

**BEFORE THE
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA WATER, SEWER AND STORM WATER RATE BOARD**

In the Matter of the Philadelphia Water Department’s Proposed Changes in Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rates and Related Charges : : : : For: Fiscal Years 2021-2022

RATE BOARD ORDER PERMITTING WITHDRAWAL OF RATE FILING

By letter dated May 29, 2020, the City of Philadelphia Water Department (PWD or the Department) requested that the City’s Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (Rate Board) issue an order permitting the Department to withdraw its pending request for rate relief for the water, wastewater and stormwater services it provides. This rate request, which had been formally filed March 12, 2020 (advance filing February 11, 2020), had previously been suspended at the request of the Department due to the public health emergency caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent emergency measures imposed by both the city and state. See, Suspension Orders dated March 20, 2020, and April 22, 2020, issued by Hearing Officer Marlane R. Chestnut.

Citing the on-going pandemic and the “. . . uncertainty over the anticipated duration of continuing emergency measures,” PWD requested permission to withdraw its filing and “terminate all activities related to the general rate proceeding” without prejudice to any participant in this or other proceedings before the Rate Board. The Hearing Officer invited participants to respond to this request.¹ There are no objections at this time, and the matter is before us for consideration.²

Upon consideration, this request will be granted for the reasons stated in the Department’s request, and as discussed in the Suspension Orders, specifically the on-going emergency situation involving public health and the uncertainty concerning the duration of the

¹ In addition to the Department, the participants in this proceeding were the Public Advocate (Community Legal Services); the City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue, Water Revenue Bureau; the Philadelphia Large Users Group; Vicinity Energy Philadelphia, Inc. (Vicinity Energy); PECO Energy Company; and Michael Skiendzielewski, who appeared pro se.

² A “Limited Objection” was initially filed by Vicinity Energy on June 3, 2010; it withdrew its objection on June 4, 2020. Hearing Officer Chestnut then referred PWD’s request to us.

mandatory shutdown on non-life essential businesses that currently exists. We agree that this general rate proceeding need not go forward.

Therefore, the request of the City of Philadelphia Water Department to withdraw its 2020 general rate increase filing for fiscal years 2021-2022 will be granted and this rate proceeding marked closed without prejudice.

Dated: June 10, 2020