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PREFILED SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY
OF
PHILIP T. DRISCOLL
ON BEHALF OF
PORTSMOUTH WATER AND FIRE DISTRICT

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
In re: Application for Rate Relief
City of Newport Utilities Department, Water Division
Docket No. 3675

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Philip T. Driscoll. My business address is 1944 East Main Road,
3 Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

4

5 **Q. Are you the same person that provided direct testimony in this docket on behalf**
6 **of the Portsmouth Water and Fire District (PWFD)?**

7 A. Yes, I am.

8

9 **Q. In your direct testimony, you recommended that the Commission require a**
10 **financial and management audit of the Newport Water Department (NWD).**
11 **NWD has indicated that it does not believe that the time and cost of the financial**
12 **and management audit is warranted. Do you have any comment?**

13 A. Yes. I am disappointed that Ms. Forgue chose not to address the concerns raised in
14 my testimony. Nevertheless, Ms. Forgue does indicate that NWD prefers to look
15 forward, rather than backward. That is precisely why I am recommending the
16 financial and management audit. The audit will identify the actions that NWD needs
17 to take to address its financial and management issues and move forward in a
18 meaningful way. I believe the audit will also help NWD secure the necessary funding
19 to address its historical and ongoing problems.

20

21 It is my understanding that the Commission has ordered a similar audit for the
22 Providence Water Supply Board and it resulted in management and financial
23 improvements.

24

25 An in depth financial and management analysis by an independent, qualified,
26 consultant, who can provide advise in a calm, measured and dispassionate fashion,
27 can only benefit the ratepayers and water consumers of Aquidneck Island.

28

29 **Q. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?**

30 A. Yes, it does.