FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Bruce Silverstone
Vice President, Corporate Communications
Aquarion Water Company
Phone: (203) 336-7658

**Aquarion Water Company Purchases 20 Water Systems in Four Connecticut Communities**

*Aquarion announces acquisition of Greater Danbury area water systems from Rural Water Company, Inc.*

Aquarion Water Company (AWC) today announced that it is purchasing 20 water systems in four Connecticut communities from Rural Water Company, Inc. of Bethel.

The water systems serve approximately 320 residents in Brookfield, 245 residents in Danbury, 128 residents in New Fairfield and 335 residents in Ridgefield.

“Smaller water companies most often have difficulty in meeting regulatory standards and the accompanying tremendous investment requirements of today’s modern water systems,” stated Charles V. Firlotte, CEO of Aquarion Water Company. “The acquisition of these systems is part of our strategic growth initiative that will allow Aquarion to actively pursue, and ultimately improve, other local water systems throughout the state. The integration of these systems into our network will allow us to resolve any long-standing issues with the Department of Public Health, as well as provide customers with unparalleled experience and resources.”

This follows more recent acquisition announcements by Aquarion of Topstone Water Company in Ridgefield, and five additional water companies serving 4,000 residents in 11 Connecticut communities in the Greater Danbury area.

“This is an important step in building an integrated, comprehensive water supply system that will meet the future demands of the town,” said Brookfield First Selectman Bill Davidson. “We are pleased with the commitment Aquarion has demonstrated to our residents. I look forward to working closely with Aquarion as we continue to improve and expand the public water supply for Brookfield residents and businesses.”
This announcement also follows the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) recently awarding Aquarion the unprecedented honor of highest rating of all state utilities regulated by the DPUC. This is the fifth consecutive year that Aquarion has received this distinguished honor.

“We are extremely gratified by the DPUC’s recognition of Aquarion’s efforts to provide outstanding customer service to families and businesses across Connecticut,” said Firlotte. “We will offer our new customers the same level of outstanding service.”

For more information on Aquarion Water Company, please visit www.aquarion.com.

About Aquarion

Aquarion Water Company is the public water supply company for more than 580,000 people in 39 cities and towns throughout Connecticut, as well as serving customers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the U.S. Based in Bridgeport, Conn., 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 as well.

# # #