

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

Re Philadelphia Water Department Proposed Changes in Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rates and Charges	2026 TAP-R Proceeding
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**PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT OBJECTIONS
TO THE INFORMATION REQUESTS
PROPOUNDED BY THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE (SET II)**

The Philadelphia Water Department (“Department” or “PWD”) objects to Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents of the Public Advocate, Set II (collectively “PA-TAP Set II Information Requests” or “PA Set II”) which were submitted via email on March 25, 2026. The Department requests that the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (“Rate Board”), by its Hearing Officer, sustain these Objections and strike or limit the subject discovery requests.

Clarifications

The Department will discuss PA-TAP Set II Information Requests and these objections with the Public Advocate (“Advocate”). Notwithstanding and without waiver of the Department’s objections to PA-TAP Set II Information Requests, the Department intends to respond to the PA Set II (PA-TAP-2-1) by late April when the requested January-March data is expected to be available.

Objections and Limited Responses

The Department’s objections to the PA-TAP Set II Information Requests are grouped together in an effort to minimize the repetition of objections.

Update Reconciliation Workbook

PA-TAP-2-1. Please update Rate Rider Reconciliation Workbook to incorporate actual data (participants, discounts, non-tap volumes, etc.) for January, February and March 2026.

Response: The requested data for January-March 2026 is not expected to be available until late April. The requested information will be provided at that time.

LICAP Expenditures

PA-TAP-2-2. Please provide the following information by Year.

- a. For each of the past three most recent fiscal years, the actual LICAP expenditures disaggregated by water conservation and leak repair assistance.
- b. For the current fiscal year (year-to-date), the budgeted and actual LICAP expenditures disaggregated by water conservation and leak repair assistance.

PA-TAP-2-3. Please provide the total actual LICAP FY 2026 expense disaggregated by water conservation and leak repair assistance components.

PA-TAP-2-4. Please provide the budgeted LICAP expense for FY 2026 and FY 2027 disaggregated by water conservation and leak repair assistance components.

Response: The Department objects to these requests as irrelevant to the instant TAP-R Reconciliation proceeding. That is, the requested Low Income Conservation Assistance Program (LICAP) data is not relevant and not material to the PWD proposed changes in rates and charges as set forth in the 2026 TAP-R Reconciliation filing. In accordance with the Rate Board Regulations, changes to TAP and TAP-R rider formula are proposed, reviewed and made in general rate proceedings. *See*, Hearing Officer Report (2021 TAP-R Adjustment Proceeding), at pp. 4-5. *See also*, the General Rate Determination (2021 Rate Case) relating to TAP-R issues. The proper scope of this proceeding is limited to the application of the TAP-R formula approved by the Board in the general rate proceeding. The requested information and documents are not pertinent to the annual reconciliation of TAP-R rates.

These requests are also seeking information and documents related to LICAP for the past three years. These requests are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence for this reconciliation proceeding. The TAP-R reconciliation proceeding sets TAP-R related rates and charges for an annual period beginning on September 1, 2026. The requested information will not assist the Rate Board in determining the prospective TAP-R rates and charges proposed for September 1, 2026. No nexus has been established between the requested information and documents and the prospective TAP-R rates and charges proposed for September 1, 2026.

The Hearing Officer should be aware that the Department agreed to undertake a cost/benefit analysis of LICAP in the settlement of the 2025 General Rate Case. The aforesaid analysis will be completed by the next general rate proceeding filing. The aforesaid analysis and issues related to LICAP

(expenditures over the past three years) may be appropriate in a general rate case, but not a TAP-R reconciliation proceeding.

For available information, please see PWD responses to PA-VIII-6 and PA-VIII-8 in the 2025 General Rate Case. This proceeding is limited to the application of the TAP-R formula.

TAP Monthly Usage

PA-TAP-2-5. For the three most recent fiscal years, please provide the following:

- a. Please provide the monthly usage for TAP customers broken down by the categories shown in PA-TAP-1-4.
- b. Please provide the monthly number of TAP customers broken down by the categories shown in PA-TAP-1-4.

PA-TAP-2-6. For the three most recent fiscal years:

- a. Please provide the number of high usage TAP customers that were referred for conservation outreach based on “high usage.”
- b. Please provide the number of high usage TAP customers that were referred for conservation outreach and whose high usage was determined to be caused by leaks.
- c. Please provide the number of high usage TAP customers that were referred for conservation outreach and whose high usage was determined to be caused by something other than leaks.
- d. For high usage TAP customers that were referred for conservation outreach, and whose high usage was determined to be caused by something other than leaks, please identify the strategies and/or solutions that are provided to reduce usage and encourage conservation.

Response: The Department objects to these requests as overly broad and irrelevant to the instant TAP-R reconciliation proceeding which addresses TAP-R related rates and charges starting on September 1, 2026. These requests are seeking information and documents related to high usage TAP customers for the past three years. These requests are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence for this reconciliation proceeding. The TAP-R reconciliation proceeding sets TAP-R related rates and charges for an annual period beginning on September 1, 2026. The requested information will not assist the Rate Board in determining the prospective TAP-R rates and charges proposed for September 1, 2026. No nexus has been established between the requested information and documents and the prospective TAP-R rates and charges proposed for September 1, 2026.

Notwithstanding the above objections and without waiver thereof, the Department will provide responses to PA-TAP-2-5 and PA-TAP-2-6 (a) and (d) as they relate to the time period at issue in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, the Department formally objects to the PA-TAP Set II Information Requests and requests that its Objections be sustained and that it be relieved of the requirement of any further response to same except as described above.

Respectfully submitted,

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