## 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, Sewer and Storm Water Rates and Related Charges

2023 General Rate Proceeding

## PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

An on-the-record prehearing conference to address preliminary procedural issues was held via Zoom in this proceeding on March 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Participating either pro se or through counsel were the City of Philadelphia Water Department (PWD or Department), the City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue Water Revenue Bureau (WRB), the Public Advocate (PA or Advocate), PECO Energy Company (PECO), the Philadelphia Large Users Group (Large Users Group), and Michael Skiendzielewski. All participants to the rate filing were invited by e-mail to participate; in addition, the notice of the prehearing conference was posted on the Rate Board's website at <a href="https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/rate-proceedings/l">https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/rate-proceedings/l</a>

The following determinations were made:

(1) **SCHEDULE**: After review and discussion, the following schedule was adopted for use in this proceeding:

PWD Formal Notice	February 23, 2023
Prehearing conference	March 7, 2023
Public hearings (specific dates will be established later)	March 21-23, 2023
Participant direct testimony	April 12, 2023
Rebuttal testimony (all participants)	April 25, 2023
Last day for information requests	April 27, 2023
Technical hearings (specific dates will be established later)	May 2-5, 2023
Close record, last day for responses to transcript requests	5 days after last hearing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/rate-proceedings/

Briefs	May 16, 2023
Hearing Officer report	June 6, 2023
Exceptions/objection to report	June 9, 2023
Board deliberations	June 14, 2023
Board determination	June 21, 2023
Effective date new rates	September 1, 2023

(2) **HEARINGS**: All hearings will be conducted virtually or telephonically. The Department, the Public Advocate and any other participant who wishes to be involved will work together to ensure that outreach is conducted so as to ensure maximum notice of the scheduled hearings is provided to the public.<sup>2</sup>

(3) **INFORMATION REQUESTS**: Participants will use their best efforts to be reasonable and accommodating when propounding or responding to information requests.

Responses to written information requests are due within seven calendar days of receipt. With the exception of responses to written information requests regarding rebuttal testimony, information requests served after 12:00 p.m. on a Friday will be deemed to be received on the following Monday. Objections to information requests will be communicated orally or via email to the propounder as soon as practicable upon receipt. The participants are directed to confer, by telephone or e-mail, and attempt to resolve the objections. If the objection is not resolved, a written objection may be filed within three business days after receipt of the information request, pursuant to the Rate Board's regulations at II.B.5.(b).

(4) **SETTLEMENT**: Participants are expected to settle or stipulate to any matters they reasonably can to expedite this proceeding.

Marlane R. Chestnut Hearing Officer DATED: March 7, 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Robert Ballanger, the Public Advocate in this case, said he had prepared and circulated a "Customer Participation Guide" that he intended to disseminate through social media and community groups.