06/13/16

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 16-619

LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY, INC.
DOCKHAM SHORES ESTATES WATER COMPANY, INC.

Petition to Transfer Utility Assets and Franchise and for Related Approvals

ORDER OF NOTICE

On May 31, 2016, Lakes Region Water Company, Inc. (Lakes Region) and Dockham Shores Estates Water Company, Inc. (Dockham Shores) (together, the Joint Petitioners) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition to transfer the utility assets and franchise from Dockham Shores to Lakes Region and for related approvals. Dockham Shores is a regulated public water utility serving approximately 60 customers in a limited area of the Town of Gilford. Lakes Region is a regulated public water utility serving approximately 1, 700 customers in 17 separate systems in central and northern New Hampshire.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2016/16-619.html.

The Joint Petitioners seek approval pursuant to RSA 374:22 & 30 to 1) transfer Dockham Shores' water utility assets and franchise located in Gilford to Lakes Region; 2) to discontinue Dockham Shores' public utility status pursuant to RSA 374:28 following the transfer; 3) authorize Lakes Region to borrow, pursuant to RSA 369, up to $135,000 to acquire and construct improvements in the Dockham Shores system; 4) authorize a future step adjustment to the water rates paid by Dockham Shores customers in an amount up to $6,620 to recover the actual costs of

construction of the anticipated capital improvements; and 5) authorize Lakes Region to modify the tariff of Dockham Shores in order to align the terms and conditions of service with Lakes Region's existing tariff.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the following: RSA 374:30 regarding the transfer of franchises and the proposed sale of Dockham Shores, the terms of the sale, and the purchase price to be paid; RSA 374:22 and Lakes Region's financial, managerial, and technical abilities and its request to operate as a utility in the franchise area of Dockham Shores; RSA 374:28 and Dockham Shores' request to cease operating as a utility; RSA 369:1 and Lakes Region's request for approval of long term financing; Lakes Region's request for approval of a future step adjustment to the existing rates in the Dockham Shores franchise, in order to recover the cost of anticipated improvements; and Lakes Region's request to modify the Dockham Shores tariff.

Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.15(d) shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Lakes Region, Dockham Shores, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical

Session to review the petition and to establish a procedural schedule for review of the petition; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Lakes Region and Dockham Shores shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by 1) publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 17, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 7, 2016, and 2) mailing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than June 22, 2016, to all current and prospective customers of Dockham Shores, as well as the Clerk of the Town of Gilford, by first class U.S. Mail, postmarked no later than June 24, 2016, and said mailing be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 5, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Lakes Region and Dockham Shores and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 5, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 7, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirteenth day of June, 2016.

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.