

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

In the Matter of the Philadelphia Water : 2026 TAP-R Reconciliation
Department's Proposed Changes in Water : Proceeding – FY 2026
and Sewer Rates and Related Charges :

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

On March 19, 2026, the Philadelphia Water Department (the Department) filed its Formal Notice of proposed changes to its Tiered Assistance Program Rate Rider Surcharge (TAP-R) to become effective September 1, 2026.

A prehearing conference addressing preliminary procedural issues was held via Zoom Webinar on April 2, 2026. Participating either pro se or through counsel were the Department, the Public Advocate, the Philadelphia Water Revenue Bureau, the Philadelphia Large Users Group, and individual participant Lance Haver.

The following determinations were made:

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

Activity	Date
Advance Notice	February 17, 2026
Formal Notice	March 19, 2026
Participation Deadline	March 26, 2026
Prehearing Conference	April 2, 2026
Direct Testimony	April 17, 2026
Rebuttal Testimony	April 30, 2026
Last Day for Information Requests	May 5, 2026
Public Input Hearing (hybrid)	May 7, 2026

Technical Hearings (hybrid)	May 14, 2026 (& May 15, 2026 if needed)
Last Day for Transcript Responses	May 18, 2026
Briefs/Settlement Petition	May 22, 2026
Objections to Settlement Petition	May 26, 2026
Hearing Officer Report	June 10, 2026
Exceptions	June 15, 2026
Board Deliberation	June 24, 2026
Board Determination	July 1, 2026

To be considered timely, all submissions must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day it is due. Hearings will be conducted on a hybrid (virtual/in-person) basis, as indicated below. The Department and the Public Advocate will each work to ensure that outreach is conducted in a manner to ensure maximum notice of the scheduled hearings is provided to the public.

Mr. Haver objected to holding any hearing virtually or on a hybrid basis. He argued that the Public Input and the Technical Hearings should be held solely as in-person hearings. The Department and the Public Advocate argued that virtual or hybrid hearings allow for a greater opportunity for participation and save time and expenses by allowing technical witnesses to testify without traveling to Philadelphia. Mr. Haver also objected to holding the Public Input Hearing immediately prior to the Technical Hearing. He argued that holding the hearings on the same day prevented any follow-up prior to the Technical Hearing.

To allow time to consider and address pertinent issues that may be raised during the Public Input Hearing, that hearing will be held a week prior to the Technical Hearing. However, the Public Input Hearing will be accessible as a hybrid hearing in order to provide the greatest level of accessibility for those who wish to attend. Individuals may decide to participate in person. By also allowing virtual access, however, more people will

have the opportunity to participate. Hybrid participation opens meetings to those with time, transportation, and mobility issues. For the same reasons, the Technical Hearings will be held on a hybrid basis as well.

2. INFORMATION REQUESTS: Participants will use their best efforts to be reasonable and accommodating when propounding or responding to information requests. Responses should be filed within seven (7) days, unless good cause is demonstrated. Objections to Information Requests should be raised within three (3) days. In the event that a Motion to Compel is filed, any responses must be filed within three (3) days.

3. SETTLEMENT: Participants are encouraged to settle or to stipulate to any matter on which a reasonable agreement can be reached.

Kathryn G. Sophy
Hearing Officer

April 6, 2026