

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

In the Matter of the Philadelphia Water Department’s Proposed Changes in Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rates and Related Charges :
: For: Fiscal Years 2022-2023
:

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

An on-the-record prehearing conference to address preliminary procedural issues was held via Zoom in this proceeding on February 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Participating either pro se or through counsel were the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD or Department), the Philadelphia Department of Revenue Water Revenue Bureau (WRB), the Public Advocate (PA or Advocate), PECO Energy Company (PECO), the Philadelphia Large Users Group (Large Users Group), and Lance Haver.¹ All participants to the rate filing were invited by e-mail to participate; in addition, the notice of the prehearing conference and the code to participate were posted on the Board's website at [2021 Rate Proceeding | Water, Sewer & Storm Water Rate Board | City of Philadelphia](#).²

The following determinations were made:

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

PWD Formal Notice	February 16, 2021
Prehearing conference	February 24, 2021
Public hearings (specific dates will be established later)	March 8-22, 2021
Participant direct testimony (written)	March 22, 2021
Rebuttal testimony (all parties)	April 7, 2021
End prehearing discovery	April 9, 2021

¹ Sharon Kesselman, who is participating in this proceeding, had indicated that she would attend the telephonic scheduling conference but did not do so. Another participant, Michael Skiendzielewski, briefly attended and was recognized.

² <https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/rate-proceedings/2021-rate-proceeding/>

Settlement discussions	April 9, 2021
Technical hearings (specific dates will be established later)	April 13-21, 2021
Close record, last day for responses to transcript requests	April 21, 2021
Briefs	April 30, 2021
Hearing Officer report	May 24, 2021
Exceptions/objection to report	May 28, 2021
Board deliberations	June 1-8, 2021
Board determination	June 16, 2021
Compliance filing	July 16, 2021
Participants comments on compliance filing	August 2, 2021
PWD files new rates with Dept. of Records	August 20, 2021
Proposed effective date new rates	September 1, 2021

(2) HEARINGS: Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, all hearings will be conducted virtually or telephonically. The Department, the Public Advocate and any other participant who wishes to be involved will work together to ensure that outreach is conducted so as to ensure maximum notice of the scheduled hearings is provided to the public.³

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

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

³ Robert Ballanger, the Public Advocate in this case, prepared and circulated a "Customer Participation Guide" that he intended to disseminate through social media and community groups. There was discussion about whether and how to post this document on the Rate Board's website for the benefit of the Department's customers.

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

Marlane R. Chestnut
Hearing Officer

Dated: February 24, 2021