

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 21-115

PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC.

Petition for Approval of Special Contract with Anheuser-Busch, LLC

Order *Nisi* Approving Extension of Special Contract

O R D E R N O. 26,599

March 30, 2022

In this order the Commission approves a further extension of the fourth special contract between Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (PWW, or the Company) and Anheuser-Busch, LLC (AB) during the pendency of the Commission's review of the parties' proposed fifth special contract filed in this docket.

PWW's assented-to supplemental motion to extend the fourth special contract, and all other docket filings on this matter, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-115.html.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

The fourth special contract between PWW and AB (Fourth Contract), executed on January 18, 2011, and approved on June 9, 2011 in Docket DW 11-018, included an expiration date of June 30, 2021. On June 4, 2021, PWW filed a petition for approval of a fifth special contract with AB (Fifth Contract). On July 7, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 26,496 approving a temporary extension of the Fourth Contract from June 30, 2021 until a decision on the Fifth Contract in the current docket (DW 21-115) or six months from the effective date of the order extending the Fourth Contract, whichever occurred sooner. PWW filed supplemental testimony on November 10, 2021, and an assented-to supplemental motion, on December 28, 2021,

to further extend the Fourth Contract until the Commission issues a determination on the Fifth Contract.

On February 24, 2022, PWW filed a supplemental petition for approval of the Fifth Contract. On March 11, 2022, PWW filed an assented-to-motion to approve a procedural schedule for review of the Fifth Contract. On March 16, 2022, the Company filed a modification of its proposed schedule. The Commission approved the modified procedural schedule on March 16, 2022. The approved schedule includes opportunity for discovery and a technical session to be held on May 10, 2022.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission may, by order, allow utilities to charge rates which depart from their standard tariffs when special circumstances exist “which render such departure from the general schedules just and consistent with the public interest.” RSA 378:18. We find the statements and assertions put forth by PWW in this proceeding, including information regarding additional special contracts that are currently under review, support a further extension of the existing Fourth Contract between PWW and AB as just and consistent with the public interest. We therefore approve an extension of the Fourth Contract until a Commission determination is made on the proposed Fifth Contract in this proceeding. A hearing on this matter will be scheduled upon receipt of further filings from the parties pursuant to the May 10, 2022 technical session.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that, subject to the effective date below, the fourth special contract between Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. and Anheuser-Busch, LLC as approved by Order No. 25,230 (June 9, 2011) and extended pursuant to Order No. 26,496 (July 7, 2021) is hereby extended further as set forth herein above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website within one business day of the issuance of this order, such publication to be documented by an affidavit filed with this office on or before April 27, 2022; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that the clerk shall cause a copy of this order to be published on the Commission website within two business days of the issuance of this order; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than April 8, 2022, for the Commission's consideration; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than April 15, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective April 29, 2022, unless PWW fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this thirtieth day of March, 2022.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner


Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-115

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