

How to Participate in the New Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Proceeding

On February 15, 2021, the Philadelphia Water Department will file with the Records Department the Water Department's Formal Notice of proposed changes in water, sewer, and storm water rates and related charges to take effect on or about September 1, 2021 and September 1, 2022. The Water Department had filed its [Advance Notice](#) of such proposed changes with City Council and the Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (Rate Board or Board) on January 15, 2021.

The Rate Board will be conducting a General Rate Proceeding for the next several months to determine appropriate rates and charges. (The Rate Board does not have authority over service issues or other matters relating to the Water Department.) Under the Board's Regulations, if you are a Water Department customer or are otherwise affected by the Water Department's rates and charges, you may take part in the Rate Proceeding in several ways:

- You may submit comments and evidence to the Board signed and in writing on any relevant issue. This may be in advance of any hearing, at a public hearing, or at any time before the close of the record in the Rate Proceeding. Please submit them at a hearing or addressed to **Water Rate Board, One Parkway, 17th Floor, 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19102**, Attn: Steven Liang, or via email to WaterRateBoard@phila.gov and Steven.Liang@phila.gov.
- You may present oral testimony on any relevant issue at any public hearing. At least four public hearings will be scheduled; notice will be advertised and posted [here](#). **All hearings are presently scheduled to be held online and via phone, only.** The testimony will be recorded and transcribed so that the Board's Hearing Officer and the Board itself may consider the testimony if appropriate and helpful. You may wish to prepare your remarks in advance; you may read them when called upon. The Hearing Officer will require you to sign in and may limit the length of presentations.
- You may register to become a Participant, subject to all orders and regulations governing the conduct of the proceeding, including deadlines. Participants may submit written information requests to the Water Department concerning relevant matters. Requests, objections, and responses to such requests are posted on the Board's website for public review. Only Participants may file written briefs after the close of all hearings and may file written exceptions to the Hearing Officer's Report at the close of the Proceeding. Participants also receive email notice when technical review hearings are continued from one day to another.

The deadline for registering as a Participant as of right now is expected to be February 22, 2021, or (if later) 7 days after the filing of Formal Notice." 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, 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 Rate Proceeding.

You may attend meetings of the Rate Board, including meetings to be scheduled for late June or early July at which the Board deliberates in its decisions concerning rates and charges. **These meetings are also held online and via phone only.**

In setting water, sewer, and stormwater rates, the Rate Board will consider all relevant and useful evidence and arguments. **Please note: The Board or its Hearing Officer has the authority in all of the above categories to exclude material that is not relevant or useful to Water Department rates, or that is redundant or abusive.**

All Rate Board meetings and hearings are presently being held online and via telephone only. Notice will be advertised and posted on the Rate Board Website, (<https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/>) at least 3 business days prior to a hearing or meeting. Please let the Rate Board know of any special needs, including translation that you may require when attending any meetings or hearings, and we will attempt to provide accommodations. All scheduling is subject to measures taken by authorities in response to the current health emergency.

This is a summary. More information, including procedural rules, the dates and locations of meetings and hearings as they become known, and copies of the filings of the Water Department and other Participants, including discovery requests and responses, is available in the Rate Board's Regulations and elsewhere on the Board's website, www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board.