

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: CITY OF NEWPORT, UTILITIES DEPARTMENT, :
WATER DIVISION’S PETITION TO RECOVER : **DOCKET NO. 5254**
ELECTRONIC PAYMENT FEES RESULTING :
FROM COVID-19 PUC DECISIONS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2022, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) authorized Newport Water Division (Newport Water) to collect an additional \$74,400 annually from water customers, commencing July 1, 2022, to recover Electronic Payment Fees subject to reconciliation to actual costs;¹ and

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2023, Newport Water made a Compliance Filing which showed NWD had collected more in electronic transaction fees than it was assessed;² and

WHEREAS, Newport Water sought approval of its Compliance Filing, including the calculation of the over-collection and allocation of costs between the water accounts and Water Pollution Control account, so to allow it to deposit \$14,969.40 into the Restricted Revenue Reserve Account; and

WHEREAS, On January 19, 2024, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) submitted a memorandum indicating that it had reviewed Newport Water’s calculations and allocations between the water account and Water Pollution Control account, found them to be accurate and made in accordance with the “true-up” mechanism set forth in the PUC’s Order. Therefore, the Division recommended that the PUC approve Newport Water’s request to transfer

¹ Order No. 24788 (Aug. 18, 2023). The Order included several conditions and an allocation of total electronic payment costs to the Water Pollution Control Division. The conditions were set forth in an agreement between NWD and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, memorialized in [Record Request 5](#).

² Newport Water’s Compliance Filing (Dec. 19, 2023).

the \$14,969.40 over recovery of Electronic Payment Fees for FY 2023 to the restricted Revenue Reserve Account;³ and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2024, the Commission reviewed Newport Water's filing and the Division's memorandum and found the calculations to be in compliance with Commission Order No. 24788.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(24923) ORDERED:

Newport Water Division is authorized to deposit \$14,969.40 into the Revenue Reserve Account.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, ON JANUARY 31, 2024, PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



John C. Revens, Jr., Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven (7) days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.

³ Division Mem. (Jan. 19, 2024).