

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Petition of Woodstock Aqueduct Company for a change in rates pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225 et seq.	
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**WOODSTOCK AQUEDUCT COMPANY  
PETITION FOR TARIFF CHANGE**

Now comes Woodstock Aqueduct Company (“WAC” or “Company”) and pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225 et seq., states as follows:

1. WAC is publicly regulated water utility subject to the regulatory and rate-setting authority of the Vermont Public Utility Commission (the “Commission”). 30 V.S.A. §§ 203, 209, 225.

2. As set forth in the attached testimony and exhibits, WAC requests approval for a change in rates that is driven by a confluence of operational challenges including (1) flood repairs required following devastating 2023 flooding, (2) significant system upgrades that are required by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and (3) the water company’s transition from a legacy family-owned business operated like a non-profit to either municipal ownership by the Town of Woodstock or other professional management that will require market-based wages and salaries to manage the operation of the water company. Billings pf. at 5.

3. This rate filing is supported by WAC’s proposed Cost of Service (“COS”), which is based on a historic Test Year (12-month period ending December 31, 2023) with appropriate adjustments to reflect known and measurable costs during the Rate Year (12-month period starting May 16, 2024). Billings pf. at 5; Exhibit WAC-JSB-1.

4. This rate request is also supported by the Prefiled Direct Testimony of Jireh Billings and associated exhibits that provide known and measurable support for adjustments in the Rate Year, including change to salaries in wages, increased pipe replacement cost, replacement of the SCADA system, increased professional service expenses, and increased debt expenses needed to address severe flooding damage and remediation of deficiencies under Vermont's Water Supply Rule. Billings pf. at 5.

5. The rate request will result in a change to the Based Charge from \$240 to \$503.56, a change in the Variable Charge from \$0.03 to \$0.0656, and a change in the Hydrant Charge from \$360 to \$3,804.92. Exhibit WAC-JSB-1.

6. For the reasons set forth in more detail in the Prefiled Testimony of Jireh Billings, the rates contained in the enclosed filing are just and reasonable in accordance with Title 30 and WAC's proposed Cost of Service promotes the public good.

7. Consistent with 30 V.S.A. § 225(a), the proposed tariffs incorporate an effective date 45 days from this Petition for bills rendered after May 16, 2023. While WAC understands that the effectiveness of this request may be suspended pursuant to Section 226(a), it intends to work with the Department of Public Service, the Commission, and the public to ensure that this request is ready for the Commission's final review and approval as soon as possible.

8. In accordance with Commission Rule 2.401, WAC includes the following documents:

- a. Redline of WAC's rate tariff;
- b. The Prefiled Testimony of Jireh Billings; and
- c. a proposed customer notice.

Wherefore, WAC requests that the Commission:

1. Allow the proposed rate to take effect in 45 days, or alternatively, set a schedule for review and approval of the rate change as soon as feasible;
2. Provide guidance to WAC as to whether the enclosed customer notice should be revised at all before issuance to WAC customers;
3. Schedule a scheduling conference on WAC's Petition and issue an order establishing appropriate procedural requirements for the review of the Petition;
4. Make findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the matters set forth in this Petition;
5. Issue an order approving the revised rates to be effective on or after May 16, 2024, or as soon thereafter that the Commission is able to issue a final order approving the proposed rate change; and
6. Take such other actions as in the Commission's judgment are necessary or advisable in connection with this Petition.

DATED at Burlington, Vermont on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2024.

WOODSTOCK AQUEDUCT COMPANY

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