

# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

WATER DEPARTMENT JEFFERSON CENTER 1101 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994 RANDY E. HAYMAN, Esq. Water Commissioner

February 16, 2021

James P. Leonard, Esquire Records Commissioner City Hall, Room 158 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Formal Notice of Proposed Changes in Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rates and Related Charges (FY 2022 and FY 2023)

Enclosed please find the Formal Notice of the rate filing ("Formal Notice") submitted on behalf of the Philadelphia Water Department ("Department" or "PWD") in support of its proposed change in rates and charges for water, wastewater (sanitary sewer) and stormwater services consistent with (i) Section 5-801 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter ("Charter"), (ii) Section 13-101 of the Philadelphia Code ("Code"), and (iii) the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board ("Rate Board").

The above referenced filing is transmitted in the enclosed binders, as well as electronically in the enclosed USB flash drive. It is also available on the Rate Board's website, <u>www.phila.gov/water/rateboard</u>. The filing includes the proposed rates and charges, which are subject to review and authorization by the Rate Board.<sup>1</sup> The Rate Board will schedule public hearings on the proposed rates and charges, as required by Section 13-101(3)(f) of the Code.

This Formal Notice is the submission required to be filed with the Department of Records pursuant to Section 13-101(7)-(8) of the Code and Section II.A.2(b) of the Rate Board's regulations. Included with this submission are various statements and exhibits from the Advance Notice (identified in the attached Filing Index and incorporated by reference) that will be proffered for inclusion in the record during hearings before the Rate Board. Also attached and incorporated by reference is the Statement of Changes from the Advance Notice filed with City Council and the Rate Board on January 15, 2021, as well as copies of the changed documents identified therein. Finally, attached please find the memorandum from the Law Department approving this Formal Notice and the accompanying documents as to form.

Please make the aforesaid documentation, together with the Department's proposed changes in rates and charges, available for inspection consistent with the aforesaid legal requirements and arrange for advertising in accordance with Section 8-407 of the Charter and Section 21-1703 of the Code. Text for the public notice to be published in the newspapers is attached. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Randy E. Hayman Water Commissioner

cc: Rate Board

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The proposed rates and charges are set forth in PWD Exhibit 3A through 3D. These proposed rates and charges will be fully vetted as part of the rate process before the Rate Board.

#### **RECORDS DEPARTMENT**

In accordance with Section 5-801 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, Section 13-101 of the Philadelphia Code and the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (Board), the Philadelphia Water Department filed proposed changes to the rates and charges on February 16, 2021. The filing is available online at: www.phila.gov/water/rateboard or may be examined at the Department of Records. Anyone wishing to be a Participant in the rate change proceeding should send notice to Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board, c/o Steven Liang, City of Philadelphia Law Department, 1515 Arch St., 17th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19102 WaterRateBoard@phila.gov.

James P. Leonard, Esq. Records Commissioner

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### <u>Exhibits</u>

PWD Exhibit 1 *	Notification of Rate Filing	
	Advance Notice to Rate Board and Philadelphia City Council Public Notice of Proposed Rate Formal Notice to the Department of Records Newspaper Notices	

PWD Exhibit 2	Summary Fact Sheet	
PWD Exhibit 3A	Proposed Rates and Charges for FY2022	
PWD Exhibit 3B	Proposed Rates and Charges for FY2022 (Redlined)	
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	<u>Summary of the Operating Budgets</u> : FY 21 Budget in Brief – as proposed to the Council FY 21 Budget in Brief – as approved by the Council	
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	<u>Capital Budget</u> : Six Year Capital Program for Fiscal Years 2022-2026, Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 per Council Approved Capital Program and Budget	
	<u>Financial Reports</u> : Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019	
	<u>Five Year Financial and Strategic Plan</u> : Five Year Financial and Strategic for Fiscal Years 2021-2025, presented to Council FY2021-FY2025 Five Year Financial Plan, per Council Approved Budget	
PWD Exhibit 5	Official Statement, City of Philadelphia Water and Wastewater Revenue Bonds, 2020A and 2020B	
PWD Exhibit 6	Supplemental, Financial, Engineering and Other Data, Black & Veatch Workpapers	
PWD Exhibit 7	Consent Order and Agreement, June 1, 2011	

\* Denotes Statements and Exhibits supplemented or revised since the Advance Notice.

#### PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT RATE PROCEEDING (FY 2022 and FY 2023)

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES FROM THE ADVANCE NOTICE FILED WITH CITY COUNCIL AND THE WATER, SEWER AND STORMWATER RATE BOARD ON JANUARY 15, 2021

Pursuant to Section II.A.2(b) of the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board ("Rate Board"), this statement highlights changes from the Advance Notice of proposed changes in rates and charges filed by the Philadelphia Water Department ("Department" or "PWD") with City Council and the Rate Board on January 15, 2021. The changes and the rationale for the changes are provided below.

- **PWD Exhibit 1** has been supplemented with the Public Notice of Proposed Changes in Rates and Charges and the Formal Notice with the accompanying attachments in accordance with Section II.A.2(b) and (e) of the Rate Board's regulations.
- **PWD Exhibit 4** has been supplemented to include the websites referenced in answer to Question 42.1 in PWD Statement 2. These websites are shown on the supplemental text for PWD Statement 2 (discussed in the next bullet point).
- **PWD Statement 2**, page 39. As shown in the attached supplemental text, Question 42.1 and the response thereto are inserted after the response to Question 42 and directly before the heading for Section VII. Please note that the addition of this question and answer will result in changes to the Table of Contents. This new question and answer have been inserted to reflect updates and anticipated increased revenue requirements related to recent EPA Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR") changes.
- **PWD Statement 7A**, Page 41. As shown on the attached supplemental text, the response to Question 33 is revised to reflect updated information related to recent LCR changes. The supplemental text is added after the original text and before the start of the next question. Please note that the addition of this supplemental text will result in changes to the Table of Contents.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT TO DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MELISSA LA BUDA PWD STATEMENT 2

Page 39, Line 3 Insert the following question 42.1 and answer 42.1 after the end of question 42 and before the heading for Section VII

#### Q42.1. ARE THERE OTHER KNOWN SIGNIFICANT DRIVERS THAT WILL BE INCREASING THE DEPARTMENT'S REVENUE REQUIREMENTS IN THE FUTURE?

**A42.1.** Yes. One important significant driver that will be increasing the Department's revenue requirement is the long-term regulatory revisions<sup>6</sup> to the Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR") finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The final revisions to those regulations were promulgated as of January 15, 2021. The compliance date for the revisions is January 16, 2024.<sup>7</sup>

The available information<sup>8</sup> establishes that, were the compliance and cost effects of the revised LCR factored into current Rate Period, the Department's revenue requirement would be higher. As noted in PWD Statement 4, the revised LCR will require Department to expand current drinking water programs and cause the incurrence of additional expenses not accounted for in the cost of service study to achieve compliance. Those additional expenses were not estimated and were not included in the Cost of Service Report for the Rate Period.

Please note that the Department may investigate the creation of a surcharges regarding all or part of compliance with the revised LCR. The M1 Manual describes a surcharge as a "separate charge added to existing rate structures to collect either a targeted amount of revenue or to assess an appropriate charge for particular usage characteristics outside of those covered in the basic charge for service." *See* M1 Manual (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) at 195. One example given in the M1 Manual is a surcharge for compliance with new water quality regulations. *Id*. That is the situation being presented by the revised LCR.

Such surcharges are not, at this time, part of this rate proceeding. This is due in part to the lack of detailed costs and implementation tasks at this time. Surcharges may be proposed by the Department for the Board's approval when (a) there are sufficient cost and rate impact details and (b) the Department makes a determination that surcharges would be an effective tool for meeting the Department's financial requirements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions are available at: https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300-1550.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Philadelphia Water Department Lead and Copper Rule Comments (dated February 12, 2020) at EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300, which is available at: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300-1133.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT

#### DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BLACK & VEATCH MANAGEMENT CONSULTING PWD STATEMENT 7A

Page 41, Lines 3-4; Lines 16-25 The response to Question 33 is revised to reflect updated information related to recent EPA Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR") changes. The supplemental text is inserted at the beginning of the response (Lines 3-4); and at the end of the original text and before the start of the next question (Lines 16-25).

(Lines 3-4). There are no other changes proposed to the water, sewer and stormwater rate structure in the current rate filing.

(Lines 16-25). As discussed in PWD Statement No. 2 – Direct Testimony of Melissa La Buda, recent changes to the Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR") by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") are likely to result in further increases in the Water Department's overall revenue requirements. The current COS study supports the proposed base rates and does not account for increases in LCR- related compliance efforts. The LCR requires compliance by January 16, 2024. As such, the Water Department expects to incur costs during the requested Rate Period (i.e., FY 2022 to FY 2023). Given that the estimated cost of compliance with the LCR is still under development and that these costs are in addition to those included in base rates, these LCR-related compliance costs (or a portion thereof) may be candidates for recovery via a rider and/or surcharge mechanism(s).



**City of Philadelphia** 

LAW DEPARTMENT Water Division 1101 Market Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 685-6160 ji.jun@phila.gov

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Randy E. Hayman, Commissioner

**FROM:** Ji Y. Jun, Divisional Deputy City Solicitor

**DATE:** February 16, 2021

**RE:** In the Matter of the Philadelphia Water Department's Proposed Change in Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rates and Charges (FY 2022 and FY 2023)

I have reviewed the Formal Notice of Proposed Changes in Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rates and Charges ("Formal Notice") and the documents shown on the index attached to the Formal Notice. I find the Formal Notice and the documents shown on the index to be legal and in proper form.

In accordance with Section 5-801 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, Section 13-101 of the Philadelphia Code and the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board, you may forward the Formal Notice and the referenced documents to the Department of Records where they will be available for public inspection.