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PHILADELPHIA WATER, SEWER, AND STORM WATER
RATE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023
9:01 A.M. TO 11:01 A.M. EDT
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

On Friday, May 5, 2023, the following
proceedings came on to be heard in the
above-entitled matter before the Honorable Marlane
R. Chestnut, Hearing Officer

Proceedings were reported by stenographic method by:
DEBRA A. DIBBLE, RDR, CRR, CRC
Job No. 31288

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P R O C E E D I N G S

May 5, 2023, 9:01 a.m. EDT

HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All right.
Is everybody ready to get started, then?

We'll go on the record. This is the
continued hearing in the 2023 general rate
proceeding of the Philadelphia Water
Department. I'm Hearing Officer Marlane
Chestnut.

Preliminarily, let me state that I
did get your stipulation between the
department, the Public Advocate and the WRB
concerning the sequestration, and I assume you
have proposed, because it's not final among
you three, because it does not require any
kind of approval from me.

MR. DASENT: That was just the
heading that I used. We are in agreement on
the two issues that are listed there, and
we'll brief a related issue later as we study
it more. Ms. Crosby is out of town and we
need to evaluate the third prong of
Mr. Ballenger's proposal.

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1 But the first two elements, the
2 occupant customers in sequestration and tenant
3 customers in TAP that are listed in that
4 proposed stipulation, outline areas of
5 agreement so that we can avoid
6 cross-examination on those issues today.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

8 MR. BALLENGER: The point of all of
9 that is just to recognize our mutual
10 commitment to resolving issues that come up,
11 including the issues that were presented in
12 public input and raised by Ms. Crawley, I
13 believe. And we just wanted to make sure that
14 that was on the record of this proceeding
15 since it was a subject that was addressed in
16 testimony of both the Public Advocate and the
17 Water Department.

18 As a result of the stipulation, we
19 have no cross on those issues. So our cross
20 has been limited to a few other subjects
21 today, and we hope to get through them
22 expeditiously.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

24 MR. BALLENGER: And just so you know,
25 Joline Price will be taking the lead this

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1 morning for the Public Advocate.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Are there
3 any other preliminary procedural matters
4 anyone wants to bring up?

5 MR. DASENT: Nothing more.

6 MR. HAVER: Your Honor didn't finish
7 her discussion about the transcript yesterday.
8 So where does that stand?

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: The
10 transcript? The way I understand it is we're
11 on two-day service. When we get it, we will
12 post it on our website. I think we have -- I
13 think we're supposed to get the transcript for
14 Wednesday today. I'll see that they're posted
15 as quickly as I can.

16 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Anything
18 else, then?

19 MR. DASENT: Nothing more.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:
21 Mr. Dasent, I guess we're going to start with
22 your witness, then. Witnesses.

23 MR. DASENT: Thank you, Your Honor.
24 The witnesses today are the -- what we've
25 characterized as the WRB Panel, and it

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1 includes Susan Crosby, the deputy commissioner
2 at the Water Revenue Bureau, and also --
3 deputy revenue commissioner in charge of the
4 Water Revenue Bureau.

5 And in addition to that we have RFC
6 consultants, Raftelis Financial Consultants,
7 including Jon Davis, Henrietta Locklear, and
8 Jennifer Tavantzis. I'll get it right
9 eventually. And that's it.

10 The witnesses are tendered for
11 cross-examination.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All right.
13 Thank you. I'd like each witness to identify
14 themselves for the record stating by whom you
15 are employed -- I mean, you did say who
16 Ms. Crosby is. I guess that's sufficient.

17 But maybe the Raftelis people can
18 identify their role with the company.

19 MR. DASENT: Jon?

20 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: My name is Jon
21 Davis. I'm an executive vice president with
22 Raftelis, and I've worked with PWD and WRB for
23 several years through this process.

24 MR. DASENT: Henrietta?

25 MS. LOCKLEAR: I'm Henrietta

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1 Locklear. I'm a vice president with Raftelis.

2 MR. DASENT: Jen?

3 MS. TAVANTZIS: Good morning. My
4 name is Jennifer Tavantzis. I'm a senior
5 manager with Raftelis Financial Consultants.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

7 Thank you. Ms. Price?

8 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

9 And before we get started, I
10 circulated maybe a little late last night a
11 hearing exhibit for today.

12 Andre, was that circulated to the
13 witnesses?

14 MR. DASENT: Yes, it was. Thank you
15 for doing that.

16 WATER REVENUE BUREAU PANEL

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. PRICE

18 MS. PRICE: To start off, on page 4
19 of your rebuttal testimony, you state that the
20 department has taken several steps to make it
21 easier to document eligibility for TAP.

22 Do you see that?

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Wait,
24 wait, wait. I'm sorry. You have got to let
25 me get that pulled up. That's not in your

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1 hearing exhibit, is it?

2 MS. PRICE: Sorry, no, that's the
3 rebuttal. It's Rebuttal Statement 3, PWD
4 rebuttal statement.

5 MR. DASENT: And what page?

6 MS. PRICE: Four.

7 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: PWD
9 Rebuttal Statement 3, page 4.

10 Okay, I'm sorry. Line?

11 MS. PRICE: 13.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: 13? Okay.
13 Got it.

14 MS. PRICE: Okay. So again, you
15 state that the department has taken several
16 steps to make it easier to document
17 eligibility for TAP.

18 Do you see that?

19 MR. DASENT: And is that directed to
20 Ms. Crosby?

21 MS. PRICE: Whoever wants to answer
22 it, I guess.

23 MS. CROSBY: Good morning. Before I
24 begin my testimony, I would like to extend my
25 thanks to the Hearing Officer and to the

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1 parties for working around my travel schedule
2 and allowing me to testify on a shortened time
3 frame this morning so that I can catch my
4 flight back home.

5 Can you give me the line number one
6 more time, Ms. Price?

7 MS. PRICE: Yeah, it's page 4, line
8 13. It's the paragraph that starts with line
9 13.

10 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

11 MS. PRICE: And you state that those
12 steps include making it easier to document
13 income and making it easier to document
14 residency.

15 Do you see that?

16 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

17 MS. PRICE: Can you explain what
18 those steps are?

19 MS. CROSBY: Yes. We created a --
20 with our review -- our TAP customer assistance
21 team and with our internal discussions to
22 reduce the number of documents that the staff
23 members who are reviewing the applications are
24 looking for. So in one instance they were
25 looking for two proofs of income. They're now

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1 looking for one proof of income.

2 We went ahead and changed those
3 review policies internally with the -- knowing
4 that it takes a longer time frame to update
5 our paper application, our web-based
6 application, the regulations and all of those
7 things. So we wanted to deploy that new
8 guidance to the staff who were reviewing the
9 applications first.

10 MS. PRICE: And these modifications
11 became effective in April; correct?
12 April 2023?

13 MS. CROSBY: Correct. 2023.

14 MS. PRICE: Yes, 2023.

15 And if I can point you to the hearing
16 exhibit.

17 MS. CROSBY: If you could display it
18 to me on the screen. As I said, I'm traveling
19 and I don't have the ability to view it.
20 Because I don't --

21 MS. PRICE: I don't think we have the
22 ability to screen share.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't
24 think we can screen share.

25 MS. CROSBY: Then you'll have to walk

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1 me through it, please.

2 MS. DOBI: Hi, this is Heather. I
3 can turn on screen share if necessary.

4 MR. BALLENGER: I think that would be
5 helpful just for the morning. And I can --
6 Joline, if you'd like, I can share it on my
7 side.

8 MS. PRICE: Yeah.

9 MR. BALLENGER: I'm trying to locate
10 that.

11 MS. DOBI: You should be able to do
12 so now.

13 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

15 MR. BALLENGER: Does everyone see the
16 hearing exhibit?

17 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Let me know where you
19 need me to go, Joline.

20 MS. PRICE: So in this hearing
21 exhibit, pages 1 through 8 are excerpts from
22 the monthly reports from the Water Department
23 to the Rate Board from November 2022 through
24 February 2023 -- for the months November 2022
25 through February 2023.

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1 In each of these reports, Table 5
2 presents data on the number of denials of
3 applicants not enrolled in TAP; correct?

4 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

5 MS. PRICE: And two of the reasons
6 for denial are missing or invalid income or
7 residency documentation and missing
8 information on the application form.

9 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

10 MS. PRICE: And during this
11 four-month period, these monthly reports
12 show -- I can walk you through this or I can
13 just add the -- tell you what the number is.
14 It's 726 new applications denied due to
15 missing or invalid information, subject to
16 check.

17 MS. CROSBY: I'll trust your math.

18 MS. PRICE: Okay. PWD does not
19 report the difference between information --
20 or WRB/PWD doesn't report the information
21 between the information -- difference between
22 the information that is missing and the
23 information that is deemed invalid; correct?

24 MS. CROSBY: To the best of my
25 knowledge, this report is created by the

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1 Raftelis team using the information from our
2 CAMP application processing system. So I am
3 not able to answer specifics regarding this
4 portion of the report.

5 MS. PRICE: Is someone from Raftelis
6 able to just answer that you're not -- you
7 don't report the difference between missing
8 and invalid?

9 MS. TAVANTZIS: We do not report
10 those separately, that is correct.

11 MS. PRICE: And then the follow-up
12 question is, would you be able -- can you tell
13 us how many of the 726 applications denied
14 from November 2022 to February 2023 would not
15 have been denied under the new procedures that
16 became operational in April 2023?

17 MS. CROSBY: I am not able to.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Is Raftelis able
19 to -- I'm sorry, can you hear me?

20 MR. DASENT: Yes.

21 MR. BALLENGER: Is that something
22 that Raftelis could determine from the
23 reporting that it has?

24 MR. DASENT: Henrietta or Jen?

25 MS. LOCKLEAR: We can provide an

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1 estimate of that, but not in the hearing
2 today. It would have to be afterwards.

3 MS. PRICE: Can we make that a
4 transcript request?

5 MR. DASENT: Okay. I'll just do it
6 TR1 for the Public Advocate.

7 Yes. Thank you.

8 MS. PRICE: Okay. I don't know, we
9 can keep screen sharing, I guess, but moving
10 on to a different topic.

11 If I can point you to page 8 of your
12 rebuttal testimony.

13 MS. CROSBY: I did bring that with
14 me.

15 MS. PRICE: Lines 15 to 16, you state
16 that: Enrollment from OOPA to TAP will
17 continue to require a degree of manual review
18 and approval until the development is
19 completed.

20 Do you see that?

21 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

22 MS. PRICE: Madam Hearing Officer, do
23 you want us to define OOPA here?

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: No, it
25 says what it is up there, unless you want to

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1 briefly describe it, but...

2 MS. PRICE: Oh, it does, it says it.
3 I didn't see that it was up there.

4 Okay. And can I conclude, or can we
5 conclude from that comment that you do not
6 oppose Mr. Colton's recommendation that WRB
7 pursue automatic enrollment through that?

8 MS. CROSBY: No. We actually have
9 that planned.

10 MS. PRICE: And when do you expect
11 this development to be completed?

12 MS. CROSBY: I can't give a specific
13 timeline, and that's because the tax side is a
14 different department that I do not have
15 oversight of. I do know that they're
16 currently working on a prequalification
17 program for their Senior Freeze Program, and
18 that any work with us will have to wait until
19 their development and staff resources are
20 available after that initiative.

21 MS. PRICE: And what more, if
22 anything, would a customer need to do to
23 enroll in TAP once this class enrollment is
24 completed?

25 MS. CROSBY: I don't know. As I

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1 said, their development and staff resources
2 are still committed to that other project. So
3 we haven't developed a requirements document
4 to flush out what, if anything, would be
5 needed from the customer.

6 MS. PRICE: Is the goal that as
7 little as -- that nothing would be needed from
8 the customer?

9 MS. CROSBY: That's always the
10 ultimate goal, yes.

11 MS. PRICE: Okay. So also on page 8
12 of your rebuttal testimony, at lines 18
13 through 20, you state that: The City is
14 continuing development of data-sharing
15 processes with the IDEA office to prequalify
16 eligible customers into TAP based on other
17 City administrative data that verify
18 eligibility.

19 Do you see that?

20 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

21 MS. PRICE: And then at lines 22 to
22 25, you state that: Necessary data-sharing
23 agreements have been approved by the law
24 department, and the various departments are
25 working on the technological and operational

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1 aspects needed for prequalification for a
2 program of this size. The City estimates that
3 this program should be under way by the end of
4 the fiscal year.

5 Do you see that?

6 MS. CROSBY: Yes. And that is an
7 error. It should say next fiscal year. So I
8 don't know if an errata sheet needs to be
9 created, but it's next fiscal year. So that
10 would be June 30th of 2024.

11 MS. PRICE: All right. I defer to
12 the Hearing Officer on whether an errata would
13 be needed on this.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'll leave
15 it up to Mr. Ballenger and Ms. Price. I mean,
16 it's stated on the record here.

17 MS. PRICE: Yeah, if it's stated on
18 the record, I don't think we'll require a --
19 right? Yeah.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Yes.

21 MS. PRICE: Okay. And what do you
22 mean by the word "prequalification"?

23 MS. CROSBY: Yes. So auto
24 enrollment, to me, means that it happens
25 without any human touch. It's completely

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1 automated. And that's not what our design is.
2 Our design is to have the information from
3 the -- from our outside data sources put into
4 our CAMP application processing system to
5 prepopulate all of the necessary fields in
6 order to make the decision.

7 And then, just as we do with all of
8 our applications, we're going to have our
9 staff review that information in a
10 double-blind fashion to approve the
11 appropriate program.

12 So we're not going to change our
13 QA/QC process as part of this program. We
14 want to ensure that we're doing the best and
15 most accurate work. So it's better to say
16 prequalification, because it is going to have
17 a human touch.

18 MS. PRICE: Okay. And what would a
19 customer need to do more to enroll in TAP once
20 they do this pre -- you do this
21 prequalification process?

22 MS. CROSBY: So this prequalification
23 would not require action from the customer.

24 MS. PRICE: Okay.

25 MS. CROSBY: That's assuming that

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1 they did all the front-end work to apply for
2 the assistance program, that they -- that
3 we're using to prequalify them with.

4 MS. PRICE: Right. So whatever they
5 did to -- that meant that the City -- that the
6 IDEA, I-D-E-A, folks got the data they had to
7 do.

8 MS. CROSBY: Correct. So at some
9 point in time the customer took an action, but
10 in order to be prequalified into TAP, they do
11 not have to take any additional action.

12 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

13 And can I conclude from those two
14 comments that you do not oppose Mr. Colton's
15 recommendation that PWD pursue automatic
16 enrollment -- maybe prequalification is a
17 better term here -- through IDEA and that you
18 expect to have -- and then based on your
19 comments, that you expect to have the program
20 under way by the end of next fiscal year?

21 MS. CROSBY: Correct, with the pre --
22 the discernment between auto enrollment and
23 prequalification, yes.

24 MS. PRICE: Yeah. All right.
25 Turning to page 9 of your rebuttal testimony.

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1 From lines 13 through 18 you state that:
2 Earlier this year, the parties finalized a
3 data sharing agreement and began to share data
4 for use in the program. Preparation in
5 various ways is underway to realize LIHWAP to
6 TAP prequalification, include technology
7 changes, staff training and communication
8 materials. The City estimates that all
9 necessary process -- all necessary processes
10 will be completed in this calendar year to
11 enroll the first group of prequalified LIHWAP
12 TAP customers into TAP.

13 Do you see that?

14 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

15 MS. PRICE: And can I conclude from
16 this testimony that you do not oppose
17 Mr. Colton's recommendation that PWD pursue --
18 again, the distinction between automatic --
19 not automatic enrollment but this
20 prequalification process through the
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that indeed,
22 you expect this to be operational by the end
23 of calendar year 2023?

24 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

25 MS. PRICE: All right. Your rebuttal

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1 testimony at page 6, lines 9 through 10,
2 states that: The detailed estimates from the
3 2016 rate case established that roughly 56,000
4 accounts are eligible for TAP enrollment.

5 Do you see that?

6 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

7 MS. PRICE: So to go back to the
8 hearing exhibit, asking you to take a look at
9 the response to P -- Public Advocate
10 Interrogatory I-85. And that's on page 9 of
11 the hearing exhibit.

12 Section A of that discovery request
13 asked PWD to provide, by month, January 2022
14 to the present, the number of residential
15 customers who PWD had identified as being
16 protected from nonpayment terminations due to
17 their low-income or vulnerable status.

18 Do you see that?

19 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm sorry,
21 are you on cross-examination exhibit page 9?

22 MS. PRICE: Yes.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Because
24 that's not what mine says.

25 MS. PRICE: Well, you -- you have to

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1 go to -- it's the -- it says residential
2 customers through PWD.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm
4 looking at cross exhibit page 9, which talks
5 about the capital budget.

6 MS. PRICE: This is from the one I
7 sent around yesterday, the May 5th cross-exam.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Right.
9 That's what I'm looking at.

10 MR. BALLENGER: It's page numbered 9
11 on the bottom right-hand corner. It's not
12 going be the ninth page.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I know
14 that. I'm looking at it. And seriously --

15 MR. BALLENGER: I'm showing it on
16 screen as well.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Do you
18 know what, I'm looking at the wrong one. I
19 beg your pardon. Beg your pardon.

20 No, wait, cross -- that's the wrong
21 cross-examination exhibit for me, folks, so I
22 beg your pardon.

23 Yeah, I do have that. I'm sorry.
24 That was totally me.

25 MS. PRICE: No worries.

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1 Okay. So PWD's response states that:
2 As of June 2022, when the City first completed
3 its identification of residential customers as
4 low-income and/or of a vulnerable population
5 to protect from service termination due to
6 nonpayment, there were 107,119 customers
7 protected.

8 Do you see that?

9 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

10 MS. PRICE: How are the terms
11 "low-income" and "vulnerable" defined?

12 MS. CROSBY: We use that information
13 from the IDEA team, and they use City
14 databases. Subject to check, I believe it was
15 households who had received Medicaid or
16 homelessness prevention services within the
17 last 12 months.

18 MS. PRICE: So is it your testimony
19 that the difference between the 56,000
20 income-eligible customers you cited in your
21 testimony and the 117,000 [sic] in the -- who
22 were protected from shutoff, were -- that the
23 difference between those two numbers were
24 entirely non-low-income customers?

25 MS. CROSBY: No, that is not my

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1 testimony.

2 MS. PRICE: Okay. Do you know how
3 many of those 107,119 are low income?

4 MS. CROSBY: No.

5 MS. PRICE: Is that something that
6 Raftelis would be able to tell us?

7 MS. CROSBY: I know that Raftelis,
8 their team developed that estimate of 56,000,
9 and the IDEA team provided the 107,000.

10 MS. LOCKLEAR: Yeah, we're not able
11 to tell you about the IDEA team's 107,119.

12 MS. PRICE: Okay.

13 MS. CROSBY: Maybe I can explain.
14 The data-sharing agreement between the
15 department of revenue and IDEA is based in
16 privacy. They're -- the customers who
17 received Medicaid have a privacy right, and so
18 they pulled information from two databases,
19 the Medicaid database and the homelessness
20 prevention services database, and then they
21 blended those, they aggregated them.

22 And so when they gave them to us,
23 they gave it to us as a yes/no flag. So we
24 only know that they qualify for one or both.
25 We don't know which one because of the privacy

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1 rights. Because we, as revenue, are not
2 allowed to see or have access to that source
3 data.

4 MS. PRICE: Okay. Now, so you would
5 also not be able to tell us -- right. So
6 you're saying you wouldn't be able to tell us
7 how many would be Medicaid and how many would
8 be homeless prevention services.

9 MS. CROSBY: No. We do not receive
10 that information from the IDEA office. We
11 simply receive a yes/no flag that they are one
12 of those two things.

13 MS. PRICE: And would you be able to
14 tell us what the eligibility for the homeless
15 prevention services or the -- or Medicaid
16 would be?

17 MS. CROSBY: I believe Medicaid
18 eligibility is widely known. I don't know it
19 off the top of my head, but I could Google it.
20 The homelessness prevention services, that
21 could probably be a transcript request. I
22 believe it's a department within the City that
23 provides services to residents.

24 MS. PRICE: If we could, could we get
25 a transcript request just for those sort of

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1 parameters of what that dataset -- if there
2 are, what the income eligibility parameters
3 were and who served under those? Like what
4 eligibility criteria are for those
5 homelessness protection services; that if
6 Ms. Crosby is right, that we can cite to
7 publicly available information regarding
8 Medicaid.

9 MR. DASENT: Okay. We will do that.

10 MS. PRICE: But would it be correct
11 to assume that some portion of the 51,000
12 difference between the 56,000 number provided
13 by Raftelis and the 117,119 [sic] number are
14 low-income customers?

15 MS. CROSBY: Yes, that's a very safe
16 assumption.

17 MS. PRICE: Okay. Finally, let's
18 turn to Public Advocate Data Request I-88,
19 which is page 10 of the -- no, page 11 of the
20 hearing exhibit.

21 This request asked PWD to identify
22 all written internal PWD or WRB processes and
23 procedures for identifying whether and/or when
24 a customer is low income or vulnerable.

25 Do you see that?

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1 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

2 MS. PRICE: And the response was
3 that: WRB collaborates with the Office of
4 Integrated Data for Evidence and Action, IDEA,
5 as we've been discussing, within the managing
6 director's office to engage in data-matching
7 of its customers with other City
8 administrative data to confirm participation
9 in other assistance programs, thereby
10 identifying those customers as low income or
11 vulnerable -- and/or vulnerable for purposes
12 of shutoff exemption. Correct?

13 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

14 MS. PRICE: So are you able to tell
15 me when the Office of Integrated Data for
16 Evidence and Action office was created within
17 the Philadelphia managing director's office?

18 MS. CROSBY: I believe it was in
19 February of 2002 [sic]. It was created by an
20 executive order from the mayor.

21 MS. PRICE: So it was prior to the
22 2016 rate case?

23 MS. CROSBY: No, it was either 2022
24 or 2023.

25 MS. PRICE: Okay. You said 2002.

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1 2022.

2 MS. CROSBY: I'm sorry.

3 MS. PRICE: That's okay.

4 Okay. So I think that answers my
5 next question, but presumably Raftelis did not
6 consult with the IDEA office prior to
7 developing the estimate of 56,000 TAP-eligible
8 customers.

9 MS. CROSBY: To the best of my
10 knowledge, no, it did not exist that the time,
11 when they made their assumptions.

12 MS. LOCKLEAR: That's correct.

13 MS. PRICE: That concludes my
14 cross-examination.

15 MS. CROSBY: Actually, I'm looking at
16 my notes. It was created on March 30th, 2022
17 by executive order.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Mr. Haver,
19 do you have any questions?

20 MR. HAVER: Yes, I do.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. HAVER:

22 MR. HAVER: I want to start out by
23 asking if any of the panel today were in these
24 positions when Ms. McCarty was the water
25 commissioner.

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1 MS. CROSBY: I was not.

2 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: I was with
3 Raftelis and working with the City at that
4 time.

5 MS. LOCKLEAR: As was I.

6 MS. TAVANTZIS: And me too.

7 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

8 We've heard testimony that 40% of the
9 processed water is lost, does not go through
10 meters. What is the dollar value of that 40%?

11 MR. BALLENGER: Objection. This is
12 beyond the scope of the WRB Panel testimony.
13 They're only speaking really to TAP-related
14 issues, customer assistance programs, and
15 related issues raised by Mr. Colton and his
16 testimony.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't
18 see how it has any relevance at all to their
19 testimony.

20 MR. HAVER: You don't think it's of
21 value to know the dollar value of the water
22 lost?

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Not from
24 these witnesses.

25 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

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1 MR. HAVER: From which witnesses
2 would it be appropriate? Because I asked the
3 other panel; you told me to wait for the Water
4 Revenue Panel.

5 MR. DASENT: I don't believe that's
6 the case.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I never
8 said that.

9 MR. DASENT: The Operations Panel can
10 certainly give you that answer, and if I need
11 to bring someone back for that or give you a
12 transcript response, we will do that.

13 MR. HAVER: Transcript response would
14 be fine.

15 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: You've
16 already asked the amount of lost water.

17 MR. HAVER: I'm asking the dollar
18 value.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: These
20 people can't provide that.

21 MR. HAVER: So the Water Revenue
22 Bureau doesn't do the billing?

23 MR. DASENT: It's more the operations
24 side of it that would answer your question,
25 and that's why we're trying to get the answer

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1 to you as a transcript response so the
2 department can give you the answer you want.

3 MR. HAVER: I have questions about
4 the new meter system. Would those be
5 appropriate for this panel?

6 MR. DASENT: The new meter system is
7 actually addressed also by Steve Junod and the
8 Operations Panel.

9 MR. HAVER: Let me make additional
10 transcript requests.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't
12 think you have obligations to do a transcript
13 request for this. You had every opportunity
14 when those witnesses were available for
15 cross-examination.

16 MR. HAVER: And I did ask those
17 questions, and I was told that was not the
18 correct panel. And you also, Your Honor,
19 ruled that if I addressed it to a different
20 panel, I can reach back and have those
21 questions answered by a previous panel.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: If
23 Mr. Dasant wants to supply it, he can, but
24 again --

25 MR. DASENT: We have quite a few

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1 already between now and next Wednesday, but
2 let me put this on the list, Mr. Haver,
3 because we want to answer your requests.

4 MR. HAVER: How much did the new
5 meter system cost, how much is it projected to
6 save each year, and what is the -- how long
7 will each new meter last for? What's the
8 projected life of a new meter?

9 MR. DASENT: Thank you. We'll get
10 that.

11 MR. HAVER: Do you work with PGW to
12 enroll households in TAP?

13 MS. CROSBY: We do not.

14 MR. HAVER: Is there a reason why you
15 don't?

16 MS. CROSBY: I believe we answered
17 that in a discovery request, so I'm not going
18 to give you the most precise words, but I
19 believe it's because they are a -- they're
20 regulated by the Public Utility Commission,
21 and we would have to work with their office,
22 their company, to make sure that any type of
23 information exchange does not run afoul of
24 those regulations.

25 And since we are not governed by the

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1 PUC, I myself am not aware of what, if any, or
2 to the extent those limitations may be.

3 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

4 Drawing your attention to your
5 testimony, page 5, line 13 through 14, I was
6 unaware --

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Excuse me,
8 was that direct or rebuttal testimony?

9 MR. HAVER: Direct. I was unaware
10 we'd be able to do screen save, so I do not
11 have the ability to call it up for you. I
12 just have to give you the page numbers and
13 lines.

14 MS. CROSBY: So I do have my direct.
15 Can you give me the page again?

16 MR. HAVER: Page 5. Again, this is
17 the numbered page, not on my computer, but the
18 numbered page from your testimony. Page 5,
19 line 13 to 14.

20 MS. CROSBY: So my direct statement,
21 line 13 is blank and line 14 is "wrap." Is
22 that what you're referring to?

23 MR. HAVER: I'm referring to your
24 quote: Approximately 41% of consumers use the
25 e-billing format.

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1 MS. CROSBY: Are we looking at PWD
2 Statement 5?

3 MR. HAVER: I'm looking at your
4 statement, the Water Revenue Bureau.

5 MS. CROSBY: I'm looking at PWD
6 Statement 5, page 5 of 15. Line 13 is blank
7 and line 14 says wrap, W-R-A-P, and it's
8 underlined.

9 MR. BALLENGER: I believe I can solve
10 this mystery. If you look at page 3 of your
11 testimony, starting on line 13.

12 MS. CROSBY: Pay their water bill as
13 of the end of November 22nd -- or 2022? Is
14 that it, Mr. Haver?

15 MR. HAVER: Again, if that's the page
16 that you have it on. The line I'm interested
17 in is: Approximately 41% of consumers use the
18 e-billing format.

19 MR. DASENT: That's it.

20 MS. CROSBY: Yes, I see that.

21 MR. HAVER: Okay. What does that
22 actually mean? Does that mean they go to the
23 City's web page and pay that way?

24 MS. CROSBY: It means that they
25 either have an account to receive their bill

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1 via paper or they have an account to make
2 their payments or -- it does not count the
3 one-time payment. So, yes, it's those two
4 things. They have an account to make payments
5 on a regular basis and view their bill, or
6 they have an account to receive paper billing
7 but do not make their payments. So it's those
8 two types of accounts.

9 MR. HAVER: What percentage of PWD
10 customers pay through the City's web page?

11 MS. CROSBY: I don't have that number
12 available right now.

13 MR. HAVER: Okay. The web page says
14 that the system is powered by KUBRA EZ-PAY.
15 What does that mean?

16 MS. CROSBY: KUBRA is our vendor that
17 handles that web -- the website and accepting
18 the payments that are made through that
19 website. They're a payment vendor.

20 MR. HAVER: Does KUBRA have any
21 offices in the United States?

22 MS. CROSBY: I don't know.

23 MR. HAVER: Do you know where their
24 corporate office is located?

25 MS. CROSBY: I do not.

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1 MR. HAVER: Do they have any offices
2 in Philadelphia?

3 MS. CROSBY: I do not know.

4 MR. HAVER: Do they employ any
5 Philadelphia residents?

6 MS. CROSBY: I do not know.

7 MR. HAVER: How was KUBRA EZ-PAY
8 selected?

9 MS. CROSBY: Through an RFP process.

10 MR. HAVER: Does KUBRA pay the City
11 of Philadelphia for being a vendor or does the
12 City -- I'm sorry, does the Water Revenue
13 Bureau or the Water Department pay KUBRA for
14 being a vendor or does KUBRA pay the Water
15 Revenue Bureau or the Water Department for
16 being -- for doing the service?

17 MS. CROSBY: I don't know the details
18 of the contract.

19 MR. HAVER: Who would?

20 MR. DASENT: We could get a copy of
21 the contract through the law department.

22 MR. HAVER: That would be fine, but
23 it's a much simpler question. Does the Water
24 Department pay them, does the Water Revenue
25 Department pay them, or do they pay the Water

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1 Revenue Department or the PWD for the
2 privilege of collecting the funds?

3 MS. CROSBY: I don't know, but I
4 believe that would be laid out in the
5 contract.

6 MR. DASENT: Yes.

7 MR. HAVER: Okay. Please get me a
8 copy of the contract.

9 Is there a surcharge for using the
10 City's web page to pay a water bill?

11 MS. CROSBY: In some instances, yes.

12 MR. HAVER: What is that surcharge?

13 MS. CROSBY: I do not know off the
14 top of my head. I believe we did provide it
15 in a discovery response.

16 MR. HAVER: Who would know that off
17 the top of their head?

18 MR. DASENT: If anyone on the panel
19 knows, that's fine. Otherwise, the discovery
20 response will speak to that issue. It's
21 posted at the Rate Board website.

22 We don't have that information in the
23 room, Mr. Haver, I'm sorry.

24 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

25 How is the fee set? Does WRB or PWD

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1 set the fee or is that something that KUBRA
2 EZ-PAY sets?

3 MS. CROSBY: I believe that would
4 also be in the contract.

5 MR. DASENT: Yep.

6 MR. HAVER: But you don't know?

7 MS. CROSBY: No. As I said, I do not
8 manage that contract.

9 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

10 How much does it cost WRB and/or PWD
11 to process a payment that reaches it through
12 the United States mail?

13 MS. CROSBY: I do not know.

14 MR. HAVER: Who would know that?

15 MR. DASENT: That's something that
16 could be researched, Mr. Haver, but I think
17 we're talking now outside the scope of
18 Ms. Crosby's testimony. And as much as I'd
19 like to answer all of your requests, between
20 now and Wednesday we have a full plate, not to
21 mention briefing as well.

22 So I don't know that this is the
23 panel to answer that question, and we'll
24 gently lodge an objection.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't

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1 know how to respond to that in terms of a
2 gentle objection.

3 MR. DASENT: How about a vigorous
4 one, then, because I can't answer that based
5 upon the panel. So we object to this question
6 for this panel.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: What
8 exactly was your question?

9 MR. HAVER: How much does it cost the
10 Water Revenue Bureau and/or the PWD to process
11 a payment that comes in through the
12 United States mail?

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: If you can
14 find an answer to it, but it does seem kind of
15 a hard question to answer, to break it out
16 like that. I'm sure there's some kind of
17 overall number that's used as an operation
18 expense. But I'm not sure you can do it by
19 individual mailing.

20 MR. DASENT: If I can find the
21 answer, I will do -- I will try to do so.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, I
23 don't know who could do that.

24 MR. HAVER: It would be incredibly
25 important to decide how much it costs to

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1 process bills paid through the mail and
2 compare it to who is paying online to decide
3 what's the most cost-efficient way to bill and
4 collect. I don't know why that wouldn't be
5 material to a discussion of a rate case.

6 MR. DASENT: It may be material to a
7 discussion. I'm trying to figure out if
8 there's a report that addresses that, and my
9 suspicion is, and a clear suspicion, that it's
10 cheaper to do it electronically. But I'd like
11 to give you some good information on that
12 point, and if there is a report, we will
13 provide it.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And the
15 problem is that this is really late in the
16 proceeding.

17 If you can do it, fine.

18 MR. DASENT: Okay.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And I
20 would think you could do it by reference to
21 the filing in terms of what operational
22 account handles this, which I wouldn't even
23 begin to know --

24 MS. CROSBY: The --

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: -- how to

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1 do.

2 MS. CROSBY: -- payment processing in
3 the mail room is not under PWD's operations.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh, okay.
5 Well, who does that? The City?

6 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,
8 there's your answer.

9 MS. CROSBY: PWD doesn't have its own
10 mail room. I guess that's the best way of
11 saying it.

12 MR. HAVER: Does the City bill PWD or
13 WRB for processing the payments?

14 MS. CROSBY: No.

15 MR. HAVER: So the City absorbs the
16 cost of processing the payments?

17 MS. CROSBY: I don't know what you
18 mean by absorbed, but there are staff who work
19 there so there's labor costs, there's
20 machinery. So I'm assuming there's purchasing
21 or rental cost.

22 MR. HAVER: And that's paid for out
23 of the City's general operating budget, is
24 what I'm asking; is that correct?

25 MS. CROSBY: I don't know.

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1 MR. HAVER: Does -- again, does Water
2 Revenue Bureau make a payment to the City for
3 those services?

4 MS. CROSBY: No.

5 MR. HAVER: Does the Philadelphia --

6 MS. CROSBY: There's no interfund
7 transfer for that.

8 MR. HAVER: Does the Philadelphia
9 Water Department make a payment to the City
10 for those services?

11 MR. DASENT: That would be for
12 finance to address, but -- I'm sorry, Susan,
13 if you know. I'm sorry.

14 MS. CROSBY: There's no inter fund
15 transfer for that.

16 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

17 Are there other ways consumers can
18 pay the bill other than through the mail or
19 from the web page?

20 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

21 MR. HAVER: And could you just list
22 them quickly?

23 MS. CROSBY: They can come into our
24 office. We have the main office in the
25 municipal services building and we have a

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1 satellite office in -- I don't know the exact
2 address, but we do have one of our satellite
3 offices open that has cashiering available.

4 MR. HAVER: Can I pay my water bill
5 at a PGW office?

6 MS. CROSBY: No.

7 MR. HAVER: Are there check -- what
8 are colloquially called check cashing places
9 where I can pay my water bill?

10 MS. CROSBY: To the best of my
11 knowledge, no.

12 MR. HAVER: Are there any retail
13 outlets where I can pay my water bill?

14 MS. CROSBY: No.

15 MR. HAVER: So the check cashing
16 places that say you can pay your utility bill
17 here are not referencing Philadelphia Water
18 Department bills?

19 MS. CROSBY: I don't know what their
20 information states.

21 MR. HAVER: Okay. You spoke earlier
22 and you said you weren't sure what the size of
23 the surcharge was for paying online, but that
24 you knew there was a surcharge; is that
25 correct?

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1 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

2 MR. HAVER: Do you believe that
3 that's a disincentive for people to pay
4 online?

5 MS. CROSBY: I can't say one way or
6 another what incentivizes or deincentivizes
7 people to choose a certain payment method.

8 MR. HAVER: Okay. I have questions
9 about the amount of the charge, the surcharge.
10 I'm going to skip them all. I know you have
11 to get on a plane and you've already said you
12 don't know it. I'm going to take you at your
13 word that you don't know it, so I won't go
14 through those.

15 Please give me a moment to cross
16 those off my list and get to the ones that you
17 may be able to answer.

18 I wanted to revisit the different
19 numbers of how many households are eligible
20 for TAP. Public Advocate's consultants said
21 there are 170,000 TAP eligible. I believe you
22 just said the number is 56,000.

23 Can you explain the wide difference
24 of opinion in those numbers?

25 MS. CROSBY: I believe that the

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1 56,000 was an estimate made by Raftelis in an
2 earlier rate case, and that the -- I'm -- I've
3 read it several times, and I'm still not quite
4 clear on Mr. Colton's methodology for his
5 number, but there is a difference in those
6 numbers.

7 MR. HAVER: Could someone from
8 Raftelis explain to me why there's such a
9 wide -- it's not just a small divergence; it's
10 a very large divergence. Can someone from
11 Raftelis help me understand why there's such a
12 divergent view of how many households are
13 eligible?

14 MR. DASENT: I'm not sure if John can
15 answer that. I have a feeling he can.

16 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: At the outset
17 of the discussion of setting up the TAP
18 program in the 2016 rate proceeding, we did an
19 analysis. We looked at income levels that, of
20 course, from the Census Bureau looks at
21 households, the number of households at
22 certain income levels. There are about
23 646,000 households in the city of
24 Philadelphia.

25 As we know, households do not equate

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1 to customers of the Philadelphia Water
2 Department. There are only about 430ish
3 thousand customers of the residential class in
4 Philadelphia with the Water Department. So
5 you have to do a crosswalk.

6 Certainly, low-income customers are
7 less -- or low-income households are less
8 likely to be direct customers of the system.
9 So that's the process that we went through
10 coming up with 56,000 customers as an
11 estimate. That's the number that has been
12 used by the City from the outset of 2016, and
13 we stand by that number.

14 MR. HAVER: So fair to say you
15 disagree with the Public Advocate's testimony;
16 is that correct?

17 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: Correct.

18 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

19 I want to then ask about the number
20 of households currently enrolled in the TAP
21 program. I did try and look at all of the
22 charts in your testimony, and I could not find
23 that -- a breakout just to the people enrolled
24 in the TAP program, not the senior citizen
25 program, not the legacy program, but just TAP.

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1 Do you have a number of how many
2 households are enrolled just in TAP?

3 MS. CROSBY: To the best of my
4 knowledge, at the beginning of May, there were
5 approximately 26,000. And that's subject to
6 check.

7 MR. HAVER: So based on your
8 testimony, you would have more than 50% -- I'm
9 sorry, just slightly less than 50% of the
10 eligible households enrolled in TAP; is that
11 correct?

12 Mr. Davis, I'll ask you to do the
13 math. You can do it faster than I can. 26
14 out of 56?

15 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: I'll refer to
16 my calculator here.

17 MR. HAVER: Okay.

18 Well, 25 out of --

19 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: 46%.

20 MR. HAVER: 46%. Public Advocate
21 witness estimated 9%. Could you help me
22 understand the divergence again?

23 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: We're using a
24 denominator of 56,000. Public Advocate's
25 expert is using a denominator of 170,000.

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1 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

2 And even the number of people
3 enrolled in the TAP program, Public
4 Advocates -- the Water Department's Public
5 Advocate says that number is 15,032. You say
6 that number is 26,000.

7 Can you help me explain the
8 divergence there as well?

9 MS. CROSBY: I believe he may have
10 been looking at previously published reports.
11 I'm referring to a monthly report that I
12 receive internally.

13 MR. HAVER: Could -- as a transcript
14 request, could I see that report? The most
15 recent monthly report that you're referencing?

16 MS. CROSBY: Sure.

17 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

18 MS. CROSBY: I'm answering on behalf
19 of you, Andre.

20 MR. DASENT: That's fine. I just
21 want to make sure that Ms. Crosby could
22 provide it.

23 MS. CROSBY: Yes, I can provide it.

24 MR. DASENT: Okay.

25 MR. HAVER: I want to revisit LIHWAP.

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1 And I know the initials are L-I-H-W-A-P. And
2 Mr. Colton suggested I was pronouncing it
3 incorrectly. But I think you're familiar with
4 the program; is that correct?

5 MS. CROSBY: That is correct.

6 MR. HAVER: I'm referencing page 9,
7 line 1. And again, that's on my computer; it
8 may not paginate the same as your computer.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Page 9 of
10 direct or rebuttal?

11 MR. HAVER: Direct testimony of the
12 Water Revenue Bureau.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

14 MR. HAVER: But I've already
15 discovered that my computer pagination might
16 be different than yours.

17 MS. CROSBY: Can you give me the
18 first sentences or --

19 MR. HAVER: Sure. It states that:
20 As of November 30th, 2022, 3,560 households
21 received LIHWAP grants. Over the life of the
22 program, Philadelphia water consumers have
23 received a total of \$13,494,421.

24 MS. CROSBY: Yes, I see where you're
25 looking. Yes.

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1 For everyone else, it's page 9 of 15.
2 It starts on page 8 of 15 and goes to page 9
3 of 15.

4 MR. HAVER: You write: Over the life
5 of the program, Philadelphia water customers
6 have received a total of 13 million.

7 How many customers is that?

8 MS. CROSBY: I believe it's
9 approximately 7,000. I think that if you add
10 up the numbers from the prior sentences you
11 can get to the actual number. But I don't
12 have a calculator. It's --

13 MR. HAVER: Again, subject to check.
14 7,000 is fine. Again, I know you want to get
15 to your plane. I'm sure you want to get home,
16 so I don't want to take the time to do the
17 actual math. I can do that without you.

18 MS. CROSBY: It's a little over
19 7,000.

20 MR. HAVER: Right. And I will
21 calculate the -- I'm not going to ask you to
22 calculate the average size of the grant now.
23 I'll do that on my own.

24 But I would be right to divide that
25 number into the 3,560 households that received

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1 the grant to find out what the average grant
2 size was; is that correct?

3 MS. CROSBY: Yes, that is how you
4 could calculate averages.

5 MR. HAVER: Okay. How many people
6 were -- how many households were eligible for
7 the LIHWAP grant in Philadelphia?

8 MS. CROSBY: I do not know.

9 MR. HAVER: So you wouldn't know what
10 percentage of people who were eligible
11 received it?

12 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

13 MR. HAVER: And the total amount that
14 one could qualify for as a grant was how much?

15 MS. CROSBY: It was 5,000.

16 They're -- it's 2500 for water service and
17 2500 for sewer service, so for our customers
18 it was 5,000.

19 MR. HAVER: And is that program still
20 open?

21 MS. CROSBY: I believe the money has
22 been expended. There is discussions about
23 additional funding, but I've not heard any
24 final decisions.

25 MR. HAVER: Was WRB accepting

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1 applications for LIHWAP?

2 MS. CROSBY: No. The LIHWAP program
3 was administered by the State.

4 MR. HAVER: Where did someone have to
5 go to apply for LIHWAP?

6 MS. CROSBY: I believe they could do
7 it online or through a local benefits office.
8 But again, that was the State's program, so I
9 don't know the specifics.

10 MR. HAVER: Did the places where WRB
11 accepts payments for the water bill also help
12 people go online to apply for the LIHWAP
13 grant?

14 MS. CROSBY: Again, we did not
15 administer the program. We received our
16 payments directly from the Commonwealth.

17 MR. HAVER: I understand that, but
18 I'm asking, if I, as a consumer, went in to
19 pay my bill at one of your offices, would your
20 staff help me apply for the LIHWAP grant
21 online if I did not have a computer at home or
22 I had some issues around computer literacy or
23 I simply couldn't pay for my internet bill?

24 MS. CROSBY: Oh, I see. No, we did
25 not have any facilitation for that.

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1 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

2 In retrospect, was that a mistake?

3 MR. DASENT: Objection. This is sort
4 of past -- the program is closed right now.
5 It might be extended, but whatever happened in
6 the past, we've factually described it to you.
7 However, to characterize it now, I'm not sure
8 how that helps anything. We've done our
9 outreach, we've done a number of steps to make
10 it known that this program was available, and
11 it was well subscribed. And we would like it
12 to be fully subscribed because it's to our
13 benefit.

14 I think that question, you know,
15 just -- it has nothing to do with a
16 prospective ratemaking, which is what we're
17 about. Fiscal '24 and '25. Not what happened
18 last year or the year before.

19 Please note our objection.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, I
21 don't really see why going back to a program
22 that wasn't even a PWD program, PWD did not
23 administer it. In terms of mistake, I guess
24 that's just a general term. Maybe, did you
25 learn from it and have incorporated those

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1 lessons? But I -- I really don't see that as
2 answerable.

3 MR. HAVER: I was asking her opinion.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'll let
5 Mrs. Crosby take a crack at it, but I really
6 kind of am doubtful about it.

7 I just think there are a lot of
8 factors. You can't just -- you know, that
9 would have to be looked at to get an answer
10 that really is helpful.

11 MR. DASENT: Ms. Crosby, can you add
12 anything?

13 MS. CROSBY: Just generally, from
14 every program that we administer, that others
15 administer, there's always lessons learned.
16 We learn lessons from other utilities. So
17 anytime we can learn something from the
18 success of a program, we try to -- we use that
19 in developing our processes and procedures.

20 MR. HAVER: Again, I'd like to
21 continue to visit that issue. I will not,
22 understanding you have to leave within half an
23 hour. I will do my best to address it with --
24 in a different fashion.

25 Will the other members of the panel

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1 be available to try and answer some of these
2 after Ms. Crosby has to leave?

3 MR. DASENT: Yes, they can be.

4 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

5 Again, on my copy of your direct
6 testimony, page 12, lines 7 through 11.

7 MS. CROSBY: Would you start --

8 MR. HAVER: Yes, ma'am. The above
9 changes between participation levels reflect
10 the shifting landscape brought about by the
11 pandemic and the City's subsequent return to
12 the use of shutoffs for unpaid bills in
13 July 2022. As the Water Revenue Bureau has
14 now resumed most collection activities, the
15 increase in payment agreements in FY 2023 is
16 significant.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That's
18 page 12 of your statement.

19 MS. CROSBY: Thank you.

20 MR. DASENT: Right above Roman IV.

21 MS. CROSBY: Yes, I see that.

22 MR. HAVER: What was the Water
23 Revenue Bureau's collection rate in fiscal
24 year 2021 and fiscal year 2022 when the
25 pandemic was upon the city?

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1 MR. DASENT: Please note that Black &
2 Veatch speaks to this issue, the collection
3 rate? Which is over a three-year period, and
4 Ms. Crosby speaks to collections as in getting
5 the revenues actually in the door, hiring
6 agencies to assist when necessary to get
7 revenues in the door, and running the
8 assistance program.

9 I'm not sure that she speaks to the
10 actual collection rate, but, Ms. Crosby, if
11 you want to take a stab at it, please do, but
12 Black & Veatch really speaks to this.

13 MS. CROSBY: Right. So --

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: There's no
15 reason for Ms. Crosby to do it if there's a
16 panel member -- I mean, this is an integrated
17 panel. So whoever is best able to answer
18 Mr. Haver's question should answer it.

19 MR. DASENT: Yeah.

20 MS. CROSBY: So when we at Revenue
21 talk about collection rates, we talk about
22 dollars in the door versus billings. And I
23 believe that that's a very different
24 methodology than what Raftelis uses.

25 MR. HAVER: So I'm a little confused.

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1 What would you then say is your collection
2 rate, what percentage do you say it is,
3 dollars in the door?

4 MR. DASENT: Perhaps Raftelis should
5 best speak to that. I don't know if Jen or
6 Henrietta or John.

7 MS. CROSBY: I can tell you that the
8 numbers that are reported in the rate case are
9 separate and apart from the numbers that we in
10 the department of revenue use for our
11 reporting, because they're two completely
12 different reporting systems. Ours are for
13 budgetary purposes, and theirs are for
14 ratemaking purposes. So it's apples to
15 oranges.

16 MR. HAVER: Right. So I'm asking
17 what number -- what the collection percentage
18 that -- rate is that you use.

19 MS. CROSBY: Okay. So I don't
20 have -- I don't have those revenue information
21 with me, but it has been published in the
22 department of revenue's five-year plan, which
23 is available on the department of revenue's
24 website. So I would direct you to that
25 information.

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1 MR. HAVER: I'm sorry, the -- you
2 said the revenue department's five-year plan?
3 I'm assuming that's incorporated in the City's
4 five-year plan; is that what you're
5 referencing?

6 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

7 MR. HAVER: Or does the revenue
8 department have a separate five-year plan?

9 MS. CROSBY: We have a separate one,
10 and it's on our website under reports.

11 MR. HAVER: Again, I appreciate your
12 help and your indulgence. So the City has a
13 five-year plan. That's not what you're
14 referencing. You're referencing a separate
15 five-year plan that's used for the revenue
16 department; is that correct?

17 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

18 MR. HAVER: And that is not on --
19 that's on the City's web page, but not under
20 the City's five-year plan. One has to go to
21 the revenue department to find the revenue
22 department's five-year plan; is that correct?

23 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

24 MR. HAVER: Okay. Can one of the
25 consultants tell me what the percentage of --

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1 what the collection percentage rate is that's
2 used by the Water Revenue Bureau?

3 MR. DASENT: Reports that are
4 prepared by ROC, you know, are used in the
5 rate case. So I think that's the -- sort of
6 the focus for ROC reporting, but correct me if
7 I'm wrong, Jen, or Henrietta.

8 MS. LOCKLEAR: That's correct.

9 MR. HAVER: That doesn't answer my
10 question.

11 MR. DASENT: But it tells you, when
12 you get your response, it will be the rate --
13 the collection rates that we use in the rate
14 case as opposed to WRB.

15 MR. HAVER: I'm asking specifically
16 about WRB. I want to investigate the power of
17 terminations to increase collection rates.
18 That's the point of the questions. I'm not
19 asking about anything else right now. Simply
20 asking about what does WRB -- what does -- how
21 does WRB list its collection rate.

22 MS. CROSBY: Right. RFC would not
23 have any of -- does not have the information
24 that we use to do that. We can -- you can
25 access that information through the reporting

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1 and if you -- we can make it a transcript
2 request. I'm adding to Andre's work. And we
3 can get that for you.

4 MR. HAVER: Okay. Again, the reason
5 for these questions is I want to ask the
6 follow-up question, but I don't believe, based
7 on what you've told me, you'll be able to
8 answer, but I will put it on the record
9 anyway.

10 You go on to say, in your testimony,
11 at the -- towards the end of lines 7 to 11,
12 that you've now started cutting people's
13 service off, termination, shutoffs, whatever
14 the language you use is. I believe you use
15 the actual term "shutoffs" for unpaid bills.

16 And I'm asking now that you have
17 started that process again, has that increased
18 your collection rate in the way that you
19 measure collection rates?

20 MS. CROSBY: I see.

21 You're correct, we would need the
22 prior one.

23 MR. HAVER: I'm sure you are aware
24 that the other -- you -- the other Water
25 Department -- excuse me. It's not other

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1 because the Water Department is separate from
2 water revenue. I'm sure you are aware that
3 the Water Department's consultants have gone
4 on record saying that it has not changed,
5 whether there were terminations or not
6 terminations. You're aware of that, right?

7 MS. CROSBY: Was that on prior
8 testimony during these hearings?

9 MR. HAVER: Yes.

10 MS. CROSBY: I've been at a
11 conference this week, so I've not seen any of
12 these hearings.

13 I can tell you, we cannot provide you
14 the collection rate that you're asking for
15 about shutoffs, because we began shutoffs,
16 service disconnections in July of 2022. That
17 fiscal year has not closed. That fiscal year
18 closes in the end of June, so we wouldn't be
19 able to tell you how it has impacted the
20 collections.

21 MR. HAVER: Right. I was -- I must
22 admit I was surprised to see that there's no
23 difference in collection rates whether people
24 are facing shutoffs or not facing shutoffs.
25 It didn't make intuitive sense to me. It was

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1 not part of my experience in listening to
2 people. So that's why I'm trying to
3 investigate this. But if it doesn't matter,
4 in terms of collection rates, whether someone
5 faces a shutoff or not, I now want to explore
6 the cost of shutting somebody off.

7 How much does it cost to turn -- to
8 shut off somebody's water?

9 MR. DASENT: This is beyond the scope
10 of Ms. Crosby's testimony. PWD actually
11 carries out the shutoffs. Mr. Junod could
12 have spoken to that yesterday. You did not
13 raise the question.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Can
15 anybody answer that? I mean, it really isn't
16 within the scope of your testimony, but is
17 that a factor you would look at?

18 MR. PILKINGTON DAVIS: We don't have
19 that information.

20 MR. HAVER: So in the Water Revenue
21 Bureau's designing of collection tools, it
22 doesn't factor in the cost of terminating or
23 shutting off somebody's water?

24 MR. DASENT: That's the Water
25 Department's job, and they do consider very

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1 much how much it costs to dispatch the worker
2 to carry out the disconnection, to reconnect
3 certain persons if you need to reconnect them
4 after a shutoff. And so that's very much in
5 the Water Department's thinking, not
6 necessarily translating to what Ms. Crosby
7 does.

8 MR. HAVER: Well, again, my
9 understanding is the Water Revenue Bureau
10 develops the tools for collection. So let me
11 make sure that's a correct assumption.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And I
13 don't know what you mean by develops.

14 MR. HAVER: The Water Revenue Bureau
15 is in charge --

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That's not
17 the case.

18 MR. HAVER: So going back --

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I can --

20 MR. HAVER: Going back to page 12,
21 lines 7 through 11. As the Water Revenue
22 Bureau has now resumed most collection
23 activities, are those collection activities
24 designed by the Water Revenue Bureau?

25 MS. CROSBY: Some of them are, yes.

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1 MR. HAVER: All right. And I'm
2 asking how do you know what are cost-efficient
3 tools if you don't know the cost of
4 terminating -- of shutoffs and turning someone
5 back on?

6 MS. CROSBY: When we look at the
7 tools, we look at the method and the timing of
8 the collection tool. And so that is how we
9 determine the cost. The dollar value of
10 sending out a truck is borne and -- I don't
11 want to say borne. It is part of the cost of
12 service from PWD, so when we look at
13 collection tools in deciding what tool to use,
14 that's things like letters, using collection
15 agencies, using a sequestration program, using
16 disconnections, doing outbound calling, those
17 types of things.

18 MR. HAVER: So not the cost of
19 shutoff and turn-ons?

20 MS. CROSBY: Not the hard costs, no.

21 MR. HAVER: Thank you. Okay.

22 You raised -- you spoke about
23 collection agencies, and that was my next
24 question. Does Water Revenue Bureau use
25 collection agencies to collect for bills?

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1 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

2 MR. HAVER: Does Water Revenue Bureau
3 sell the bills to the collection agencies?

4 MS. CROSBY: No.

5 MR. HAVER: Does Water Revenue Bureau
6 pay -- assign a portion of the bill to the
7 collection agency?

8 MS. CROSBY: I don't understand the
9 question.

10 MR. HAVER: Okay. So I'm assuming,
11 again, and let me make sure it's a correct,
12 assumption. I'm assuming the collection
13 agencies don't work for free.

14 MS. CROSBY: That is correct.

15 MR. HAVER: Is that a correct
16 assumption?

17 MS. CROSBY: It is.

18 MR. HAVER: And you have said that
19 the Water Revenue Bureau does not sell the
20 bill.

21 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

22 MR. HAVER: The collectible to the
23 debt collection company; is that correct?

24 MS. CROSBY: Right.

25 MR. HAVER: So I'm now inquiring how

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1 the debt collection company is paid.

2 MS. CROSBY: They get paid a
3 percentage of their collections.

4 MR. HAVER: And what is that
5 percentage?

6 MS. CROSBY: It varies depending on
7 the type of delinquency that is referred to
8 them and how the customer pays. Or not how.
9 Who the customer pays.

10 MR. HAVER: Could you elaborate?
11 Because I don't understand those parameters.

12 MS. CROSBY: So we call them
13 nondirect and direct payments. So if a
14 customer pays a collection agency directly,
15 they receive 1%. If they pay the City
16 directly, there's a different percentage.

17 MR. HAVER: And what's that
18 percentage?

19 MS. CROSBY: I don't have those
20 contracts. I don't manage those contracts.
21 They're managed by the department of revenue,
22 and not my side. It's managed by the
23 collection side of the tax, the tax side.

24 MR. HAVER: What percentage of your
25 collectibles are placed with a collection

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1 agency?

2 MS. CROSBY: It varies from year to
3 year, and it's varied greatly during the
4 pandemic, because it also coincided with the
5 new regulations for the Fair Debt Collection
6 Act.

7 So for an extended period of time, we
8 did not send any accounts to our collection
9 agencies as they and we came into compliance
10 with those regulations. So it's -- it varies
11 wildly.

12 MR. HAVER: Okay. Do you have a
13 projection for how many accounts will be sent
14 to a collection agency in the coming fiscal
15 year?

16 MS. CROSBY: I do not. I do know
17 that we are changing the way that we use
18 collection agencies as a tool, and so I do
19 know -- I said it varies wildly. It will
20 change when we institute those new parameters.

21 MR. HAVER: And what are those
22 changes?

23 MS. CROSBY: So currently accounts
24 only go to our collection agencies after
25 they've had their service disconnected. We

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1 are now doing a flip-flop so that the
2 delinquent accounts will go to the collection
3 agencies first, and if they remain delinquent,
4 they will -- if they meet the eligibility
5 requirement, then they will move towards a
6 service disconnection.

7 MR. HAVER: How many debt collection
8 agencies does WRB use?

9 MS. CROSBY: Three.

10 MR. HAVER: What are their names,
11 please?

12 MS. CROSBY: To the best of my
13 knowledge, it's AllianceOne, Harris & Harris,
14 and the Revenue Collection Bureau.

15 MR. HAVER: Starting with the first,
16 where are their corporate offices located?

17 MS. CROSBY: I don't know where any
18 of them are located, with the exception of the
19 Revenue Collection Bureau, and they are
20 located in Philadelphia.

21 MR. HAVER: 33%. Okay.

22 MS. CROSBY: I said I don't know the
23 others.

24 MR. HAVER: You don't know where the
25 others are. Okay.

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1 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

2 MR. HAVER: They may be in the city,
3 they may not, you just don't know?

4 MS. CROSBY: Correct.

5 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

6 With those parameters changing and
7 the strategies changing, and I'm believing
8 that you're doing that to improve collection
9 rates, I'm not sure on what basis you make
10 revenue projections going forward if you don't
11 know how successful or unsuccessful these
12 changes will be.

13 Can you help me understand your
14 working assumptions for the future using a new
15 type of collection tool?

16 MS. CROSBY: So we're actually
17 changing the way we do -- you -- when we use
18 our outside collection agencies in order to
19 hopefully limit the number of people who are
20 disconnected.

21 So it is not for reasons of
22 collections per se; it's to increase the
23 amount of people -- or rather to decrease the
24 amount of people who are eligible for service
25 disconnection. Because we know that our

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1 collection agencies do make collections, and
2 we think that they are better suited to be
3 placed before shutoffs. So that was the
4 driver in that decision. It was a policy
5 decision and not a financial decision.

6 MR. HAVER: So you're not making any
7 assumptions about increased collections by
8 using the new strategies; is that correct?

9 MS. CROSBY: No. No. We're doing it
10 in an effort to protect more Philadelphians
11 for having their water disconnected.

12 MR. HAVER: In what -- why do you
13 believe that a private debt collection service
14 would be better at protecting residents from
15 shutoffs than the City's own staff?

16 MS. CROSBY: Because right now, the
17 way the debt progresses, it goes -- they have
18 delinquencies, they have -- they don't pay
19 their bill. They get a bill notice saying
20 that they're delinquent. And then they move
21 into a pool of shutoff-eligible customers.

22 So there are little to no collection
23 efforts made prior to going to shutoff. And
24 that is -- we've now come to see that that is
25 not the best and appropriate way to use our

5/5/2023

1 collection tools, so we're changing it.

2 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

3 Moving forward. I have a bunch more
4 questions. You have to leave at 10:30,
5 correct?

6 MS. CROSBY: Actually, my hard stop
7 is at 11:00.

8 MR. HAVER: Okay. Well, let me make
9 sure that I take a minute to get through the
10 things that are most important to me.

11 Page 12 of my copy, lines 18 to --
12 line 18 to 25, you talk about the
13 sequestration program. And the quote is:
14 Since the program's inception in March 2019,
15 the City has collected over 15 million in
16 water debt through this program.

17 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

18 MR. HAVER: What do you believe is
19 the eligible amount that could be collected
20 through that program?

21 MS. CROSBY: I don't know.

22 MR. HAVER: Thank you. Page 13,
23 line 5 to 11. A different program. Since the
24 program's inception in March 2019 -- seems --
25 by the way, parenthetically, it seems like

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1 March 2019 was a very busy time for you -- the
2 City has collected approximately \$950,000 by
3 the unified -- and I'm paraphrasing here -- by
4 the unified efforts of LNI and WRB.

5 Do you see that?

6 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

7 MR. HAVER: Again, I'm asking about
8 what you believe is the total amount
9 available.

10 MS. CROSBY: I don't know.

11 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

12 For billing purposes, the new meters,
13 is that -- are those appropriate questions to
14 ask you about?

15 MS. CROSBY: It depends on what part
16 of the billing you are asking about.

17 MR. HAVER: So my understanding is
18 the new billing allows for hourly meter reads.

19 MS. CROSBY: That is outside of my
20 purview. We receive the billing information
21 on a monthly basis for billing purposes.

22 MR. HAVER: Have you or your
23 consultants looked at the possibility of
24 time-of-day metering for water?

25 MS. CROSBY: For time-of-day

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1 metering?

2 MR. HAVER: Right. So some electric
3 utilities try and level the load by offering
4 discounts if you use your electricity in the
5 evening, during nonpeak times.

6 MS. CROSBY: I understand the
7 question, and I'll refer to the Raftelis
8 panel.

9 MR. DASENT: Well, I think in the
10 abstract, certainly they can address that, but
11 in the more -- most concrete terms, we did
12 address this with the Operations Panel, and
13 they indicated that there were, you know --
14 there are metering changes in the works. And
15 it's also been addressed by even the Public
16 Advocate's witness.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Let's see
18 if they can answer it. I'm not sure -- I
19 don't think it's within the scope of their
20 testimony, but...

21 MR. DASENT: No, it didn't.

22 MS. TAVANTZIS: We have not been
23 involved in those discussions.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

25 MR. HAVER: That's all I was asking,

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1 whether it was being discussed or not.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well, they
3 didn't say whether it was being discussed.
4 They said they have not been involved.

5 MR. HAVER: Right, but that's why I
6 was asking the question of Ms. Crosby.

7 MS. CROSBY: I am not involved in
8 those discussions, if they are or are not
9 occurring.

10 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

11 Just follow up. I'm going to skip a
12 number of questions so that you can leave to
13 get home.

14 I'll follow up with the questions
15 about management, operating, and revenue
16 audits.

17 Are you familiar with those concepts,
18 management, operating, or revenue audit?

19 MS. CROSBY: Managing, operating, or
20 revenue audit?

21 MR. HAVER: The management,
22 operating, or revenue audit.

23 MR. DASENT: Well, certainly
24 management audit we've heard of.

25 MS. CROSBY: Right.

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1 MR. HAVER: I wasn't asking you,
2 Mr. Dasent.

3 MR. DASENT: I know, but I know where
4 this goes, and Raftelis was involved, so it
5 was a management audit. We talked about this
6 before.

7 MS. CROSBY: So, Mr. Haver, if you're
8 speaking of the management audit that was done
9 in the past, I am aware of that, yes.

10 MR. HAVER: I'm asking you in
11 general, and now I'll ask specifically.
12 You're familiar with the management audit.
13 Are you familiar with an operating audit?

14 MS. CROSBY: Yes, I know that those
15 things occur, yes.

16 MR. HAVER: Are you familiar with a
17 revenue audit?

18 MS. CROSBY: Sure, yes.

19 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

20 My understanding is that WRB has
21 undergone a management audit; is that correct?

22 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

23 MR. HAVER: What year was that
24 performed?

25 MS. CROSBY: I don't know. That was

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1 before I came into this position.

2 MR. HAVER: When did you come into
3 that position?

4 MS. CROSBY: I believe it was
5 November. It was November of 2020.

6 MR. HAVER: Have you reviewed the
7 management audit that was done?

8 MS. CROSBY: I --

9 MR. DASENT: If you recall.

10 MS. CROSBY: I don't recall. I don't
11 recall.

12 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

13 My understanding is that WRB hires
14 consultants from time to time; is that
15 correct?

16 MS. CROSBY: Generally, yes.

17 MR. HAVER: And that you have
18 retained consultants to help support the
19 requested rate increase; is that correct?

20 MS. CROSBY: WRB does not contract
21 with any consultants in regards to the rate
22 case.

23 MR. HAVER: So then how do you end up
24 with the two women and the gentleman who are
25 with you today?

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1 MS. CROSBY: Their contracts are --
2 they are retained and their contracts are
3 managed by the Philadelphia Water Department.

4 MR. HAVER: But you're not part of
5 the Water Department; is that correct?

6 MS. CROSBY: That is correct, I am
7 part of the department of revenue.

8 MR. HAVER: So then how does that
9 work? They -- your consultants don't work for
10 you, they work for somebody else? Is that
11 correct?

12 MS. CROSBY: They're not my
13 consultants.

14 MR. HAVER: Ah, I see. Okay. So
15 then I'll just ask you specifically.

16 You have said that you have hired
17 consultants in the past. Did I understand
18 that correctly?

19 MS. CROSBY: Yes.

20 MR. HAVER: What was the purpose for
21 hiring those consultants?

22 MS. CROSBY: Let me preface that. I
23 know that the department of revenue has hired
24 consultants in the past. To the best of my
25 knowledge, the department of revenue Water

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1 Revenue Bureau has hired consultants in the
2 past. In my current role while I've been
3 serving it, I have not retained -- we have not
4 retained any consultants.

5 MR. HAVER: Thank you very much.
6 I'll let you get on the plane. I don't want
7 to belabor the point.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Does that
9 mean you're done with your cross-examination?

10 MR. HAVER: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

12 Thank you, Ms. Crosby. We appreciate your
13 involvement here. You're excused.

14 Mr. Haver, do you have additional
15 questions for the other panel?

16 MR. HAVER: Well, I was working under
17 the assumption that the panel worked for the
18 Water Revenue Bureau. Hearing that it does
19 not, I don't think it would be helpful to
20 continue to ask them the questions.

21 Understanding now that they don't work for the
22 Water Revenue Bureau and the Water Revenue
23 Bureau retained no consultants for this rate
24 case, I don't want to waste anybody's time.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay. But

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1 if you don't have any questions about their
2 testimony, I'm not sure it matters who they
3 are retained by. The fact that they presented
4 testimony -- if you have questions about it, I
5 think you should ask them.

6 MR. HAVER: Okay. So, again, now I'm
7 unclear what the panel's expertise is.

8 MR. DASENT: They're retained for
9 reporting and their services are -- their
10 engagement, they can certainly speak to, but I
11 see reporting related to collections, I see
12 reporting related to the TAP program, I see
13 reporting related to other parts of -- support
14 for the rate filing. And they can talk about
15 that in detail.

16 MR. HAVER: Okay. Let's start with
17 collections, then.

18 Your Honor, do you want to excuse
19 Ms. Crosby so she doesn't --

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I thought
21 I had done that. But if she wants to stick
22 around, she certainly can.

23 MR. DASENT: We may have some
24 questions on redirect for Ms. Crosby.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Why don't

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1 we take a short break and we can deal with
2 Ms. Crosby and see about that. Okay?

3 MS. CROSBY: I don't know what I'm
4 doing with my reactions. I was trying to
5 raise my hand. I'm sorry.

6 MR. DASENT: But we may have an
7 opportunity for redirect if we take a brief
8 recess.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Why don't
10 we take a five-minute break and see if there's
11 redirect for Ms. Crosby, and if not, you're
12 certainly excused.

13 MR. DASENT: And if you can join us
14 in a meeting in Teams, Ms. Crosby. Just want
15 to make sure you are aware.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.
17 We'll resume at 10:35.

18 (Recess taken, 10:29 a.m. to
19 10:37 a.m. EDT)

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Are we
21 ready to resume?

22 MR. DASENT: Just brief questions on
23 redirect.

24 * * *

25 * * *

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1 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DASENT

2 MR. DASENT: On cross-examination,
3 Ms. Crosby, the issue of the current number of
4 TAP participants came up in Mr. Haver's
5 questioning. Can you give us an update on the
6 number of TAP participants as of right now?

7 MS. CROSBY: Yes. I used the break
8 opportunity to pull up that report, and I was
9 mistaken in the numbers that I provided. As
10 of April 30th, 2023, the number of customers
11 in approved or active status in TAP is 16,598.
12 And I'll be able to provide that report as a
13 transcript request.

14 MR. DASENT: Okay. Also there were
15 questions by Mr. Haver concerning mail room
16 costs. Who pays for these costs?

17 MS. CROSBY: The mail room is
18 operated by the department of revenue, and the
19 costs are borne by both the General Fund and
20 the Water Fund. The staff, some of them are
21 paid for by the General Fund, some are paid by
22 the Water Fund, and the same is for the
23 equipment used.

24 MR. DASENT: And also, part of
25 Mr. Haver's cross, Joline referenced

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1 100,000-plus households that were protected
2 from shutoffs. And the makeup of that group
3 is what I'd like you to follow up on. The
4 100,000-plus households, what's the
5 composition of this group? I heard Medicaid,
6 but are there more constituent groups?

7 MS. CROSBY: Right. So they are
8 households who receive either Medicaid or
9 homelessness prevention services from the
10 City, and then the IDEA office also uses -- I
11 think they call it an overlay of demographic
12 data, and then they match that to our billing
13 system.

14 And our billing system is extremely
15 limited with naming conventions and whatnot.
16 So if the IDEA team finds a name that is close
17 to one that we have, we erred on the side of
18 protecting that customer. So just a weird
19 example, if someone's account name is Johnny
20 Smith, but IDEA had them on their list as John
21 Smith, we would protect our Johnny Smith
22 customer to err on the side of caution.

23 MR. DASENT: Thank you, Susan.
24 That's all we have.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Ms. Price,

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1 did you have any further cross based on the
2 redirect?

3 MS. PRICE: No recross.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

5 Mr. Haver?

6 MR. HAVER: No, I don't. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

8 Thank you. Thank you very much, Ms. Crosby.
9 You're excused.

10 MS. CROSBY: Again, thank you so much
11 for everyone's flexibility.

12 MR. DASENT: Have a safe trip.

13 MS. CROSBY: Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Now, are
15 there further questions for the panel, for the
16 Raftelis panel?

17 MR. HAVER: Well, I'd like -- I have
18 additional questions, and I'd also like the
19 record to reflect that there are people from
20 Black & Veatch who are participating today,
21 and request that if they are the appropriate
22 persons or -- person or persons to answer
23 these questions that the lawyer for the Water
24 Department direct them to do so.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Is that

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1 okay with you, Mr. Dasent? Because it's okay
2 with me.

3 MR. DASENT: I'm just listening for
4 the questions. I mean, we've had an
5 opportunity for cross-examination for all the
6 witnesses. And I thought today was for Susan
7 and RFC.

8 But we'll listen for the question,
9 and if something is not onerous for them to
10 sort of deal with today -- it's just not
11 something we prepared for, truthfully.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay. But
13 if they can answer a question, then that will
14 be fine.

15 MR. DASENT: Okay.

16 RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. HAVER.

17 MR. HAVER: I want to revisit KUBRA
18 EZ-PAY. Does anyone know where their
19 corporate office is located?

20 MS. LOCKLEAR: I'm sorry, Mr. Haver,
21 we don't, the Raftelis panel.

22 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

23 Mr. Dasent, I'm waiting for you to
24 ask your other consultants if they do.

25 MR. DASENT: We can provide that

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1 information for you, but quite frankly, you
2 could Google it. That's what I'm going to do
3 if we do a transcript request. I'll find out
4 where they are and respond.

5 Ms. Crosby was the best person to
6 answer, and she indicated she did not know.

7 MR. HAVER: Right. There's a value
8 in finding out what is not known as well as
9 finding out what is known.

10 MR. DASENT: It is knowable, and we
11 can get that information for you.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, can
13 we like move on? This is seriously
14 ridiculous.

15 Google it and find out. She gave you
16 the name of the companies. Mr. Dasent, Google
17 it and give him an answer.

18 MR. DASENT: Okay.

19 MR. HAVER: Well, I will tell you,
20 and find out if you're surprised, their
21 corporate headquarters is not in the
22 United States. The Philadelphia Water
23 Department's contracting with a company that's
24 outside of the United States, and I'm somewhat
25 surprised that none of the consultants are

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1 aware of that. Nor is the Water Revenue
2 Department aware of that.

3 But I'll move on.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah,
5 thank you.

6 MR. HAVER: Do any of the consultants
7 who are currently participating know what the
8 fee is that is charged if you pay online
9 through the water -- through the City's web
10 page?

11 MS. TAVANTZIS: We do not have that
12 information.

13 MR. HAVER: Can any of the
14 consultants explain to me why that isn't of
15 paramount importance in designing the
16 collection and billing tools?

17 MR. DASENT: That is not what
18 Raftelis does. They do reporting for
19 collections. They do reporting in terms of
20 data collection for the TAP assistance
21 program. They don't do all the other sort of
22 building blocks for designing, you know, what
23 collection activity is appropriate. That's
24 the Water Department.

25 MR. HAVER: Well, I see Ms. Bui and

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1 Mr. Jagt are participating, as is Mr. --
2 forgive me, Mr. Yangalay. I've forgotten how
3 to pronounce your name. I see they're
4 participating as well. So they can feel free
5 to answer the question.

6 Do any of the Water Department
7 employees, do any of the consultants know what
8 the fee is charged?

9 MR. DASENT: There is a small fee. I
10 pay my bill. I can research that in two
11 seconds. I can provide that information for
12 you.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Give him a
14 transcript request with an answer.

15 MR. DASENT: It's like 2.96. It's a
16 very small number. But I understand, you're
17 saying it may be an incentive not to pay using
18 electronic means.

19 MR. HAVER: And I'm again asking why
20 the Water Department, the Water Revenue Bureau
21 and all the consultants don't look at that and
22 decide whether that's an impediment or not.

23 MR. DASENT: The Water Department --

24 MR. HAVER: And my question is --

25 MR. DASENT: -- made a decision to

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1 offer this to all customers so they had the
2 convenience of paying electronically.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:

4 Mr. Dasent, let's stop this now. If you have
5 a question for the panel that's presented
6 today, ask them.

7 MR. HAVER: I am.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: The panel
9 that is presented today is RFC, which does the
10 reporting of these programs. The information
11 they gather and how they collate it and
12 present it, that's what they're here for.

13 MR. HAVER: Your Honor has already
14 said that if I'm addressing the wrong panel
15 that the other panel can be called back.
16 They're already on the Zoom.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: But they
18 may not be prepared to answer. If they can
19 answer you quickly, I said they could.

20 MR. HAVER: And I'm asking --

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: But
22 they're not prepared to answer your questions
23 here. They didn't get recalled.

24 MR. HAVER: And again, I'm asking why
25 isn't it of paramount importance in deciding

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1 how to collect bills what the collection fees
2 are? If they can't answer that, they can't
3 answer that.

4 MR. DASENT: That's beyond the scope
5 of the testimony of RFC for sure.

6 MR. HAVER: Mr. Jagt, Ms. Bui, even
7 Ms. McCarty, you're all participating. I'm
8 just asking, can anyone answer that question?

9 MR. DASENT: Ms. McCarty is a Rate
10 Board member so she wouldn't appropriately
11 answer.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,
13 let's not get too in the weeds here,
14 Mr. Dasent. At this point, what is your
15 question? What is the fee?

16 MR. HAVER: No. Is it important to
17 know what the fee is in designing collection
18 and bill-paying strategies?

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm not
20 sure -- is there anybody who can answer that?

21 MR. DASENT: If someone in finance
22 can speak to that issue, that's fine. We
23 didn't come prepared to talk about the fees.
24 It's like a two-dollar fee, which also, the
25 online KUBRA charge is in a discovery

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1 response. So that information is out there.

2 We are aware of it, you are aware of
3 it if you reviewed the discovery response.
4 And it was evaluated in terms of offering
5 opportunities for folks to pay electronically
6 if they didn't want to mail -- mail in their
7 payment or if they didn't want to go down to
8 MSB and pay there.

9 This isn't so difficult.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think
11 the difficulty is finding the right person to
12 answer that. But you've already responded
13 with a discovery request. That should be
14 sufficient.

15 MR. DASENT: Yeah, that's it.

16 MR. HAVER: I want to now inquire
17 about other places to pay bills other than the
18 WRB offices or online.

19 Who would be the correct person to --

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: You've
21 already asked -- didn't you already ask
22 Ms. Crosby that?

23 MR. DASENT: Yeah. She is the one --

24 MR. HAVER: And I want to ask --

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: It's been

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1 asked and answered.

2 MR. HAVER: Well, I want to ask why
3 other opportunities are not explored. And so
4 I want to ask first about is there a
5 correlation between ease of paying bills and
6 collections. And I'm asking to try and save
7 your time, who should I be addressing those
8 questions to? If there's no one appropriate
9 to ask those questions of, just tell me.

10 MR. DASENT: Ms. Crosby was your best
11 bet on that issue.

12 MR. HAVER: So no one can explain to
13 me why we don't use check cashing places or
14 Rite Aids or Walmarts or Walgreens as bill --
15 as ways people can pay?

16 MR. DASENT: Ms. Crosby was the best
17 person to ask that question.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Why don't
19 you put that in the form of a transcript
20 request that Ms. Crosby could answer.

21 MR. HAVER: If we're going to include
22 it that way, I would also ask why we don't use
23 PGW offices as payment centers for WRB or
24 water bills.

25 MR. DASENT: I believe that's already

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1 addressed in discovery, but we'll certainly
2 include that in the response.

3 MR. HAVER: I want to go back to
4 revisit the issue of how much does it cost to
5 do a shutoff and to turn somebody back on.
6 You told me that it was inappropriate to ask
7 Ms. Crosby that. I'm now addressing that to
8 the other members of other panels, Mr. Jagt,
9 Ms. Bui.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Didn't you
11 ask that with the Operations Panel?

12 MR. HAVER: And it was my
13 recollection that when I started to ask those
14 questions, I was told that that should be
15 addressed to the Water Revenue Bureau Panel.
16 And then when I said I didn't know which panel
17 to address it to, Your Honor said if I'm
18 asking the wrong panel, it would be -- we
19 could call back the right people to answer
20 those questions.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well, that
22 may be something that Black & Veatch people
23 could answer in terms of the rate case, isn't
24 it?

25 MR. HAVER: That's fine. I don't

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1 care who answers. I would just like an
2 answer.

3 MR. DASENT: The Operations Panel is
4 actually the best panel for that, and Steve
5 Junod and the folks that were before you in
6 the last day or so. If Mr. Jagt or somebody
7 from Black & Veatch can help us, let us know.

8 I see Mr. Merritt. I see Mr. -- I
9 believe Dave Jagt is on. And if you don't
10 have an answer, just tell us that.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah.

12 MR. MERRITT: Can you repeat the
13 question, please?

14 MR. HAVER: How much does it cost for
15 each water shutoff?

16 MR. DASENT: We have fees for water
17 shutoff costs, so that may be helpful to you.
18 That's in the filing.

19 MR. HAVER: I'm not asking about --
20 I'm not asking about what PWD or WRB charges.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, I
22 just --

23 MR. MERRITT: The fees --

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Can you
25 calculate the cost of a shutoff? I mean --

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1 MR. MERRITT: The proposed
2 miscellaneous fees in this proceeding are
3 cost -- it's a cost -- an activity cost basis,
4 essentially. So that is roughly -- the cost
5 of the shutoff is included in the
6 miscellaneous fee study. I don't have that in
7 front of me at this moment. I can pull it up
8 if you give me a minute.

9 MR. JAGT: It would be part of PWD's
10 Statement 7. It was included in the filing.

11 MR. DASENT: Mr. Haver, we're
12 directing your attention to PWD Statement 7
13 and the list of miscellaneous charges that are
14 appended to the testimony of Black & Veatch.
15 And you can see for each type of charge that
16 we assess the costs associated with the
17 shutoff.

18 MR. HAVER: Again, I'm not asking how
19 you assess it; I'm asking what the actual cost
20 is. How many people go out, how -- what the
21 cost is per work hour, what the supplies are,
22 what the cost of the truck is. What is the
23 cost? Not what you attribute, not what you
24 bill. What is the actual cost of each
25 shutoff?

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1 MR. DASENT: And we tried to capture
2 that in the miscellaneous charges. If you
3 wanted a more detailed discussion, Steve Junod
4 could help you with that as best we could.
5 And if you want a transcript response, we'll
6 try to do that.

7 MR. HAVER: Thank you. So again, I
8 won't go through the same thing, but I -- if
9 you're going to ask Mr. Junod for that, please
10 ask him for the costs of turning someone on as
11 well.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm
13 looking at Statement 7, Question 33, page 46,
14 which is: Describe the approach for
15 developing the proposed miscellaneous charges.

16 And it was updated to reflect current
17 cost inputs including labor, equipment,
18 materials, and contractor costs.

19 I guess the question is, the cost for
20 the shutoff should reflect the cost to provide
21 that activity. And if so --

22 MR. JAGT: That's correct.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: -- is
24 there a difference.

25 MR. DASENT: Mr. Jagt?

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1 MR. JAGT: Yeah. The effort --
2 basically that's an effort study, so we do an
3 eval- -- you know, review with the department
4 the number of staff involved, the time that
5 they're involved, the equipment that's
6 involved, and then all of that is added up to
7 determine, like, the costs per activity or the
8 cost of sending someone out to -- for the
9 shutoff.

10 And the shutoff fee is one of the
11 fees that is evaluated and presented, and it
12 is -- we just didn't have our testimony up
13 because we weren't, you know, originally part
14 of the panel today. But the miscellaneous fee
15 work papers are in exhibit -- or the
16 Appendix A of White Paper 4 of our exhibit,
17 and Schedule BV-4, sorry.

18 MR. DASENT: Mm-hmm.

19 MR. JAGT: So -- and I'm still
20 scrolling down to get to the fees.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, VB-4
22 has supporting calculations.

23 MR. JAGT: Right. That's correct.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: So to me,
25 that answers your question.

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1 MR. JAGT: Yeah. I mean, it's --
2 other than having to pull it up from the
3 pages, it's been filed since the, you know,
4 advance filing.

5 It's included within the submittal
6 the entire time, so...

7 It's been on the record.

8 MR. DASENT: That is --

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Do you
10 have another question? Do you have another
11 question, Mr. Haver?

12 MR. HAVER: I was waiting for the
13 number.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well, you
15 can look up the number, can't you?

16 MR. HAVER: Well, I can't do it now
17 because I don't have the computer capability
18 of being on Zoom and looking at the exhibits.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Are you --
20 one of you guys can pull it up? If not, I'll
21 have to scroll through here.

22 MR. DASENT: If you see the number --

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah. I
24 mean --

25 MR. DASENT: Dave, if you see it,

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1 please share it with us and we'll put this
2 behind us.

3 MR. JAGT: Sure. Sorry, Appendix A
4 is pretty extensive, so...

5 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah.

6 MR. JAGT: Total costs. All right.

7 MR. DASENT: I need the Reader's
8 Digest version. How much does this --

9 MR. JAGT: So the Reader's Digest
10 version is -- it's rounded, approximately \$75.

11 MR. DASENT: Is that for shutoffs or
12 turn-ons?

13 MR. JAGT: I believe that's for
14 shutoffs.

15 MR. DASENT: Reconnections, are they
16 different?

17 MR. MERRITT: Restoration is roughly
18 the same, 75. That's for 2-inch or smaller.

19 MR. HAVER: Thank you.

20 I want to revisit the water meter,
21 the new water meters. What is the life
22 expectancy of the new water meters?

23 MR. DASENT: That's definitely
24 Mr. Junod.

25 MR. HAVER: I wanted to ask about

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1 what the projected cost savings on a fiscal
2 year are for the new water meters.

3 MR. DASENT: That is not this panel,
4 and I don't have anybody in the room today
5 that can help with that, but new water meters,
6 you're saying the cost of them and the life
7 expectancy?

8 MR. HAVER: I'm asking about the
9 total cost in the -- if they were fund -- if
10 the replacement was funded through bonds, the
11 total cost plus whatever the debt service is
12 for that portion of the bond that went to pay
13 for the replacement.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well, I
15 don't think you can do that.

16 MR. DASENT: I don't know if we could
17 determine that.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think
19 all I'm going to ask Mr. Dasant to provide is
20 the cost of the AMI.

21 MR. DASENT: Okay.

22 MR. HAVER: And then the projected
23 cost savings on a fiscal year basis for the
24 new meters?

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't

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1 know what kind of time period that would be
2 looking at.

3 MR. HAVER: One -- each fiscal year.

4 MR. DASENT: I don't know if you
5 could break it down that way, but there may be
6 benefits.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't
8 know if you can break it down like that.

9 MR. DASENT: Yeah, there may be
10 benefits that are estimated, and we'll share
11 that with you. Whatever we have, we'll share.

12 MR. HAVER: And then the expected
13 life of the new meter in a residential
14 household.

15 MR. DASENT: Okay.

16 MR. HAVER: That's it.

17 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That's it
19 in terms of your questions or that's it in
20 terms of that question?

21 MR. HAVER: That's it in terms of my
22 questions. I have all the other questions
23 answered or they cannot be answered or nobody
24 knows whether they can be answered.

25 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

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1 Well, I think that's the end of our witnesses
2 then, isn't it?

3 MR. DASENT: Yes, it is. And we have
4 transcript responses due by next Wednesday,
5 that should be May 10th, and a brief May 16.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah. In
7 terms of the transcript, as I said, when we
8 get them we will post them, and I will let you
9 know. But I do suggest you review the Rate
10 Board's website, because that's not something
11 I have any kind of direct control with.

12 But it's a two-day transcript.
13 Hopefully we'll get them on a timely basis.
14 But I do want to thank everybody for your
15 participation here. I want to thank Heather
16 for stepping in for Steven. And I want to
17 thank Debbie for doing a great job. Of
18 course, I haven't seen the transcript, but I'm
19 sure it will be an accurate reflection of what
20 happened.

21 MR. DASENT: Yes.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I look
23 forward to seeing your briefs. And one thing,
24 I mean, like I said, I don't have anything
25 directly to do with posting things on the Rate

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1 Board's website. That's Steven, and he's
2 not -- you know, he's in Dan's office.

3 But I do keep track. So we'll try
4 and make sure that everything is posted that
5 should be posted and as quickly as possible.

6 MR. DASENT: Okay.

7 MR. HAVER: I just want to place on
8 the record that after I review the transcript,
9 I may have motions to make before the Water
10 and Sewer Rate Board.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Whatever.
12 You can do whatever you want, and it will be
13 addressed as appropriate.

14 Okay. Then thank you very much,
15 then. This hearing is adjourned.

16 MR. HAVER: I thought Mr. Ballenger
17 had questions for me.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh, I'm
19 sorry. Did you, Mr. Ballenger? I thought you
20 said you waived it.

21 MR. DASENT: He waived it. A little
22 badgering there. If you want to take the
23 bait --

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Anything
25 else, then, before we adjourn?

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1 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Thank you

3 all again.

4 (Time noted: 11:01 a.m. EDT)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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