



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-120

June 6, 2024

Petition of Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc., for Authorization and Approval to Incur Long-Term Indebtedness in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$6,600,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14.

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc. (“Aquarion” or “Company”) supplies water to certain customers in Dover, Millbury, Oxford, Plymouth, and Sheffield, Massachusetts. On February 12, 2024, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) approved the request of Aquarion for authorization, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14, to incur long-term debt in an aggregate amount of \$6,600,000 to finance water treatment projects in Oxford and Millbury. Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc., D.P.U. 23-120 (February 12, 2024).

On June 4, 2024, the Company filed a motion requesting that the Department reopen the proceeding in D.P.U. 23-120 in order to seek Department authorization to issue an additional \$2,692,76 in long-term debt to finance the Oxford and Millbury water treatment projects. Aquarion maintains that the additional financing authority is necessary because the bids it received for the construction of the Oxford and Millbury water treatment projects were \$1,460,000 and \$1,220,000, respectively, higher than the Company’s original cost estimates. Accordingly, the Company requests revised Department authority under G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14 to issue long-term debt in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,292,763 (i.e., \$6,600,000 approved in D.P.U. 23-120 plus an additional \$2,692,763). The Company maintains that the remaining terms of the financing approved in D.P.U. 23-120 will remain the same.

The Oxford and Millbury water treatment projects have been awarded certain beneficial funding through the Massachusetts Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”). To ensure that the Company has the opportunity to access the DWSRF funds, Aquarion indicates it must execute construction contracts for the treatment projects no later than June 30, 2024. Accordingly, the Company requests that the Department approve its revised financing request no later than June 26, 2024.

The Department will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, June 20, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** to receive comments on the Company’s revised financing request. The Department will conduct the hearings virtually using Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87524214525>, from a computer, smartphone, or

tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at 646-931-3860 (**not toll free**) and then enter the **Meeting ID# 875 2421 4525**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, to jennifer.cargill@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, at 617-305-3732 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Alternately, any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, June 21, 2024**. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the method described below. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

All comments should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and jennifer.cargill@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 23-120); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, a copy of all comments should be sent to the Company's attorney, Danielle Winter, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and Assistant Attorney General Joseph Rogers, at joseph.rogers@mass.gov.

All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "23-120") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Jenyka.Spitz-Gassnola2@mass.gov. For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Danielle Winter, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Jennifer Cargill, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at jennifer.cargill@mass.gov.