



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, NOTICE OF PUBLIC AND EVIDENTIARY HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-120

12/22/23

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.

On November 3, 2023, Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc. (“Aquarion” or “Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14, requesting approval and authorization to incur long-term debt in the form of two loan agreements in an aggregate amount of \$6,600,000. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 23-120.

Aquarion supplies water to certain customers in Dover, Millbury, Oxford, Plymouth, and Sheffield, Massachusetts. The Company requests Department authority to execute two loan agreements with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust to borrow \$6,600,000. The Company states that each loan agreement will have a term of 20 years. The Company further states that the long-term debt will be used for the construction of two water treatment projects in Millbury and Oxford, Massachusetts that have been awarded funding through the Massachusetts Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“SRF”). The Company maintains that the long-term debt, as proposed, is reasonably necessary to enable the Company to meet its service obligations and are consistent with the public interest. The Company requests that the Department approve its financing request no later than March 31, 2024, to allow the Company to bid and award construction contracts and execute the loan agreements prior to the SRF program deadline of June 30, 2024.

The Department will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, January 18, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** to receive comments on the Company’s filing. The public hearing will be immediately followed by an evidentiary hearing. The Department will conduct the hearings virtually using Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83316647073>, 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# 833 1664 7073**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Tuesday, January 16, 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, January 16, 2024, at 617-305-3732 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's also may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, January 19, 2024**. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email as specified 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.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, January 11, 2024**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**.

All comments and petitions to intervene 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, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Danielle Winter, Esq. at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com.

The filing and all documents 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 Gabriella.Knight@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.