

**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 :
: 2025 General Rate Proceeding
: for Fiscal Years 2026-2027
:

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

An on-the-record prehearing conference to address preliminary procedural issues was held via Zoom in this proceeding on April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Participating either pro se or through counsel were the City of Philadelphia Water Department (PWD or Department), the City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue Water Revenue Bureau (WRB), the Public Advocate (PA or Advocate), the Philadelphia Large Users Group (Large Users Group), Lance Haver and Michael Skiendzielewski.¹ All participants to the rate filing were invited by e-mail to participate; in addition, the notice of the prehearing conference was posted on the Rate Board's website at <https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/meetings/>

The following determinations were made:

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

PWD Advance Notice	February 18, 2025
PWD Formal Notice	March 31, 2025
Participation Deadline	April 7, 2025
Prehearing conference	April 8, 2025
Public input hearings	April 22-23, 2025
In-person public input hearing, Philadelphia Gas Commission, 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Philadelphia	April 22, 2025 1:00 p.m.
Virtual public hearing	April 22, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Virtual public hearing	April 23, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

¹ PECO Energy Company (PECO) observed but did not participate, pending its decision as to whether to seek participant status.

In-person public input hearing, Zion Baptist Church, 3600 N. Broad St. (Broad and Venango), Philadelphia	April 23, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Non-PWD Participant direct testimony	April 29, 2025 ²
Rebuttal testimony (all)	May 13, 2025 ³
Last day for information requests	May 16, 2025
Further prehearing conference to address procedural issues	May 20, 2025
Technical hearings	May 21-23, 2025 (additional hearings may be added if needed)
Close record, last day for responses to transcript requests	May 28, 2025, or 5 days after last hearing
Participant briefs/settlement petition if any	May 30, 2025
Objections to settlement	June 6, 2025
Reply briefs	June 11, 2025
Hearing Officer report	July 1, 2025 (subject to change)
Exceptions/Responses to Hearing Officer report	July 8, 2025 (subject to change)
Board deliberation	July 16, 2025
Board deliberation and determination	July 23, 2025
Effective date new rates	September 1, 2025 (FY 2026)
Effective date new rates	September 1, 2026 (FY 2027)

(2) **HEARINGS:** All hearings except as otherwise noted will be conducted virtually or telephonically.⁴ Additional public input or technical hearings may be scheduled as appropriate. The Department and the Public Advocate will each work to ensure that outreach is conducted so as to ensure maximum notice of the scheduled hearings is provided to the public.

² Except: the direct testimonies of PA witness Colton and PLUG witness Baudino are due on May 1, 2025.

³ Except: Rebuttal testimony to PA witness Colton and PLUG witness Baudino is due on May 15, 2025.

⁴ Mr. Haver requested that the technical hearings be held in person. However, in-person hearings are not required by law or City policy. Given the nature of these hearings, where witnesses are presented and cross-examined solely by registered participants, and considering the time and expense involved in requiring the appearance of numerous witnesses, many of whom are located out of state, in-person hearings are not suitable here. To ensure that the Department's customers have a full opportunity to observe this general rate proceeding, the link and sign-in instructions for the hearings are prominently posted on the Rate Board's website. Any non-participant who will be unable to access the internet or a smartphone in order to observe a particular technical hearing, or who needs an interpreter for any in-person or virtual hearing, is encouraged to contact the Rate Board at WaterRateBoard@phila.gov or the Public Advocate at publicadvocate@clsphila.org or 215-227-9988 at least 3 business days before the hearing to see whether alternative arrangements can be made.

(3) INFORMATION REQUESTS: 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).

(4) DATES AND TIMES OF FILING: Documents must be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. of the date specified in the schedule adopted in this case. Late submissions will be accepted only upon a showing of good cause.

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

Marlane R. Chestnut
Hearing Officer

DATED: April 10, 2025