

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Daniel C. Goldner

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COMMISSIONER
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Tel. (603) 271-2431

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

February 1, 2024

James J. Steinkrauss
Rath, Pignatelli, and Young
One Capital Plaza
Concord, NH 03302

Re: Docket No. DW 23-013
2023 Petition for Qualified Capital Project Adjustment Charge
Tariff Pages: 4th rev pgs 50, 51, 52, 53
Tariff No. 1
Effective Date: December 30, 2023

Dear Mr. Steinkrauss:

Employees of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission have reviewed the tariff filing received on December 4, 2023, in the above-captioned proceeding and confirm compliance with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc chapter 1600. A copy of this letter is being entered into the docket and the tariff filing will be placed in our permanent file.

In accordance with the Secretarial letter issued March 17, 2020, this letter will be filed electronically only at this time. I have attached date-stamped copies of the filed tariff pages with the email to the service list and can send physical copies upon request.

Please e-mail me at tariffs@puc.nh.gov if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Ben Martin-McDonough*

Ben Martin-McDonough
Tariff Administrator

cc: Service List

Attachment B - PEU Draft QCPAC Tariff Language

NHPUC NO. 1 Water
PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC.

Fourth Revised Page 50
Superseding Third Revised Page 50

QUALIFIED CAPITAL PROJECT ADJUSTMENT CHARGE

In addition to the net charges provided for in this Tariff, a Qualified Capital Project Adjustment Charge ("QCPAC") surcharge of 6.31% will apply on a service rendered basis to all bills issued after September 25, 2023.

I. General Description

Purpose: To recover the fixed costs (1.1 times principal and interest plus property taxes) of Commission-approved capital expenditures needed to operate maintain, insure regulatory compliance and to replace aging infrastructure which were completed and placed in service and to be recorded in the individual accounts, as noted below, between base rate cases. In addition, QCPAC provides the Company with the resources to complete essential asset replacement for infrastructure for the purpose of improving or protecting water quality and the reliability of service and to comply with evolving regulatory requirements imposed by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

QCPAC Eligible Property will encompass all Assets acquired by the Company as part of its annual capital improvements plan. Any regulatory asset that is recovered through an amortization expense is not eligible for QCPAC treatment.

Computation of the QCPAC

The charge effective on a service rendered basis for all bills issued after September 25, 2023 and will be calculated to recover the fixed costs of eligible plant additions not previously reflected in the Company's rate base and placed in service between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022. Thereafter, the QCPAC will be updated on an annual basis to reflect eligible plant additions placed in service during the prior calendar year. Thus, changes in the QCPAC surcharge percentage will occur as follows:

<u>Effective Date of QCPAC Change</u>	<u>Date To Which QCPAC Eligible Plant Additions Reflected</u>
September 25, 2023	December 31, 2022

The QCPAC will be applied on a service rendered basis to all bills rendered after September 25, 2023. The QCPAC will be applied uniformly to all customer classes and charges with the exception that the QCPAC will not be applied against the North Country Capital Recovery Surcharge.

Issued: 12/4/2023
Effective: December 30, 2023

Issued by: Donald L. Ware
Name: Donald L. Ware
Title: Chief Operating Officer

Authorized by NHPUC Order No. 26,907 in Docket No. DW 23-013 dated November 30, 2023



The fixed costs of eligible infrastructure system improvement projects will consist of principal and interest payments and property taxes calculated as follows:

Principal and Interest: The principal and interest expense will be based on the annual principal and interest associated with the financings received the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services State Revolving Loan Fund and a term loan with CoBank, all of which were closed on before or on September 25, 2023 to pay for the QCPAC qualified projects that were completed and used and useful by December 31, 2022. The Principal and interest associated with these various financings will be multiplied by 1.1 to determine this portion of the QCPAC surcharge. The debt service revenues collected via the QCPAC surcharge shall be divided into two revenue streams with the revenues associated with 1.0 times the QCPAC principal and interest being part of the Company's Debt Service Revenue Requirement ("DSRR") and the revenues associated with 0.1 times the QCPAC principal and interest being part of the Company's 0.1 Debt Service Revenue Requirement ("0.1 DSRR").

Property Taxes: Incremental property taxes associated with the specific capital projects, as determined in the year of the granting of the QCPAC for such projects. The property tax expense will reflect an estimate of the tax expense for such projects based on the tax rate then in effect at the end of the year the QCP was used and useful times the final audited cost of the eligible QCP's.

QCPAC Surcharge Amount: The charge will be expressed as a percentage carried to two decimal places and will be applied to the effective portion of the total amount billed to each customer under the Company's otherwise applicable rates and charges.

The QCPAC Surcharge Amount approved by the Commission will be recouped back to the effective date of this tariff. The recoupment will be calculated based on actual charges incurred between the effective date of this tariff and the issued date of this tariff and shall be collected over three months commencing after the issuance date of this tariff.

Issued: 12/4/2023
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Formula: The formula for calculation of the QCPAC surcharge is as follows:

$$\text{QCPAC} = \frac{1.1 \times (\text{AP} + \text{AI}) + \text{PT}}{\text{BRWR}}$$

Where:

AP = the annual principal payments associated with the financings issued to fund QCPAC eligible projects that were used and useful before the end of the preceding year.

AI = the annual interest payments associated with the financings issued to fund QCPAC eligible projects that were used and useful before the end of the preceding year the pre-tax return rate applicable to eligible infrastructure system improvement projects.

PT = annual property taxes related to eligible infrastructure system improvement projects.

BRWR= base retail water revenues as approved by the Commission in the Company's last rate proceeding, DW 20-156, or a subsequent docket.

Annual updates: Supporting data for each annual update will be filed with the Commission and the Office of Consumer Advocate no later than February 15th of each year.

Audits: The QCPAC will be subject to audit prior to the determination by the Commission.

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New Base Rates: The QCPAC charge will be reset at zero as of the effective date of new base rates that provide for prospective recovery of the annual costs that had theretofore been recovered under the QCPAC. Thereafter, only the fixed costs of new eligible plant additions that have not previously been reflected in the Company's rate base would be reflected in the annual updates of the QCPAC.

Customer Notice: At least thirty (30) days in advance of a QCPAC filing, the Company will notify Customers of the filing by including an explanatory bill insert with the bills. Before sending, the Company will review the notice with the Commission's Consumer Services and External Affairs division. Customers shall also be notified of changes in the QCPAC by including appropriate information with the first bill they receive following any change.

Notice of Project Substitution: If, after the Company has received Commission approval for Year 1 QCPAC projects, because of changed circumstances or significant new information the Company plans to undertake projects in Year 1 that were not included on the list of approved QCPAC projects for that year or it has decided not to proceed with one or more projects that were included on the Commission-approved list, it shall notify the Commission and all parties to the proceeding in which the list of QCPAC projects was approved that the Company plans to add to or delete projects and the reason for the proposed changes, in accordance with the following schedule. The Company will submit updates for approved QCPAC projects for that year, based upon information known on a year-to-date basis, from the beginning of the year through the following effective dates, on the associated reporting dates:

Effective Date

Reporting Date

October 31

December 15

Issued: 12/4/2023
Effective: December 30, 2023

Issued by: Donald L. Ware
Name: Donald L. Ware
Title: Chief Operating Officer



ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
anthony.j.leone@energy.nh.gov
chris.countie@pennichuck.com
donald.ware@pennichuck.com
douglas.brogan@gmail.com
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
George.Torres@Pennichuck.com
jay.kerrigan@pennichuck.com
jayson.p.laflamme@energy.nh.gov
jjs@rathlaw.com
john.boisvert@pennichuck.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
smw@rathlaw.com
Suzanne.G.Amidon1@energy.nh.gov
wfa@rathlaw.com