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June 14, 2007

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

Re: City of Newport Water Division Rate Filing

Docket No. 3818

Dear Luly:

I enclose three copies of Portsmouth Water & Fire District's Supplemental Responses to NWD Data Requests Set 1.

Truly your

BRC/kmm **Enclosures**

#795726 v10

CITY OF NEWPORT - WATER DEPARTMENT

Docket No. 3818 Portsmouth Water & Fire District Supplemental Responses to

NWD Data Requests Set 1

NWD 1-1. In Christopher Woodcock's testimony, he indicates that Newport Water's Capital Improvement Program is "slipping" (Page 4, lines 12-13). Please have Mr. Woodcock describe in detail how Newport Water's Capital Improvement Program is "slipping" and set forth each and every fact that supports his contention. Please have Mr. Woodcock identify in his answer each and every Capital Project that has slipped.

Response:

Mr. Woodcock has not performed an exhaustive study of all of Newport Water's proposed capital programs in the past few dockets. Rather, he has examined several items and proposed studies. Please refer to Exhibit B to Mr. Woodcock's prefiled testimony that presents various projects that were proposed to be funded by a bond issue dating back to 1999. Also, see the following:

- page 10 of Mr. Woodcock's prefiled Testimony relating to various studies that were funded for FY 2006 that have yet to completed, or in several cases, even awarded.
- Newport Water's responses to PWFD 1-8, 1-10.

Mr. Woodcock has not examined all the capital programs going back three to four dockets; however, an examination of a number of similar projects that showed up in Newport Water's Capital Improvement Plan from Docket 3675 and the current filing shows slippage. See attachment.

A complete record of Newport Water's proposed annual capital improvement program and actual expenses over the past 5-10 years can hopefully be found in the records of the Newport Water Department. An analysis of these records by Newport Water may provide a more complete response.

Prepared by: C. Woodcock

Supplemental Response:

It remains difficult to catalogue each instance of slippage. Nevertheless, Mr. Woodcock has discovered additional information that supports his response to NWD 1-1 regarding the historic slippage of Newport's capital program:

In the Report and Order in Docket 3578, page 3 (no line numbers) it states:

Ms. Forgue stated that the restricted accounts ordered in Docket No. 2985 have been established. However, with regard to reporting on the Infrastructure Replacement Fund ("IFR") and Capital expenditures, Ms. Forgue indicated that Newport Water has been operating without a detailed IFR or Capital Improvement Project ("CIP") program. In fact, she indicated that some of the projects set forth for funding in Docket No. 2985 were not completed due to a lack of support from staff members. However, the City of Newport is required to file a new Infrastructure Replacement Plan with the Department of Health in July 2004. She indicated that at that time, the City will develop a detailed IFR and CIP program. (this reference footnotes pages 6-7 of Ms. Forgue's prefiled testimony in that docket)

The Report and Order in that Docket also contains numerous other references to historic slippage in the capital program.

Prepared by: C. Woodcock

NWD 1-7. In Mr. Woodcock's testimony (Page 9, Lines 4-6), he indicates that Newport Water has a history of not selling bonds as they project. Please have Mr. Woodcock provide each and every fact upon which he bases this statement. Please have Mr. Woodcock include in his answer each and every bond issue that was not sold as projected and the reasons why said bond sales were not completed as projected.

Response:

Please see pages 5-9 and Exhibit B to Mr. Woodcock's prefiled testimony for a description of the bond issues that were not sold as projected. As to why the bond sales were not completed, Newport Water can best answer why the bond sales were not completed.

Prepared by: C. Woodcock

Supplemental Response:

In addition to the information provided above, in the Report and Order in Docket 3578, pages 3-4 (no line numbers) it states:

Another issue surrounds Newport Water's debt service. The Commission and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") previously authorized Newport Water to borrow up to \$3,000,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ("SRF") to continue work on its CIP. However, as of the filing date in the instant case, Newport had not borrowed those funds and in fact, excluded this amount from this filing because the debt service is projected to begin in FY 2005. (This also references Ms. Forgue's prefiled direct testimony pages 7-9)

Prepared by: C. Woodcock

NWD1-30. Mr. Driscoll suggests that "perhaps we could even get to the stage where we could agree on multi-year rate changes." (p.3, lines 16-77). Please explain in detail how this could be done under the current Rhode Island General Laws governing public utilities and the Commission's own Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Response:

Objection. This request calls for a legal opinion.

Supplemental Response:

Mr. Driscoll is not an attorney. He has not considered the legal aspects of his suggestion. Portsmouth Water has not obtained a legal opinion with respect to Mr. Driscoll's suggestion. To the extent Newport Water wishes to examine the legal aspects of Mr. Driscoll's suggestion, it is free to do so.

Prepared by: P. Driscoll

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I sent by electronic mail a copy of the within Supplemental Responses to Newport Water's First Set of Data Requests to all parties set forth on the attached Service List on June 14, 2007.

SERVICE LIST - RIPUC DOCKET NO. 3818 City of Newport Water Division – General Rate Filing

Updated 2/22/07

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