

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2023-00244

April 18, 2024

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Investigation Pertaining to New Sharon
Water District

PROCEDURAL ORDER
SCHEDULING EVIDENTIARY
HEARING AND PUBLIC
WITNESS HEARING

I. HEARINGS

The Commission will convene an evidentiary hearing followed by a public witness hearing on May 2, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. The hearings will be held in person at the Cape Cod Hill School, 516 Cape Cod Hill Road, New Sharon. The public witness hearing will immediately follow the evidentiary hearing.

A. Evidentiary Hearing

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to take testimony from the Town of New Sharon in support of its request that the Commission appoint a receiver for the New Sharon Water District. Therefore, the expectation is that person(s) authorized to speak on behalf of the Town will attend the evidentiary hearing and answer questions of the Commission and, to the extent parties have questions, answer questions of the parties to this proceeding.

B. Public Witness Hearing

The purpose of the public witness hearing is to provide an opportunity for public input and to gather information from members of public, who are not parties to this proceeding, regarding the Commission's investigation of the New Sharon Water District and the Town of New Sharon's pending request to appoint a receiver for the New Sharon Water District.

Thus, members of the public who attend the public witness hearing may present testimony or comments to the Commission on the issues in this proceeding, which relate to, for example, an anticipated rate increase for the New Sharon Water District and the Town of New Sharon's request to appoint a receiver to oversee the operations of the New Sharon Water District.

Questions regarding the public witness hearing may be directed to PUCPublicHearing@maine.gov

II. NOTICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

A. Town of New Sharon

To the extent the Town of New Sharon has the capability to provide local notice of the May 2, 2024, public witness hearing, as scheduled above to immediately follow the 6:00 p.m. evidentiary hearing, it is directed to do so as soon as reasonably practicable. For example, the Town could provide notice through a physical posting at the town office, by posting a notice on the town website, and/or by issuing a notice through any municipal email listserv or social media it may maintain.

B. Customer Notice

The Commission intends to provide notice of the public witness hearing to the extent reasonably practicable by way of a copy of this procedural order to the customers of the New Sharon Water District.

Therefore, the Commission directs the Advocacy Staff to work with the parties to obtain and file in the docket, under protective order, the names, mailing addresses, and email addresses if available, for each customer of the New Sharon Water District.

A filing of the customer list, or a status update as to the availability of a customer list, is due as soon as possible in an effort to get meaningful notice delivered to the customers in advance of May 2, 2024.

Dated at Hallowell, Maine, this 18th Day of April, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

/s/ Amy B. Mills