

1 CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
2 WATER, SEWER, AND STORM WATER RATE BOARD
3 PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE
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7 IN RE: 2025 TAP-R Reconciliation

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9 DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2025

10 LOCATION: Zoom Teleconference

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12 Reported by: Heather Krup

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24 Job No.: 52964

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ATTENDANCE

MARLANE CHESTNUT, HEARING OFFICER

ANDRE DASENT, PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

CARL SHULTZ, PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

ALEXANDRA ATHANASIADIS, PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

ROBERT BALLANGER, PUBLIC ADVOCATE

DELAND BRYANT, PHILADELPHIA WATER, SEWER, AND STORM WATER RATE BOARD

ADEOLU BAKARE, PHILADELPHIA LARGE USERS GROUP

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PROCEEDINGS
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HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: This is the pre-hearing conference that's been scheduled with respect to the Philadelphia Water Department's 2025 TAP-R reconciliation proceeding. I'm Marlane R. Chestnut, who is the hearing officer conducting this case on behalf of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Rate Board.

The first issue that I have here is -- let me back up and explain that we've had a pre-hearing conference with respect to the general rate proceeding, but this is a separate rate proceeding and a separate rate filing that was made by the company.

So this will have a separate transcript and a separate location on the rate board's website and a separate schedule. I had a separate rate decision and a separate determination by the rate board, but I think there might be some overlap in terms of participants, though that is the first thing

1 I did want to go through and make sure who
2 should be on the distribution list for this
3 proceeding if it's different from the general
4 rate proceeding.

5 At this point, I've been using the
6 same list for both, but maybe it's time to
7 have a separate list for this proceeding.
8 So, Mr. Dasent, do you still want the same
9 people on it for this case that you have?

10 MR. DASENT: Yeah, we have a longer
11 list than is implied, at least by the
12 attendants here today. But Mr. Bakare
13 indicated recently that he wanted to be on
14 the list, so I just want to make sure he's
15 included. And Mr. Haver and Mr.
16 Skiendzielewski are on the list, but, you
17 know, obviously they're not here.

18 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well,
19 how about you just speak to your own
20 situation, which is who do you want on the
21 list for you?

22 MR. DASENT: I'm sorry. Yes,
23 myself and the list of folks from the law
24 department, Alexandra and Neal, and also from

1 WRB, Adriana and Brooke.

2 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Now, do
3 you want Rick Hicks on this?

4 MR. DASENT: Oh, yeah. Please help
5 me. Yeah, Rick's my buddy. I want Rick and
6 Carl on there, too. I don't have the list in
7 front of me.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I have
9 you, Carl, Rick, Neal, and Alexandra.

10 MR. DASENT: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And then
12 Brooke and Adriana.

13 MR. DASENT: Yes. You got it
14 right. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And then
16 Mr. Ballenger, for your team?

17 MR. BALLENGER: It should be the
18 same. So it should be me, Charlotte
19 Edelstein, and Vikram Patel.

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay. I
21 still have Travis Gery observing, but he's
22 going to let us know. I doubt PECO is going
23 to want to be involved in this, but they can
24 if they wish. Okay. Ade, are you here?

1 MR. BAKARE: Yes, I'm here. Right,
2 I'm here.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I have
4 you and Matthew Gerber. Do you still want
5 Gerber? Do you want that?

6 MR. BAKARE: Yes, that's correct.
7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay.
9 And then I have Mr. Haver and Mr.
10 Skiendzielewski.

11 MR. BRYANT: I do not see them here
12 listed as a participant or attendee. I do
13 have someone trying to get in. Someone
14 forwarded an email from the city to another
15 attorney. I'm going to try to get them in.
16 They joined through another link and I got it
17 separately. I'm going to try to send them
18 the link for this meeting now. So give me --
19 you can go on with your business. I'll let
20 you know when I reach them. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Both
22 individuals are participants regardless of
23 whether they're here or not. But yes.

24 MR. BRYANT: Yes.

1 MS. ATHANASIADIS: And Deland, I
2 can just jump in and say I believe that
3 attorney is one of Adriana's colleagues.

4 MR. BRYANT: Yes.

5 MS. ATHANASIADIS: From the law
6 department, so just so you know, I believe
7 she'll be joining the service list as well as
8 a backup for Adriana.

9 MR. BRYANT: Not a problem.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: If you
11 could send me an email then about that.

12 MR. BRYANT: Yes.

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: I mean,
14 about that. I'll add them to the list. Is
15 that just for the TAP-R?

16 MS. ATHANASIADIS: Probably for
17 both cases. We'll make sure you have that.
18 Thanks.

19 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: That's
20 fine. All right, let's talk about the
21 schedule. Again, I appreciate that Mr.
22 Dasent and Mr. Ballenger have come up with a
23 hopefully workable schedule, working around
24 the other case. It isn't easy, either.

1 Going past the dates of events that have
2 already occurred, the advance notice, the
3 formal notice, the participation deadline,
4 and today's pre-hearing conference. That
5 takes us to the direct testimony, which you
6 have on here is April 21st?

7 MR. DASENT: Yes.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Anybody
9 have a problem with that? Okay.

10 MR. DASENT: We're also working
11 through it, trying to figure out, you know,
12 if there's a shortcut, we'll find it .

13 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: May 2nd
14 for any rebuttal. And again, I really
15 strongly encourage a settlement or whatever
16 you can do.

17 MR. BALLENGER: I've shared those
18 dates with the Public Advocates witness, and
19 that's the reason why we stepped on the gas
20 to try to get discovery out. So, I think
21 they're okay. I haven't heard anything to
22 the contrary.

23 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Well, at
24 this point, I've seen one side of information

1 request, I think.

2 MR. BALLENGER: Mm-hmm.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Okay, so
4 we're still sticking with April 21st and May
5 2nd?

6 MR. DASENT: Yes.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Yes.

8 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: May 5th
9 is the last day for information requests.
10 Again, that I think that should be a little
11 flexible too as situations come up but, sure.
12 Public and technical hearings we'll do the
13 same format we used previously, which we will
14 have a public hearing continued into the
15 technical hearing.

16 MR. DASENT: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And it
18 will be virtual. In addition, so that takes
19 us to May 7th, and possibly May 8th if
20 necessary, which takes us to the last day for
21 transcript responses; May 12th, Brief
22 Settlement Petition; May 19th, objections;
23 May 23rd, my report; and June 18th. Wow,
24 thanks a lot.

1 MR. DASENT: Ratifying the
2 settlement.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:
4 Settlements are fine, and I will give you a
5 heads up that, given the limited scope of
6 this proceeding and the fact that I've issued
7 rate reports previously, there's going to be
8 a lot of familiar language in that. So,
9 actually if you do settle and your settlement
10 petition tracks what you did last time or
11 tracks my report in terms of format, I'd
12 appreciate it.

13 MR. DASENT: Okay.

14 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT:
15 Exceptions, June 25th; war deliberations,
16 July 16th and the 23rd, and rate
17 determination on the 23rd. Again, doable
18 hopefully, further issues don't come up.
19 Okay, does anybody have anything to say about
20 the schedule, I guess, at this point?

21 No? Okay. Again, as I indicated
22 in the other proceeding, if you're providing
23 a document, please do it by the end of the
24 day when it's due, not at midnight. Late

1 filed submissions will be accepted for good
2 cause, but it is reasonable and it can't be a
3 usual kind of thing. Please provide them in
4 Word as well as in PDF, and I will direct you
5 to use your best efforts in propounding and
6 responding to information requests. Any
7 outstanding issues?

8 MR. DASENT: Not really.

9 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: The only
10 issue I listed was that the Public Advocates
11 sent one, it just has not been answered yet.
12 Right?

13 MR. DASENT: Yeah. And I think
14 it's due shortly. But more importantly, some
15 of the data that's been requested to update
16 the filing is not available yet. So, as we
17 prepare it, we'll have it available for him,
18 and we can have an explanation of that
19 offline. But I just wanted --

20 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: And as
21 always, expect supplemental answers as
22 information becomes due, and I think that's
23 been your practice so far. But yeah.

24 Dan, I urge everyone to exercise

1 good faith and best efforts, and hopefully
2 this will go smoothly. Does anybody have
3 anything else? No? And I do want to say I
4 probably should have said this with respect
5 to the other.

6 We've been trying to keep the Rate
7 Awards website up to date in terms of posting
8 documents, and it's a more complicated
9 process than really just asking Deland to
10 take care of it. I know that there has been
11 a delay in posting some things and in
12 organizing it, but it will get there very
13 soon.

14 Okay, well then, thank you very
15 much. This pre-hearing conference is
16 adjourned. I look forward to seeing you --

17 MR. BRYANT: One more thing, I'm
18 sorry, Hearing Officer. Mr. Andre, and Rob,
19 if you see something or if you send something
20 that is not posted, please let me know.
21 There is a delay between me getting it and
22 putting it on the website. Sometimes, with
23 all the documents, things get missed a little
24 bit. But let me know. We've been trying to

1 do the best we can to stay on top of
2 everything.

3 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: Yeah,
4 and I keep track too. I mean, I have mine.

5 MR. BRYANT: Yes, absolutely.
6 Anybody, if you see something, let me know.
7 Absolutely. Thank you.

8 MR. DASENT: Will do. Thank you,
9 Deland.

10 HEARING OFFICER CHESTNUT: All
11 right, anything further? No? Then, thank
12 you very much. Thank you, Heather, for being
13 here and doing this. I look forward to
14 seeing all of you later. Take care.

15 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

16 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

17 (Proceedings concluded at 11:21 a.m.)

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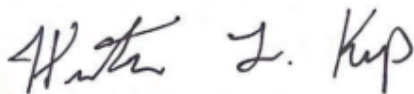
CERTIFICATE OF DIGITAL REPORTER

I, HEATHER KRUP, a Digital Reporter for the State of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

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

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

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



Heather Krup
Digital Reporter
CER 3351

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