

The City of Philadelphia
Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
WaterRateBoard@phila.gov

April 26, 2019

Re: How to Participate in New Water and Sewer Rate Proceeding

On April 4, 2019, the City of Philadelphia Water Department filed with the Department of Records and the Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (Rate Board) an [Advance Notice](#) of proposed rates and charges to implement the mandated annual adjustment to the Tiered Assistance Program Rate Rider Surcharge Rates (TAP-R) and to revise related water, sewer, and fire service connection quantity charges. The Water Department proposes to make such changes to rates and charges effective September 1, 2019.

This Advance Notice initiates a TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding under Section II.C of the [Regulations](#) of the Rate Board. The Rate Board expects the Water Department to file Formal Notice of the proposed changes on or after Monday, May 6, 2019.

During the TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding the Rate Board will determine the appropriate TAP-R riders based on the Water Department's cost of the TAP program for lower-income customers. The Rate Board expects to make its decision at a public meeting following a public hearing and a technical hearing or technical conference. Both hearings are tentatively scheduled for the week of June 3, 2019.

Any affected members of the public may testify and submit written arguments and documentation at the public hearing. **To participate in technical hearings, and to ask questions of witnesses, the Water Department, the Public Advocate, and other Participants in the proceeding, you must register as a Participant no later than seven calendar days following the filing of the Formal Notice.** We expect that registration deadline to be **Monday, May 13, 2019.**

The Water Department and Public Advocate are automatically Participants. For anyone else **to register as a Participant, you must** (1) send an email to WaterRateBoard@phila.gov, with a copy to steven.liang@phila.gov; or (2) send a letter to Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board, c/o Steven Liang, Legal Assistant, City of Philadelphia Law Department, One Parkway Building, 17th Floor, 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19102. In either case, provide the following information:

- The Participant's name
- Whether the Participant is an individual and, if not, the type of organization and state under whose laws it has been organized
- The Participant's mailing address, street address if different, telephone number, and email address
- A statement that the Participant is affected by the Department's proposed rates and charges, and wishes to participate in the TAP-R Proceeding

The Rate Board will post a list of Participants on its website.

The following is a tentative **schedule** for the 2019 TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding:

- April 4 Advance Notice of proposed rate changes filed by Water Department
- May 6 first day Water Department can file Formal Notice of proposed rate changes
- May 8 3 p.m. regular Rate Board meeting, One Parkway Bldg., 1515 Arch Street, Room 18-025 (Mayor's Media Room) *[Rate Board expects to confirm or modify the following dates, times, and locations]*
- May 13 deadline to register as Participant in rate proceeding (or, if later, 7 days following Formal Notice)
- May 15 2 p.m. conference call of Participants re: scheduling and related matters *[Rate Board will send call-in information to registered Participants]*
- May 24 deadline for Participants to file written comments in advance of hearings
- June 3-7 public hearing and technical hearing *[date, time, and location to be announced]*
- June 12 3 p.m. regular Rate Board meeting, One Parkway Bldg., 1515 Arch Street, Room 18-025 (Mayor's Media Room)
- June 17-24 anticipated deadline for Participants to file briefs or final comments *[exact deadline to be announced]*
- June 24-28 special Rate Board meeting(s) to decide on any rate changes *[date, time, and location to be announced]*
- July 1 Rate Board to file Rate Determination with Department of Records
- September 1 any new rates go into effect

For Further Information Contact:

WaterRateBoard@phila.gov