larry Goodhue, Pennichuck Water Works
Don Ware, Pennichuck Water Works
Merrimack Village District
Brandon Kernen, NHDES
Marcia A. Brown, NH Brown Law
Town of Merrimack
Town of Bedford
Town of Amherst