

Before the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

DW 24-105

City of Laconia
Petition to Extend Water Service Area

Department of Energy Data Requests - Set 1

November 6, 2024

DOE 1-1

Regarding the City of Laconia's (Laconia) current water tariff / rates:

- a) Please provide a copy of Laconia's current water tariff and rates.
RESPONSE: See attached tariff document (Attachment A)
- b) Will the tariff be updated to reflect the rates Laconia proposes to charge within the proposed franchise expansion area?
RESPONSE: The City of Laconia will comply with all applicable state statutes and regulations with regards to its tariff. The City's current tariff refers to a "Non-Laconia new" rate for non-Laconia accounts activated after January 1, 2004, and this is the rate the City intends to apply to the accounts in Belmont. The City has an existing separate tariff rate for Belmont that does not apply in this situation. If appropriate, the City would seek a revision to the tariff, specifically page 14 where the meter rates are published.

DOE 1-2

Regarding other customers served outside of Laconia's city boundaries:

- a) Please provide a list of any other properties receiving water and/or water services from the Laconia Water Department that are not located within the municipal boundaries of Laconia.
RESPONSE: See attached tariff document. (Attachment A)
- b) Please provide the corresponding water rates charged to the customers identified in (a).
RESPONSE: See attached tariff document. (Attachment A)

DOE 1-3

Please provide the following information:

- a) How long has the Laconia Water Department been in existence?
RESPONSE: The City of Laconia purchased the Laconia Water Company and Winni Water Company in 1955 to create the Laconia Water Department, which was established by ordinance that same year.
- b) How many individuals are employed on a full-time basis by the Laconia Water Department?
RESPONSE: 17, as of November 14, 2024.
- c) How many individuals are employed on a part-time basis by the Laconia Water Department?
RESPONSE: The department has no part-time employees as of November 14, 2024.
- d) What certifications are required for Laconia Water Department Staff?
RESPONSE: The City requires all Treatment (5) and Distribution (6 + 1 vacant) operators to carry a minimum Grade 1 Certification in their field (Treatment or Dist.). The N.H.

Department of Environmental Services requires that we have at least one operator that holds a Grade III Treatment and one operator with a Grade III Distribution. We currently have 3 operators with their Grade III or higher Treatment, and 2 operators at Grade III in Distribution.

DOE 1-4

Re: Petition, Page 1, Item 2:

- a) Please provide a detailed explanation for the relevance of delineating the wastewater disposal “4K Areas” in the current docket.

RESPONSE: The “4K Areas” are delineated to demonstrate that the City is not providing wastewater or sewage disposal.

- b) Please give a detailed explanation regarding the sewer disposal and treatment arrangements provided for the 18 Mountain Lake Village residential lots located in the Town of Belmont.

RESPONSE: Sewer disposal will occur in a manner consistent with the Town’s ordinances and state regulations. It is the City’s belief and understanding that this will be via individual septic systems, located in the “4K Areas” delineated on the plans previously submitted to the Commission, and designed in accordance with state regulations and the Town’s ordinances.

DOE 1-5

Re: Petition Exhibit 5: The letter from Belmont’s Town Administrator, Alicia Jipson, is not dated. Please provide evidence of when this letter was received or a dated copy of this letter.

RESPONSE: Please see attached email, dated August 28, 2024, between Alicia Jipson and Christopher Perry, town counsel. ([Attachment B](#))

DOE 1-6

Re: Petition, Page 2, Item 4: The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report is referred to as Exhibit 4. Should not this be referred to as Exhibit 7? Please confirm and/or explain.

RESPONSE: Correct.

DOE 1-7

Re: Petition, Page 2, Item 8: The Petition states, “Expansion of the water line will be funded by the Developer in the expanded service area, and the lot owners who will own the service lines from the curb stop to their residences, so that approval of this request would also be in the best interest of the existing customers in that they will not endure any expansion cost.” Please provide copies of all contracts with the Developer and homeowners and/or other documentation in support of this statement.

RESPONSE: Please see attached agreement. ([Attachment C](#))

DOE 1-8

Re: Petition, Page 2, Item 6: The Petition states that service to the additional service area will be “at a rate 15% higher than that charged to ratepayers in the City, as permitted by RSA 362:4.” Please explain the City’s decision to charge the maximum limit of 15%. Did the City consider charging rates lower than the 15% maximum?

RESPONSE: In its present tariff, the City charges non-Laconia accounts created after January 1,

2004, a rate equal to the rate for Laconia accounts plus 15%. The City currently serves customers in Gilford. To keep the process fair and consistent across all non-Laconia accounts, the City seeks to charge the same rate – the rate for Laconia accounts plus 15% - as provided by RSA 362:4. In the City’s present tariff, this is referred to as the “Non-Laconia new” rate.

DOE 1-9

RSA 362:4, III-a (a) (1) requires that new customers outside of the City’s municipal boundaries be served “a quantity and quality of water or a level of water service equal to that served to customers within the municipality.” Please confirm that the City will meet this requirement for the extended service area proposed in the Petition and explain how the City will ensure that requirement is met.

RESPONSE: The City will meet this requirement. The City will utilize the same water quality and operational standards for the expanded service area as it uses for the present service area.

DOE 1-10

Please confirm that the City is proposing it should not be considered a public utility and therefore exempt from regulation as a public utility pursuant to RSA 362:III-a (a). If this is not the case, please explain why.

RESPONSE: Yes; to be clear, the City derives its position from RSA 362:4, III-a (a).