

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
WATER, SEWER, AND STORM WATER RATE BOARD  
PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

IN RE: 2025 General Rate Proceeding

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

LOCATION: Zoom Teleconference

Reported by: Heather Krup

Job No.: 52964

1 ATTENDANCE

2 MARCY CHESTNUT, HEARING OFFICER

3 ROBERT BALLENGER, PUBLIC ADVOCATE

4 LANCE HAVER, PANEL MEMBER

5 MICHAEL SKIENDZIELEWSKI, PANEL MEMBER

6 ADEOLU BAKARE, PANEL MEMBER

7 TRAVIS GERY, PANEL MEMBER

8 BROOKE DARLINGTON, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA WATER  
REVENUE BUREAU

9

ANDRE DASENT, PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPT

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ADRIANA GONZALEZ, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA WATER  
REVENUE BUREAU

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2 PROCEEDINGS

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4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And  
5 Heather, we're going to start with the  
6 transcript now. Okay. Good morning,  
7 everybody. Let me introduce myself. I am  
8 Hearing Officer Marlene Chestnut, and I will  
9 be conducting this proceeding on behalf of  
10 the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Stormwater  
11 Rate Board. I've explained our use of the  
12 enhanced or more robust Zoom platform so that  
13 people understand their roles in this.

14 And there is a court reporter here  
15 who will be providing a transcript. So  
16 please remember to speak slowly and clearly.  
17 And of course, as always, I will issue a pre-  
18 hearing order that will address the issues we  
19 talk about today. Now, I did want to mention  
20 that the TAP-R pre-hearing conference will  
21 follow after this one.

22 It's not a separate invitation,  
23 it's not a separate preceding. It will have  
24 a separate transcript and there'll be

1 separate hearings and a separate schedule.

2 But to make it easier, we're just going to  
3 have that after this one. So if you want to  
4 stay for the TAP-R, that's fine. If you  
5 don't want to participate in it or be  
6 involved in it, that's fine also.

7 But we'll take a short break before  
8 we do that. So the first issue I have is  
9 really the participants list. And I think I  
10 have distributed my, my, my listing. Does  
11 anybody have any changes? Mr. Dasent, you're  
12 going to represent the Philadelphia water  
13 department at this pre-hearing conference?

14 MR. DASENT: Yes. And no changes  
15 to the participants list from our standpoint.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
17 Mr. Ballenger, you're going to represent the  
18 public advocate here.

19 MR. BALLENGER: Yes, Your Honor.  
20 Likewise, we have no changes to the service  
21 list at this time.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay. I  
23 have somebody for the Water Revenue Bureau.

24 MR. DASENT: I think Brooke's here.

1 Brooke Darlington.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Is

3 Brooke here? I don't.

4 MR. DARLINGTON: Hi, Hearing  
5 Officer.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh,  
7 there you are. I'm so sorry.

8 MS. DARLINGTON: It's okay. No  
9 problem.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: You're  
11 right underneath my finger.

12 MS. DARLINGTON: You're right. And  
13 the Water Revenue Bureau will defer to  
14 Andre's comments today. We've, we've met and  
15 we're in agreement with. Everything he will  
16 say.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
18 But I just wanted to clarify who's on your  
19 distribution list.

20 MS. DARLINGTON: Sure. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And  
22 Adriana Gonzalez? Still on the list?

23 MS. DARLINGTON: Yes, yeah.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

1 Mr. Gery explained that he is really  
2 observing on behalf of PECO and will notify  
3 us if PECO does intend to become a  
4 participant.

5 MR. GERY:: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Let's  
7 see. Do we have Mr. Bakare here?

8 MR. DASENT: He has indicated he  
9 wants to be a participant and he, he's aware  
10 that we're having a pre-hearing conference  
11 and they shared the schedule with him.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
13 Because I don't see him as attending here.

14 MR. DASENT: I do not see him  
15 either.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
17 That takes us to Mr. Haver. I see you here.

18 MR. HAVER: Yes, I will be a  
19 participant, and I would like to move that  
20 the Public Advocates Title include hired by  
21 the Water Rate Board.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,  
23 obviously that motion's denied.

24 MR. HAVER: Why? Why is that

1 motion denied without an argument?

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: No  
3 argument is necessary. If you want to make a  
4 motion, then file something and it'll be  
5 responded to. Then I have Mr.  
6 Skiendzielewski. I saw you on here as a --  
7 as an attendee. I'm not sure if you can hear  
8 me or if you want to say something.

9 MR. DASENT: There he is.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah.  
11 Mr. Skiendzielewski, did you want to say  
12 something? Because if you do, raise your  
13 hand. Okay. Well, I assume he wants to  
14 continue to be a participant.

15 MR. BRYANT: He's unmuted himself,  
16 now.

17 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: I'm raising  
18 my hand.

19 MR. DASENT: There he is.

20 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: I'm here.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

22 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: I wouldn't  
23 miss this for the world.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,

1 that's great. And that's all I have in terms  
2 of participants. Is that Deland?

3 MR. BRYANT: Yeah, that's it. As  
4 far as I know, I don't see anybody else.  
5 That's to my knowledge.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
7 Mr. Skiendzielewski, you can lower your hand.  
8 I did recognize you. And you have been  
9 listened as a participant.

10 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Okay.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
12 So the next issue that I have is the schedule  
13 that was distributed. I'd like to thank Mr.  
14 Ballenger for coming up with a schedule.  
15 It's not easy given the time constraints in  
16 these types of hearings. I looked at it and  
17 I thought it was okay. I don't have any  
18 problems with it. Does anybody have any  
19 issues with it? We can go through the public  
20 input hearings separately, but in terms of  
21 the schedule itself.

22 MR. BALLENGER: Before we -- before  
23 we move on, I did just get a message from,  
24 from Ade. Let me -- he says he's on the call



1 and can see and hear everyone, but his feed  
2 is not showing up. He's going to disconnect  
3 and try to rejoin.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

5 MR. BALLENGER: So Deland, maybe be  
6 on the lookout for Mr. Bakare.

7 MR. BRYANT: Yes, sir.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you so much.

9 MR. BRYANT: Oh, he's here. Hang  
10 on. I'm putting him in now.

11 MR. DASENT: There he is.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay. I  
13 see you. Okay. Ade, we just went through  
14 the list of participants and I'm assuming  
15 that you want to continue to be a participant  
16 on behalf of PLUG in this proceeding.

17 MR. BAKARE: Yeah. I actually  
18 heard everything, I was on the call from the  
19 beginning.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh okay.

21 MR. BAKARE: So I heard everybody,  
22 but for some reason I wasn't showing up. So  
23 can you see and hear my video now?

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: No, I

1 can hear you, but I don't see any video.

2 MR. BRYANT: Hold on. I'm going to  
3 make him a panelist. I did and he got kicked  
4 out. He should be coming up as a panelist  
5 now. All righty. You asked full permission  
6 to be seen and heard.

7 MR. BAKARE: All right.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Maybe  
9 it's on your end, Ade.

10 MR. BAKARE: Nope, no I'm good.  
11 There we go.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
13 So we were starting to talk about the  
14 schedule, which I assume everybody's  
15 received.

16 MR. HAVER: I have not.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm  
18 sorry?

19 MR. HAVER: I have not received the  
20 proposed schedule.

21 MR. DASENT: I sent it to -- I sent  
22 it to the service list. Happy to resend it.  
23 But the, the hearings -- okay, with the  
24 technical hearings --

1 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: We're  
2 going to go through it anyway. But yeah, do  
3 you want to resend it to him now?

4 MR. DASENT: Yeah. I'm going to  
5 send you what I have on my iPad, and I can  
6 resend the actual message to you later just  
7 because it's quicker. I've got it right in  
8 front of me.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah, I  
10 do see you listed on that -- on the list  
11 there, so.

12 MR. DASENT: There's always  
13 glitches. Okay. I just sent it to you, Mr.  
14 Haver. I just put schedule on the email  
15 because I'm trying to do it really fast.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Did you  
17 get that?

18 MR. HAVER: I'm looking now.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

20 MR. HAVER: I have not yet gotten  
21 it.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
23 Well, why don't we go through it? The first  
24 three are already pass, which is the filing

1 of the advance notice, the formal notice, and  
2 the participation deadline, which was  
3 yesterday based on the formal notice filing  
4 date. Pre-hearing conference today, Public  
5 Input Hearings. They'll be in-person and  
6 remote, in the afternoon and evening.

7 We'll talk about them more specific  
8 -- oh, I guess we can talk about them now,  
9 actually. April 22nd and April 23rd. And  
10 the way that we've kind of set this up is  
11 that on April 22nd, there'll be an afternoon  
12 in-person Public Input Hearing at the  
13 Philadelphia Gas Commission hearing room.  
14 And at 6 o'clock there'll be a remote session  
15 via Zoom on the 22nd.

16 And then on February 23rd, there'll  
17 be an afternoon Zoom and an evening Public  
18 Input Hearing at the Zion Baptist Church,  
19 Broad & Venango. Which I guess is 3600 North  
20 Broad Street, and I have to say that the  
21 factors that went into that were that they'd  
22 be accessible -- well, available -- which  
23 isn't always very easy, especially off hours,  
24 but that they'd be available by public

1 transportation and also have sufficient  
2 capacity.

3 But that seemed like a good choice.  
4 So that's where we are on that. I will  
5 conduct the virtual ones. Mr. Popowsky will  
6 conduct the in-person ones. What else?  
7 They'll be conducted the way they always are.  
8 I'll let the participants make a brief  
9 statement if they wish, very brief, because  
10 complaints that we've had, and I think  
11 they're valid complaints, were that there was  
12 too much time in the introductions.

13 People were there to give comments.  
14 We really do want to hear from people who are  
15 not participants and don't have other options  
16 for letting their comments be known. So  
17 we're going to try and keep introductions to  
18 a real minimum if possible, and I guess  
19 that's it. Does anybody have any questions  
20 or comments about the schedule so far or up  
21 to the -- I guess we're really talking about  
22 the Public Input Hearings right now.

23 I don't see any hands up. Okay.  
24 So then the next thing after that would be

1 the filing of the non-department participant  
2 direct testimony, which would be April 29th,  
3 which is a week after -- basically a week  
4 after the public hearings. Rebuttal  
5 Testimony would be May 13th.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Pardon me?

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Sorry?

8 MR. BALLENGER: I'm sorry. Just to  
9 note for the record that we've been in touch  
10 with the water department regarding one of  
11 our witnesses conflicts with the testimony  
12 deadline of April 29th. I believe we have a  
13 handshake accommodation to enable us to file  
14 that witness's testimony on May 1st.  
15 Obviously, reciprocally, any, any rebuttal to  
16 that would, would have an additional time  
17 period as well.

18 But I just wanted that noted for  
19 the record. It doesn't impact the schedule  
20 overall. It's just an accommodation for one  
21 of our witnesses who's traveling.

22 MR. DASENT: Okay.

23 MR. BAKARE: On that note, Officer  
24 Chestnut, I actually had emailed Mr. Dasent,

1 admittedly quite late yesterday, just going  
2 over the schedule with our witness. We also  
3 had some issues with that April 29th date,  
4 and I wanted to propose this for the group.  
5 I noticed that the schedule as it is leaves  
6 quite a bit of headroom between rebuttal  
7 testimony and the hearing.

8               So I wanted to ask PWD if we could  
9 possibly consider moving the direct back to  
10 May 2nd and then having the rebuttal due  
11 closer to the hearings. I think there's  
12 enough headroom to push for a couple more  
13 days on direct without adversely impacting  
14 PWD's timeframe for rebuttal.

15               HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,  
16 I'll be honest, it's not a problem for me. I  
17 mean, this doesn't directly affect me. It  
18 affects you people. So Mr. Dasent, Mr.  
19 Ballenger.

20               MR. DASENT: Well, we want to be  
21 flexible because it's a very tight time  
22 frame, but this is the first time I'm hearing  
23 it, so I need to sort of look at the calendar  
24 and talk to, to Carl and get the logistics.

1 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I mean,  
2 as long as we keep the hearings starting on  
3 May 20th.

4 MR. DASENT: Right. And the  
5 rebuttal needs to be also a part of the  
6 equation. But I'm happy to talk directly  
7 after this call, in fact, with Mr. Carl  
8 regarding --

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think  
10 we need to resolve it now, if you can.

11 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah, I would just  
12 note that, you know, we, we are going to have  
13 to deal with the, the schedule in the other  
14 proceeding, which already has rebuttal due on  
15 May 2nd or proposed to be due on May 2nd. So  
16 that, kind of, puts us on the same trajectory  
17 for multiple pieces of testimony on the same  
18 day, which could be a bit challenging.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I  
20 thought that made fast for everybody.

21 MR. DASENT: I think that would be  
22 a reasonable accommodation. Be easier to  
23 track.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And then



1 I'll move rebuttal back to the 14th.

2 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah.

3 MR. DASENT: And if necessary,  
4 we'll revisit the TAP-R schedule because I  
5 think we have greater flexibility.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think  
7 there is some flexibility on the TAP-R  
8 schedule, I would imagine.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah.

10 MR. BAKARE: Yeah, I would imagine  
11 the TAP-R testimony compared to the rate case  
12 testimony incrementally. I mean, I can't  
13 imagine that's going to be significant.

14 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah, I was just  
15 flagging that. That's actually PWD's  
16 rebuttal testimony. So you know, who knows  
17 where we'll be at that point? Hopefully a  
18 lot closer. But as long I don't have any  
19 problem moving things around the way you  
20 suggest, Judge, I just want to make sure that  
21 we have enough time for any, you know,  
22 discovery between, you know, between the  
23 testimony deadlines.

24 I'm sure we'll have to respond to

1 some on our direct, and obviously, we may  
2 have some on the rebuttal as well before the  
3 hearing. So I just want to make sure we have  
4 enough days in there. And it may be that we  
5 just need an accelerated response time frame  
6 if we get too compressed. But in the looks  
7 of things, if I heard correctly, May 1st for  
8 direct, May 14 for rebuttal.

9 It starts to look a little bit  
10 tight between rebuttal and the hearings for  
11 responding to any discovery that we have at  
12 that time. That's the one face I'm seeing  
13 some pressure.

14 MR. BAKARE: Parties, if it's worth  
15 gaining an extra day, can I just ask if it's  
16 expected that we're actually going to need a  
17 full four days of hearing or if we could gain  
18 a day on the testimony schedule by shifting  
19 to three days of hearings?

20 MR. DASENT: That is a possibility  
21 that we considered. I think we have that  
22 flexibility built in, Judge.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah.

24 MR. DASENT: Because I mean, at the

1 call of Your Honor, we could either have a  
2 Tuesday hearing or maybe that's more like an  
3 organizational meeting just to talk about  
4 what the week's going to look like so we can  
5 get everything organized. So that -- that's  
6 a possibility. If we move though to May 1st,  
7 I lose two days.

8 And so it just seems like it should  
9 be something I have to look at the calendar,  
10 more like May 15th for rebuttal testimony.  
11 That's my reading of, you know, sort of  
12 equity here. We move two days, we move  
13 everything two days. And I'd like to  
14 preserve that.

15 MR. BALLENGER: I think we all, I  
16 mean, it's conceivable that, that Ade and I  
17 also may have rebuttal obligations depending  
18 on, on each other's direct. So I'm, I'm not  
19 sure that's just a departmental concern, I  
20 guess, it's my --

21 MR. DASENT: That's fair enough.  
22 Okay. But I, like, if we're going to go May  
23 1st, for filing everyone's testimony, I'm not  
24 going to do anything in a staggered way.

1 Then the 15th, to me, makes the most sense  
2 for the submission of rebuttal. And by  
3 moving the technical hearings as needed, we  
4 might be able to grab another day or so for  
5 any information exchanges that are necessary  
6 with respect to any of our rebuttal  
7 testimonies. So I think that may work.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And as  
9 always, I do expect participants to act in  
10 good faith here and provide information as  
11 timely as possible and not, you know, cause  
12 problems in terms of the schedule. I mean, I  
13 do expect you to act professionally and  
14 competently because you all have, I mean, so  
15 -- I guess I can -- again, it's not directly  
16 affecting me, so I guess I'm willing to hear  
17 what you all agree on.

18 Is three days enough for actual  
19 hearings, though in this case?

20 MR. DASENT: We've used three days.  
21 And if we have an organizational day, I have  
22 a feeling, you know, because it's a short  
23 hearing, would basically say we expect you to  
24 do X, Y, and Z. Here's the order of

1 witnesses. We'll know then everyone's  
2 availability and we can sort of juggle as  
3 needed.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: We'll  
5 know that before the hearings, I mean, you'll  
6 use the standard cross examination grid.

7 MR. DASENT: Yes, that's true.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: So I  
9 don't know what else there is to organize.

10 MR. DASENT: Well, it always seems  
11 right before a hearing, there's always some  
12 uncertainty about something. And gathering  
13 us before the first day allows the second  
14 day, the actual hearing, to go more smoothly  
15 because there's no housekeeping.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: It  
17 doesn't just disrupt your time, that's more -  
18 - my concern was that you might use that time  
19 better to prepare for the hearings.

20 MR. DASENT: I see.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: But if  
22 you want to have a short, you know,  
23 procedural.

24 MR. DASENT: Just pencil it in. If

1 we need it, we can --

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: We can  
3 do that.

4 MR. DASENT: Yes.

5 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Of  
6 course, stipulations.

7 MR. DASENT: Yeah.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:  
9 Settlements, full settlements, partial  
10 settlements. They can all. They're all good  
11 things, you know, the right circumstances  
12 that can reduce the need for hearing time.  
13 So where are we on this? I mean, I'm willing  
14 to be guided by you on these dates here. Is  
15 it there --

16 MR. DASENT: Well, May, May 1st.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That  
18 were talking changing, April 29th to May 1st.

19 MR. DASENT: Yeah. And May 13th.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: For  
21 everybody.

22 MR. DASENT: Yeah.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

24 MR. DASENT: And May 13th to May

1 15th.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And does  
3 that change the last day for information  
4 request, though, I wonder?

5 MR. DASENT: It probably will. And  
6 let me defer to Rob on that and Ade.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah, I'm actually,  
8 I'm traveling May 14th, 15th and 16th, so  
9 it's not ideal for me. Fortunately, I have  
10 some colleagues who I hope can tag in. I, I  
11 do think, you know, one, one, one day is  
12 really probably pushing it. I mean, that,  
13 that means we get to the 19th, which is the  
14 week of the hearings, still issuing  
15 discovery. I mean, that -- that's challenge  
16 -- that's a little bit challenging, I think.

17 MR. DASENT: It's probably going to  
18 be the 16th, you asked the question anyway.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm  
20 going to say last day for information. I  
21 need to pull up my calendar or reach one.  
22 What days here?

23 MR. DASENT: Well, the 15th to  
24 Friday.

1 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: The 15th  
2 of Friday.

3 MR. BALLENGER: I'm sorry.

4 MR. DASENT: And then we start  
5 hearings.

6 MR. BALLENGER: 15th is a --

7 MR. DASENT: A Thursday.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Thursday, right?

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: It's a  
10 Thursday.

11 MR. DASENT: So the last day, if  
12 it's the 16th, will be on a Friday, the next  
13 day. Or you could go to the 19th, but it  
14 just seems like it's hard to answer  
15 questions.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: We're  
17 not going to have substantive technical  
18 hearings till the 21st.

19 MR. DASENT: Okay.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That  
21 gives you a little time there for information  
22 requests, doesn't it? I mean.

23 MR. DASENT: Yeah, I mean, I think  
24 it's only fair to say the 19th.



1 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I  
2 encourage information requests instead of  
3 spending a lot of time on cross examination.  
4 I mean, it's a much better system for  
5 everybody, but.

6 MR. DASENT: And also --

7 MR. BALLENGER: And the problem --  
8 yeah, the problem is not knowing what the  
9 responses are until, you know, we're in the  
10 hearing room and, and how we -- how we clean  
11 up at that point. I, I don't -- I don't  
12 know, I mean, look at that. I -- do we -- do  
13 we need a full two weeks to get rebuttal  
14 together?

15 MR. DASENT: Yes. I mean, I, I, I  
16 love the way everybody goes from my days.  
17 That's an important part of the case.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Again, again I  
19 think it's --

20 MR. DASENT: Otherwise, well,  
21 otherwise there's a lot of disorder.

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't  
23 know if you really do need all that time,  
24 Andre. I mean.

1           MR. DASENT: Well, I think we have  
2 multi fronts to this particular case because  
3 of the potential rate design change, as well  
4 as all the revenue requirement issues. And I  
5 think we're going to see something that's a  
6 little more of a dynamic of, of, sort of,  
7 rate design and cost allocation, sort of,  
8 taking more of a front seat.

9           It's going to be different from  
10 other cases. And also the let service line  
11 issues come into play. And they're different  
12 for a lot of reasons, including the things  
13 that's going on in Washington, as well as our  
14 plans and how it's all affected and funded  
15 and what sort of grants we can get. I, I  
16 think it's going to be a little more  
17 complicated proceeding, interesting.

18           But nonetheless, we need to have  
19 the time to respond on several different  
20 fronts. We have also more witnesses than we  
21 have previously, and that's in part because  
22 of the complicated nature of our  
23 presentation. It's not just about inflation.  
24 It's about so many things. And so I think

1 those, those days are important to us.

2 We'd like, having made an  
3 accommodation, particularly with like spring  
4 break, to have sort of that -- sort of  
5 reciprocity or symmetry in the -- our  
6 presentation so that we, we can have the time  
7 that we need to make our presentation as  
8 well.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
10 We understand that. We understand that and  
11 appreciate that. I think the question here  
12 is how to accommodate all these legitimate  
13 concerns. And I'm wondering if we shouldn't  
14 stick with April 29th as rebuttal test as  
15 direct, except for this one limited witness.

16 MR. DASENT: Well, there are two,  
17 Mr. Colton and Mr. Aldino. But yeah, with  
18 those two exceptions, that would -- that  
19 would help because then we can get started.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: If we  
21 keep it 29th and everybody does try to comply  
22 with the 29th, except as otherwise, then we  
23 can stick with the rest of this without, I  
24 think, affecting people too much.

1                   MR. BAKARE: The, the only issue I  
2   have with that is, is, is that, as Andre  
3   mentioned, this is a very different rate case  
4   with a lot of changes from the prior rate  
5   case. And although we got the advance waiver  
6   filing earlier, the final filing was later  
7   than expected. That's within the water  
8   department's control.

9                   And I, I, I think the water  
10   department's been looking at this not for  
11   months, but for probably over a year. The  
12   witnesses have been looking at this for, you  
13   know, weeks. So I, I think in terms of the  
14   impact of the testimony deadlines, I think it  
15   is fair to expect the utility to bear the  
16   higher burden of that constrained schedule  
17   where the interveners are digesting  
18   everything within a much shorter time frame,  
19   where the utility had been planning this for  
20   a year and knows the filing in and out.

21                  So I, I do think that there's a  
22   greater burden on the filer and with PWD's  
23   resources and counsel. I, I, I do think that  
24   those couple days matter more for the

1     intervener than they do for the filing  
2     utility.

3                   HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:   Right.  
4     But you -- but you've had the advance notice  
5     in February, and there really hasn't been  
6     substantive changes.  I understand from the  
7     formal notice, but -- I understand your  
8     point, but I think we have to balance things  
9     here.

10                  MR. DASENT:   Keep in mind.  We  
11     don't object --

12                  MR. BAKARE:   I could accommodate --  
13     I could accommodate --

14                  MR. DASENT:   We don't object to  
15     Ade's request.  That's the interesting part  
16     about this argument.  We are accepting and  
17     indicating our accommodation for what both he  
18     and Mr. Ballenger.

19                  MR. BAKARE:   I think to that point,  
20     I, I could accept a, a, a discovery deadline  
21     of the 17th.  If that's the issue of getting  
22     the discovery deadline with enough headroom  
23     for hearing.  I mean, I understand, Rob, you  
24     have some scheduling issues, but I think the

1 testimony deadline, at least from my point of  
2 view, is more important than the discovery  
3 deadline prior to the hearings.

4 MR. BALLENGER: I'm assuming that  
5 would be the 16th. Saturday's 17th, so.

6 MR. BAKARE: The 16th, I guess.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah.

8 MR. BALLENGER: I mean, we can step  
9 on it once we get rebuttal and, and try to  
10 get the questions out. Just, you know, it's  
11 going to be a little bit pressure there.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I want  
13 to clarify that. Are we still talking about  
14 having direct testimony filed April 29th,  
15 except in limited circumstances?

16 MR. DASENT: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Are we  
18 still talking about --

19 MR. BAKARE: Your Honor, I thought  
20 you said you just accepted May 1st.

21 MR. DASENT: No, I accepted April  
22 29th for everyone. I thought, Hearing  
23 Officer, I'm sorry --

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I

1 thought it was April 29th for everybody,  
2 except --

3 MR. DASENT: Except Mr. Baldino,  
4 your witness, and Mr. Colton, Rob's witness.  
5 That way we can start working on the other  
6 witnesses.

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Right.

8 MR. DASENT: And we're not wasting  
9 time.

10 MR. BAKARE: I understand.

11 MR. BALLENGER: Where does that put  
12 you in term -- well, so rebuttal then stays  
13 at May 13th, Andre, except for rebuttal to  
14 Baldino and Colton, which pushes to --

15 MR. DASENT: The 15th.

16 MR. BALLENGER: The 15th, the last  
17 day for information requests is the 16th  
18 across the board then.

19 MR. DASENT: Yeah.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah, I mean, that,  
21 that helps. That gives us some time with,  
22 with rebuttal to our other witnesses to, to  
23 get out any discovery for them as well. We  
24 would not hesitate to do so, so that's -- I

1 think that could work, and we'll only know  
2 when we're doing it.

3 MR. DASENT: Yeah, and we'll work  
4 with each other to make sure it does work.

5 MR. BAKARE: Just to clarify for  
6 (Indiscernible)

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
8 So participant direct testimony is due April  
9 29th, except for those two for Mr. Colton and  
10 Mr. Baldino, right?

11 MR. DASENT: Yes.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Rebuttal  
13 testimony is due May 13th, except for those  
14 two, which would be the 15th?

15 MR. DASENT: Yes, yes.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: So that  
17 takes us to the information request. Are we  
18 going to keep that at the 15th or change that  
19 to the 16th?

20 MR. BALLENGER: 16th for all.

21 Yeah, for all witnesses, but with the  
22 understanding that we'll, you know, issue  
23 them as their available.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Right,



1 right. So that takes care of the testimony  
2 side, I think. So taking it to the hearings,  
3 we are going to have Tuesday as an -- as like  
4 a -- I'm still not crazy about that, but I  
5 don't want to take away from the natural --

6 MR. DASENT: Okay. Well, we don't  
7 have to have it but we might need it.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:  
9 (Indiscernible) brief. We'll use that as a  
10 procedural further conference. How's that?

11 MR. DASENT: Okay.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: If  
13 they're going to use Wednesday, Thursday, and  
14 Friday for the hearings and I hope that's  
15 enough, but we'll see. I guess we've got a  
16 better feel at that point. If we need to add  
17 some time, maybe we can. Because it really  
18 doesn't allow for much time. I want you to  
19 have time to do your briefs too, although  
20 obviously, I expect you to be writing them as  
21 you go on.

22 Okay. So that takes us to the last  
23 day for transcript responses, which is five  
24 days after the last hearing. Brief

1 settlement petition and again urge you  
2 settlement, partial settlement stipulations,  
3 I assume they would be the same time frame.  
4 That would be May 30th. Objections would be  
5 June 6th. PI briefs June 11th.

6 And then my report, I will try to  
7 have it by July 1st and guarantee it. But I  
8 will try to do it -- and I have to say that  
9 based on my past performance here, it  
10 probably will be slightly before July 1st.

11 MR. DASENT: Yeah.

12 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: So I  
13 mean, I'll do what I can to make it possible,  
14 but, but really I want to be sure. My  
15 concern is not just that I have sufficient  
16 time to prepare, but that the Rate Board has  
17 sufficient time to review everybody's  
18 position in this, not just the rate report.  
19 And I think the schedule does that, though if  
20 I have my report out July 1st, you have a  
21 chance to respond to it on July 8th.

22 Then the Rate Board will consider  
23 it at their meeting on July 16th and then  
24 consider and adopt a final determination on

1 the 23rd. And I'm assuming that that's okay  
2 with the rate work. I know that Mr. Popowsky  
3 has reviewed the schedule and hasn't had a  
4 problem, but I'm not sure if he might bring  
5 it up tomorrow or might have shared it with  
6 them, I don't -- I don't know.

7 But I'm assuming that it's okay  
8 that everything finished on the 23rd and  
9 obviously that is slightly within the 120-day  
10 time period, which is the drop-dead date.  
11 Okay. Anything else? Schedule-wise, I think  
12 we've come up with something, maybe not  
13 great, but again, doing a full rate case in  
14 six months compared to the nine months that  
15 you would have at the PUC really, really is  
16 not easy.

17 So you really can't waste time.  
18 It's important to really focus on what you  
19 have to focus on. Okay. And I think I might  
20 put in something that if I do issue my rate  
21 report early, I doubt it, but I might,  
22 exceptions might be moved up, so that's not a  
23 firm date July 8th. Probably will be, but  
24 just in case, I'm giving you a heads up that

1 everything would be moved up based on the  
2 hearing report issuance date, which is the  
3 way I've done it in the past, but we can deal  
4 with that later.

5 And by the way, about the technical  
6 hearings, my practice has been that we start  
7 at 10:00 and go through 5:00, but that may  
8 not be -- if we're only talking three full  
9 days. Maybe we might have to start at 9:00  
10 and perhaps go a little bit later, but that's  
11 a decision we can make, but I wanted to give  
12 everybody a heads up that that may be  
13 necessary.

14 MR. BAKARE: That's a question  
15 about the hearings, Hearing Officer. Did the  
16 schedule specify? I'm just double checking  
17 whether we specified virtual or in-person  
18 hearings.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh, I'm  
20 not sure if it did, but the technical  
21 hearings will be virtual.

22 MR. BAKARE: Okay.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And  
24 then, as I indicated previously, the public

1 input hearing, some will be in-person and  
2 some will be virtual to try and accommodate  
3 everybody on that, okay?

4 MR. HAVER: I object to -- I object  
5 to any of the hearings being only virtual.

6 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Are you  
7 talking about the technical hearings?

8 MR. HAVER: Yes.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Why?

10 MR. HAVER: Everything -- because  
11 people should be included. They should be  
12 able to come and see your behavior. They  
13 should be able to come and hold up some --

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: They're  
15 certainly -- they're certainly welcome to, to  
16 observe it.

17 MR. HAVER: In-person.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: They  
19 don't need to see it in-person.

20 MR. HAVER: No, you can't. It's  
21 virtual. That's the -- that's the definition  
22 of the word virtual. Not in-person, virtual.  
23 I object.

24 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I gave

1     them the option to observe it virtually which  
2     is sufficient.

3                 MR. HAVER: I don't believe it is.  
4     I'm objecting to your decision to keep the  
5     public out. If you don't have the Internet,  
6     you can't participate. If you don't --

7                 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Most  
8     people have phone service too. They can do  
9     it by phone.

10                MR. HAVER: How do you know that?  
11    How do you know what most people have.

12                HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'm,  
13    I'm, I'm not -- I'm -- well, I don't see any  
14    reason to have in-person technical hearings.  
15    I think it's expensive and inconvenient for  
16    the witnesses, and I'm trying to keep the  
17    rate case expense down. I don't believe in -  
18    -

19                MR. HAVER: And this is the perfect  
20    example.

21                HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: --  
22    burdening customers unnecessarily with  
23    unnecessary expenses.

24                MR. HAVER: Right. And this is a

1 perfect example. Your staff just muted me  
2 because you don't want to hear what I have to  
3 say.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Because  
5 you were speaking at the same time I was.  
6 You were being --

7 MR. HAVER: Or you were -- or you  
8 were speaking at the same time I was.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: But I'm  
10 the hearing officer.

11 MR. HAVER: In-person, I can hold  
12 up a sign and tell people what it is you do,  
13 how you do it, and why what you're doing is  
14 unfair. I can hold up a sign that says, "Who  
15 hires the public advocate, and there's been  
16 no public evaluation." All of those are  
17 possible in a public hearing.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: You  
19 know, you can hold up a sign virtually also.  
20 And you know we're not going to have hearings  
21 that are inconvenient and expensive for you  
22 to have a photo op. If you want to  
23 communicate with people, that's your  
24 responsibility.

1 MR. HAVER: Again, the City of  
2 Philadelphia has said everything should be  
3 in-person. You are ignoring what the mayor  
4 has said?

5 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I don't  
6 think so, but we'll go on.

7 MR. HAVER: There's no court  
8 hearing. There's no other hearing. That is  
9 only virtual. Everything else -- the mayor  
10 has said everything else should be public in-  
11 person. You are the only person because you  
12 obviously think you're special, that you  
13 don't have to follow the rules and  
14 regulations of the City of Philadelphia.

15 Perhaps that's because you don't  
16 live in the city and you don't care what the  
17 city mayors of the City of Philadelphia has  
18 to say.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think  
20 you're making a number of assumptions there.

21 MR. DASENT: I think the Law  
22 Department will speak to this also.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

24 MR. DASENT: And if Dan can advise



1 one way or another as, as to whether this is  
2 permissible, and if the Law Department signs  
3 off on it, we're good.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That  
5 sounds good. Okay. Moving on then.  
6 Submission --

7 MR. BALLENGER: I think Mr.  
8 Skiendzielewski might want to be heard here  
9 as well.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Oh okay.  
11 Mr. Skiendzielewski?

12 MR. DASENT: I see his hand up.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I think  
14 -- Mr. Skiendzielewski, do you want to say  
15 something.

16 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Yes, I would  
17 like to say something.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Go on.

19 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: The virtual  
20 meetings, hearings, processes, and procedures  
21 are in your best interests -- in the best  
22 interest of the Water Rate Board and all the  
23 personnel here. What I find not unsurprising  
24 is that your stance is not that much

1 dissimilar to that of the, the council to the  
2 Water Rate Board, where he tried on the  
3 public record to block my access to First  
4 Amendment process.

5 And that's similar to what you're  
6 doing as Mr. Haver said to a lot of older  
7 people, young people. People who pay these  
8 bills, who want to participate in-person. So  
9 your, your conduct decision-making is not  
10 surprising. But what, what, what, what is  
11 interesting is that Mr. Hershler miraculously  
12 on January 31st of this past year just said I  
13 retain all my First Amendment rights.

14 So I'm back, I guess, on board to  
15 go into neighborhoods and publicize and  
16 distribute public records that are here in  
17 this procedure and past procedures. And I ,  
18 I know that citizens, consumers would not be  
19 in agreement with forcing them to go into the  
20 virtual environment.

21 MR. BALLENGER: If I could just --  
22 I mean we are, we have two in-person public  
23 input hearings scheduled for members of the  
24 public to express themselves. There are

1 other ways they can express themselves.  
2 We've received several emails and are  
3 encouraging people to reach out to the board  
4 in writing.

5 I think there's just a difference  
6 in terms of what we plan for public  
7 participation in public input and what we  
8 plan for, for the participants in cross  
9 examining each other's witnesses. So I just  
10 want to make that point. The public does  
11 have multiple ways to be heard by the Rate  
12 Board in this proceeding.

13 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Attempt at  
14 arm's length -- attempt at arm's length. You  
15 provide more, more open forms for the players  
16 here, for the people who are being paid to  
17 participate. That's the bottom line sir.  
18 Can I ask you a question? When Mr. Haver  
19 mentioned and asked the hearing officer about  
20 the public advocate being paid or hired by  
21 the Water Rate Board, you mentioned  
22 yesterday, it's a city contract.

23 Who specifically contracts -- signs  
24 a contract for your services -- for your

1 public advocate services? Is it the Water  
2 Rate Board or is it the city?

3 MR. BALLENGER: I've directed you  
4 at least a dozen times to the Water Rate  
5 Board's regulations which specify that the  
6 Water Rate Board pursuant to a formal city  
7 contract retains the public advocate to  
8 represent the interests independently of the  
9 small business and residential consumers in  
10 general rate increased proceedings.

11 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: So the  
12 question -- the answer is that the Water Rate  
13 Board does it. They hire you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

15 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Is that  
16 correct?

17 MR. BALLENGER: They hire us as  
18 pursuant to a contract with the city of  
19 Philadelphia.

20 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Well, I don't  
21 care, you know, they hire you pursuant  
22 regardless or nevertheless, okay? Well thank  
23 you very, very much. I'm looking forward to  
24 the rest of these proceedings and I will make

1 all this stuff very, very public in  
2 neighborhoods. Make no doubt about it. And  
3 this is factual stuff that you've decided,  
4 you've decided to take a look and listen to  
5 the evidence of Mr. Cantu-Hertzler's horrific  
6 egregious unprofessional, unethical conduct.  
7 And you say that's okay.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Mr.  
9 Skiendzielewski, I need you to --

10 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: That's okay -  
11 - that's okay for him to represent you and to  
12 advise you.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay,  
14 thank you. Okay. Let's continue with our  
15 pre-hearing conference here.

16 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: What'd you  
17 say?

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: We're  
19 going to continue with our pre-hearing  
20 conference.

21 MR. SKIENDZIELEWSKI: Oh, that's  
22 wonderful. You know what, I'll tell you  
23 what. Just make sure you just hold on to the  
24 fact that having no in-person hearings.

1 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: This has  
2 been addressed many times and I do not want to  
3 hear it one more time. Okay, let's go on.

4 MR. HAVER: When will the law  
5 department issue -- when will the law  
6 department issue its opinion?

7 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I have  
8 no idea -- which -- what opinion?

9 MR. HAVER: Well, you just said  
10 that.

11 MR. DASENT: The advice.

12 MR. HAVER: This is about whether  
13 it's going to be.

14 MR. DASENT: Yeah, the advice that  
15 counsel would be provided.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I'll  
17 check -- I'll check with Dan. I don't know.  
18 I can't say -- I can't talk for Dan and give  
19 him a schedule.

20 MR. HAVER: Why can't you give him  
21 a schedule? Why can't you say within a week?

22 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: No, no,  
23 I'm not going to do that.

24 MR. HAVER: So if he makes a

1 decision after the hearings, that's okay with  
2 you?

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Mr.  
4 Haver, come on, you can do better than that.  
5 You don't have to do cheap shots like that,  
6 you know, really, please just focus on the  
7 important issues.

8 MR. HAVER: I have focused on what  
9 I consider important. It's not up to you to  
10 tell me what I think is important.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.

12 MR. HAVER: I don't seek your  
13 advice.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All  
15 right. Why don't we move on. Okay. It's  
16 time to move on.

17 MR. HAVER: I'm asking you again,  
18 when will he make the decision?

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And my  
20 response is the same. I don't know. It's up  
21 to him. Okay. Let's move on. We've talked  
22 about the dates for the hearings. Let's talk  
23 about the submission of your documents. If  
24 there's a date that your document, whether

1 it's testimony or brief or petition, whatever  
2 is due, I like it by the end of the day, by 5  
3 o'clock, not at midnight, which some people  
4 have a habit of doing.

5 Because I can tell you that it's  
6 just not -- you don't gain anything by doing  
7 that and it's -- so please try to comply with  
8 that. If there's -- if you have an issue,  
9 then fine. But as a regular practice, please  
10 try to do that. If you file briefs or reply  
11 briefs, exceptions, please provide a copy in  
12 word if you can, as well as a PDF information  
13 request.

14 I expect that the participants will  
15 use their best efforts to be reasonable and  
16 accommodating when propounding or responding  
17 to the information request. And I wanted to  
18 remind people that pursuant to the Rate  
19 Board's regulations, the Rate Board will be  
20 deriving its recommended revenue requirement  
21 using the Rate Board that it developed and  
22 has provided to the participants.

23 So that if you're making a  
24 recommendation that addresses the revenue



1 requirement, I suggest you use that also.

2 Are there any other outstanding procedural  
3 issues? I know that the public advocate has  
4 a couple of information requests that are  
5 outstanding.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. And there's  
7 some we've not responded to the department's  
8 objections to. Can't remember which set  
9 number it was.

10 MR. DASENT: Me too.

11 MR. BALLENGER: Well, it's -- I  
12 think set two we're okay. I think it was a  
13 later set that we may still need to respond  
14 to. But I wanted to just more generally ask  
15 whether I think in the, the most recent base  
16 rate proceedings, seven days was -- seven  
17 calendar days was the turnaround time for  
18 discovery.

19 I would assume we're going to hold  
20 to that here. Obviously, if there's a need  
21 to, to delay something, the participants can  
22 be understanding and accommodating. But as a  
23 general matter, you know, we, we do need  
24 responses pretty quickly, and we expect to be

1 able to give them. But I did want to just  
2 flag that.

3 If we cannot resolve some of the  
4 objections, Your Honor, we may need to answer  
5 them for your consideration. And I have, you  
6 know, I'm reaching out to my witnesses about  
7 that. So they -- that's really a decision  
8 they need to make based on whether they're,  
9 you know, whether they have adequate  
10 information to frame testimony.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
12 So you can resolve -- you know, I expect you  
13 to see what you can do to resolve that.

14 MR. BALLENGER: We're working on  
15 it.

16 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And  
17 you're right. I guess it's kind of standard  
18 that responses to information requests will  
19 be provided within seven calendar days unless  
20 subjected to.

21 MR. DASENT: We, we do try to  
22 inform folks, though, when it takes longer  
23 because the request is more complicated or we  
24 have to create a report that doesn't exist,

1 that, you know, we may need some  
2 accommodation. But rule of thumb, I agree.  
3 Seven days.

4 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,  
5 the regs talk about timely responses, so  
6 that's why I expect you to -- expect you to  
7 use your best efforts.

8 MR. DASENT: Okay.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.  
10 So are there other outstanding procedural  
11 issues beside that?

12 MR. DASENT: I don't think so.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All  
14 right. And I think that's the end of my, my  
15 agenda here. Does anybody have anything?  
16 Mr. -- or does anybody have anything that  
17 they want to raise now?

18 MR. DASENT: In terms of witness  
19 availability for the hearings? We'll work  
20 that out in the future, but there may be  
21 specific days that certain witnesses are  
22 available. We'll cover that.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All  
24 right. Sounds good. Okay. Then, as I

1 indicated, we'll take a break, and then we'll  
2 resume with the TAP-R pre-hearing conference.  
3 If you do not wish to be a part of a  
4 participant, you certainly don't have to  
5 stick around. There'll be separate  
6 transcripts, separate proceedings, separate  
7 schedule. So okay, thank you very much.

8 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: How  
10 about if we take a -- how about a 15-minute  
11 break?

12 MR. DASENT: Okay.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Perfect.

14 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

15 (Proceedings concluded.)  
16  
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24

1 CERTIFICATE OF DIGITAL REPORTER

2

3 I, HEATHER KRUP, a Digital Reporter within  
4 and for the State of Pennsylvania, do hereby  
5 certify:

6

7 That the foregoing proceeding hereinbefore  
8 set forth was accurately captured with annotations  
9 by me during the proceeding.

10

11 I further certify that I am not related to  
12 any of the parties to this action by blood or  
13 marriage, and that I am in no way interested in  
14 the outcome of this matter.

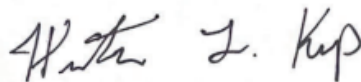
15

16 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
17 hand this 8th day of April, 2025.

18

19

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Heather Krup  
Digital Reporter

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