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June 19, 2007

Ms. Luly Massaro, Clerk Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Boulevard Warwick, RI 02888

Re: City of Newport, Utilities Department, Water Department - Docket 3818

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed please find a copy of Newport Water's Response to the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers' Data Requests (Set 3).

These Responses were electronically served to the members of the Service List on June 18, 2007.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Keough, Jr.

JAK/kf Enclosures

# CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT Docket No. 3818 Response to Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests Set 3

**Div. 3-1**: Please state whether Newport Water has contacted any other local utilities to inquire about the potential for coordinating meter readings or sharing meter readers. If not, explain why not. If yes, please provide a detailed report on the findings of those efforts.

**Response:** Newport Water has not contacted any other utilities to assist in meter readings for a non emergency, long term period. Local utilities within the immediate area are smaller and have smaller staffs than Newport, and we believe they would not be able to provide the minimum three meter readers required to staff this additional work. Intermunicipal agreements are normally for assistance during emergency situations. Assistance under these agreements is provided for short term periods. In addition, please see Newport's answer to Div. 3-2.

Prepared by: Ken Mason

#### CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT Docket No. 3818 Response to Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests

Set 3

Div. 3-2: Please state whether Newport Water has evaluated the potential for utilizing contract meter readers. If not, explain why not. If yes, please provide a detailed report on the findings of those efforts.

Response: Utilizing contract meter readers in the City of Newport would require an agreement be reached with labor union, Rhode Island Council 94 AFSCME Local 911. As part of the collective bargaining agreement, the City has agreed not to subcontract work that has been done exclusively by bargaining unit employees unless a specific agreement is reached with the union. Due to the protracted negotiations that would be required to effect this change, it is unlikely that this would provide a viable solution.

Prepared by: Ken Mason

#### CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT Docket No. 3818

### Response to

#### Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests Set 3

Div. 3-3: If Newport is allowed to include the full annual amount for the Lawton Valley sewer charges as an annual expense even though the residuals management project will not be in service for the entire rate year, please explain how Newport proposes to treat the amount included in rates, but not required to pay sewer charges during the rate year.

Response: Newport Water would seek the Commission's approval to use any excess revenues generated as a result of this specific issue or other excess revenues to fund an operating reserve that would be used to meet any unexpected expenses during the course of the year or used to meet normal expenses in the event that revenues are down due to decreased demand.

Response prepared by: Harold Smith

#### CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT

## Docket No. 3818 Response to Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests Set 3

**Div. 3-4**: Please state whether Newport would agree to place the amount included in rates for Lawton Valley sewer charges prior to the time the residuals management project goes in to service in the proposed operating reserve fund.

Response: See response to Div. 3-3.

Response prepared by: Harold Smith

#### CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT

#### Docket No. 3818 Response to

#### Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests Set 3

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that I sent by electronic mail a copy of the within to all parties set forth on the attached Service List on June 18, 2007.

Parties/Address	E-mail Distribution	Phone/Fax
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#### CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT

#### Docket No. 3818 Response to

#### Division of Public Utilities & Carriers' Data Requests Set 3

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