

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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D. Maurice Kreis

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NHPUC 29 JUL '19 AM 11:17

July 29, 2019

Ms. Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket No. DW 19-065
Aquarion Water Company
Complaint of Town of Hampton

Dear Ms. Howland:

In connection with the above-referenced proceeding, please be advised that the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) joins the objection being filed today by Aquarion Water Company (Aquarion) to the July 22, 2019 motion of the Town of Hampton for rehearing of Order No. 26,263 (June 24, 2019).

The OCA shares the concern of the Town of Hampton that Aquarion is earning an unreasonably high return on equity. But the remedy for such over-earning is the commencement of a rate case; the law does not allow the Commission to adjust rates retroactively as claimed by the Town of Hampton. The Town's arguments about fire hydrant snow clearance are likewise devoid of merit. We are concerned about a scenario in which Aquarion ultimately recovers from ratepayers the cost of defending against frivolous legal arguments.

Therefore, we urge the Commission to deny the pending rehearing motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. Maurice Kreis", written over a horizontal line.

D. Maurice Kreis
Consumer Advocate

cc: Service list, via e-mail