



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2017

Media Contact:

Jonathan Ginsberg
Next Generation Strategies
617-504-7830
ginsberg@nextgen-strategies.com

**Nearly \$4 Million Of Investment In Oxford Infrastructure Drives
Aquarion Water Company's Rate Filing**

OXFORD, MA – April 18, 2017 – Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts has filed a request with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to adjust rates its customers pay for water service. Aquarion's last request for a water rate increase was six years ago in 2011.

Aquarion owns and operates three separate water systems in the Commonwealth: Oxford, Millbury, and a combined system for the communities of Hingham, Hull, and North Cohasset. The requested increase in rates will vary by system and by customer class.

For the average residential customers in Oxford, Aquarion's request would result in an increase of about 16.7% or \$5.70 per month.

Since Aquarion acquired the water system serving Oxford from another private company in 2002, Aquarion has had one rate decrease (at the company's request) and two rate increases from the DPU.

In the past three years, Aquarion has coordinated their infrastructure improvements with the Town of Oxford's Department of Public Works to minimize construction disruptions to customers and streamline infrastructure work. Aquarion invested nearly \$4 million including more than \$2 million on water main improvements on Main Street and Charlton Street.

Last year, Aquarion was ranked first among privately-owned utilities and fifth among 84 of the U.S.'s largest private and public water utilities by JD Power, which looked at overall customer satisfaction using six factors including water delivery, price, billing and payment, conservation, communications and customer service.

“By continually investing in our water system, we improve the reliability of our treatment facilities, reduce the frequency of service interruptions, reduce water main leakage, ensure our ability to meet growing water demands, and enhance fire protection,” Walsh said.

If approved, the requested rate increase would translate into a water rate increase of approximately 3.1% per year for Oxford resident since the company acquired the water system in 2002. This is lower than the 4.9% per year growth rate that the average water utility in Massachusetts has experienced from 2000 through 2014 (source: Tighe & Bond 2014 Massachusetts Water Rate Survey).

“The communities we serve rely on us to provide reliable, quality water service to support their local economies and to provide a high quality of life for residents,” said Charles V. Firlotte, President and CEO of Aquarion Water Company. “The investments we make in our systems help ensure that we are able to fulfill that commitment to the health and prosperity of our customers and communities.”

Aquarion’s water system investments and expenses are reviewed and approved by the DPU. The DPU will conduct an extensive review of Aquarion’s rate application. Public hearings and opportunities for public comment are part of the process and will be scheduled in the community under the direction of the DPU.

About Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts:

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts is the public water supply company for more than 50,000 people in the towns of Hingham, Hull, North Cohasset, Millbury, and Oxford. Aquarion Water Company is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England, and it has been in the public water supply business since 1857.

Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.

For more information on Aquarion Water Company and its subsidiaries, please visit www.aquarionwater.com.

###