

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DW 25-036

LAKES REGION WATER COMPANY, INC.

Petition for Approval of Supplemental Financing

COMMENCEMENT OF ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On May 14, 2025, Lakes Region Water Company, Inc. (LRWC) filed a petition for approval of supplemental financing for its Meadow Glen Project that was previously approved in Docket No. DW 22-087. In support of its petition, LRWC filed testimony of its employees Thomas Mason and Stephen St. Cyr, with supporting documents. All docket filings, other than any information subject to confidential treatment, are available on the Commission's website at

puc.nh.gov/VirtualFileRoom/Docket.aspx?DocketNumber=DW 25-036.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

LRWC is a regulated water utility that serves approximately 1,839 customers in 19 public water systems located in the Mt. Washington Valley and Lakes Region. In DW 22-087, LRWC was authorized to borrow up to \$862,080, amortized over 20 years, from CoBank, ACB to finance the cost of developing a new well source for its Paradise Shores system located in Moultonborough, NH. See Order No. 26,817 (May 12, 2023). The project was to include developing the new well source, constructing a new pump/meter station and access road, and connecting to the existing Paradise Shores system.

According to LRWC, significant changes to the scope of the Paradise Shores Project¹, requiring water treatment and filtration systems for arsenic, iron, and manganese and a significantly larger pump station, have resulted in an increase in costs of \$1,200,000 above the amount previously approved. LRWC seeks approval to secure an additional 20-year term loan of up to \$1,200,000 from CoBank, ACB (CoBank) with projected interest rates of 7.00% - 7.50% per year. See May 14, 2025 Petition at ¶4.

On May 23, 2023 the Commission issued a procedural order requesting that, on or before July 11, 2025, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) file a recommendation for the Commission's action on this petition, which includes an analysis of whether LRWC's financing proposal should be considered "routine." See *Pub. Serv. Co. of N.H.*, Order No. 25,050 (December 8, 2009) (citing *Appeal of Easton*, 125 N.H. 205 (1984)).

On May 29, 2025, LRWC filed a Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule and requested an Order of Notice be issued. The Motion was assented to by the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) and included a request for hearing in August, 2025.

II. ISSUES PRESENTED

The filing presents, *inter alia*, the following issues: whether the amount to be financed, the reasonableness of the terms and conditions, and the proposed use of the funds, and the effect on rates is consistent with the public good pursuant to RSA

¹ Order No. 26, 817 authorized financing to develop a new well source for LRWC Paradise Shores system. The May 14, 2025 petition identifies the project as "Meadow Glen Project", "Meadow Glen Well Project" and "Meadow Glen". See Petition at ¶1. There is also reference to "Paradise Shores System". See Id at ¶s 1 & 7. It is the Commission's understanding that the paradise shores system authorized by Order No. 26, 817 has now been named the Meadow Glen well project.

369:1, RSA 369:2, and RSA 369:4. Accordingly, an adjudicative proceeding will be convened to address these issues.

The Commission will be conducting any hearings scheduled in this matter in person. The Commission will consider requests to conduct hearings using a hybrid format to permit remote participation by a specific individual only if the Commission has determined that a sufficient reason has been provided for why that individual would be unable to attend in person. Any party requesting that a specific individual be permitted to participate remotely should file a written request with the Commission's Clerk's Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date. If the Commission determines that one or more individuals will be permitted to appear remotely, then individuals in the Commission's hearing room, including the Commissioners, will be broadcast on a web-enabled platform.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an adjudicative proceeding be commenced for the purpose of reviewing and resolving the foregoing issues pursuant to RSA chapter 541-A, RSA 369:1, RSA 369:2, RSA 369:4, and the Commission's procedural rules; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the assented to proposed procedural schedule filed on May 29, 2025, is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the DOE's technical statement, due on or before July 30, 2025, shall include an analysis of whether LRWC's financing proposal should be considered "routine." *See Pub. Serv. Co. of N.H.*, Order No. 25,050 (December 8, 2009) (citing *Appeal of Easton*, 125 N.H. 205 (1984)); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that LRWC shall submit an update to the Commission by August 11, 2025, requesting the matter be resolved pursuant to Puc 203.17 or requesting a hearing date be scheduled; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any entity or individual may petition to intervene and seek to be admitted as a party in this proceeding. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, consistent with RSA 541-A:32, Puc 204.08, and Puc 203.06, any entity or individual seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall file with the Commission a petition to intervene with copies sent to LRWC and any other parties on the service list, on or before June 17, 2025. The petition shall state the facts demonstrating how the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, consistent with Puc 204.08; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a petition to intervene make said objection on or before June 27, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that parties shall file any proposed exhibits, written testimony, motions, or other documents intended to become part of the record in this proceeding with the Commission in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules. Parties may elect to submit any filing in electronic form unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Filings will be considered filed as of the time the electronic copy is received by the Commission; and it is

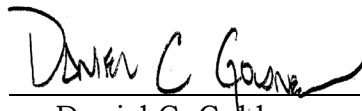
FURTHER ORDERED, that routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting the Commission's Clerk's Office at (603) 271-2431 or www.puc.nh.gov/about-us/contact-us. All requests to the Commission should be made in a written pleading filed with the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by law, *ex parte* communications are prohibited; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to Puc 204.04, LRWC shall notify all entities and individuals desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of

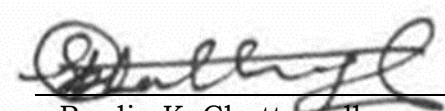
this order of notice on its website no later than two business days after the date of issue, such publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before June 12, 2025. In addition, the Clerk shall publish this order of notice on the Commission's website no later than two business days after the date of issue; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any hearings in this matter shall be conducted in accordance with the attached hearing guidelines.

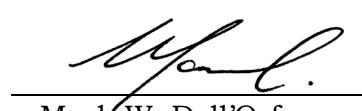
So ordered, this sixth day of June, 2025.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Mark W. Dell'Orfano
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the 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.

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-036

Printed: 6/6/2025

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