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September 26, 2024

Via Email

And First Class Mail

Ms. Stephanie De La Rosa
Clerk
State of Rhode Island
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: *City of Newport, Utilities Department, Water Division – Docket 24-30-WW*

Dear Ms. De La Rosa:

Enclosed please find an original and nine copies of the following:

1. The City of Newport, Utilities Department, Water Division's response to the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers' Data Requests (Set 5).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Keough, Jr.

Enclosures

cc: Service List (via email)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. 24-30-WW
Response Of The City Of Newport,
Utilities Division, Water Department
To The State of Rhode Island
Division Of Public Utilities And Carriers'
Data Requests
Set 5

Div 5-1: Reference the response to DIV 1-5. Please explain why it would be unreasonable to utilize the FY 2024 customer class demand factors in the cost-of-service study rather than the FY 2023 customer class demand factors.

Response: It would not be unreasonable to utilize the FY 2004 customer class demand factors in the cost-of-service study rather than the FY 2023 customer class demand factors.

Prepared by: Harold Smith

Div. 5-2: Reference HJS Schedule B-1, pages 27 and 28 of the cost-of-service model attached to Mr. Smith's testimony. Please explain why it is reasonable to allocate electricity costs on page 27 100% on base, but the electricity costs on page 28 based on maximum hour demand patterns.

Response: The electricity costs shown on page 18 are costs associated with Newport's water treatment plants, while the electricity costs shown on page 28 are costs associated with the transmission and distribution system. While Newport Water operates its treatment plants to meet maximum day demands, in Docket 4128 the parties agreed that treatment plant electricity costs should be allocated 100% to Base to reflect the way in which the plants are used to meet peak demands. Since Newport's transmission and distribution system is designed and operated to meet maximum day and maximum hour demands, transmission and distribution costs are allocated to Base, Max Day and Max Hour cost categories.

Prepared by: Harold Smith

DIV 5-3: Referencing Mr. Smith's rebuttal testimony in Docket 4933, page 5, lines 1-7.

a. What percentage of the hydrants on Newport's system are capable of providing a flow rate of 4,350 gmp for 10 hours, and what percentage are only capable of a flow rate of 4,000 gmp for 6 hours, and;

b. What is the highest flow rate in terms of gpm and hours the hydrants on Newport's system have been able to provide during the last five years.

Response: a. The highest flow rate that hydrants in Newport's system can provide is not a simple answer and depends on multiple variables. In Newport, several changes have been made, including the addition of two pressure-reducing valves connecting the medium and low-pressure zones in the system. As a result, the new flow rates would need to be determined through hydraulic modeling and field testing. We are in the process of updating our hydraulic model, but that update has been halted due to the failure of an 18" valve in the system, which is preventing calibration and verification for the entire low pressure zone.

At this time, and subject to the hydraulic modeling and field testing referenced above, Mr. Smith's previous testimony remains valid, stating that our system cannot provide a flow rate of 4,350 gpm for 10 hours. No significant change in pumping, storage, or production has been constructed since he provided that testimony. Please note that according to AWWA (American Water Works Association) standard hydrant flow rates, Class AA is defined as 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) or greater.

b. While a single hydrant may be capable of flowing more than 4,000 GPM, determining the actual flow rates involves multiple variables and is heavily influenced by the time of year when the demand occurs. Referring to DIV 5-3 a, the answer would have to be modeled, which is currently unavailable.

Prepared by: Robert C. Schultz, Jr

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DIV 5-4: Reference the response to DIV-1-7 Attachment. Please explain the "Public fire allowance" line item.

Response: The public fire allowance of 10,000,000 gallons estimate for training and other non-emergency use that is not metered refers to a specific allocation of water for fire departments in Newport and Middletown. Training and Non-Emergency Use is specifically for Fire department training exercises at various locations through the system, Equipment testing, and practical training on operating Hydrants and other non-emergency activities.

Prepared by: Robert C. Schultz, Jr

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on September 26, 2024, I sent a copy of the within to all parties set forth on the attached Service List by electronic mail and copies to Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk, by electronic mail and regular mail.

| Parties/Address | E-mail Distribution | Phone |
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| File an original and 9 copies w/: Stephanie De La Rosa, Commission Clerk Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888 | Stephanie.delarosa@puc.ri.gov; John.harrington@puc.ri.gov; Christopher.Caramello@puc.ri.gov; Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov; | 401-780-2107 |

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