

**PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**JAMES L. DeCELLES, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD**

**FOR**

**PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD**

**RHODE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DOCKET NO. 3945**

**AUGUST 14, 2008**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please provide your full name, title and business address for the record.**

3 A. James L. DeCelles, P.E., Chief Engineer, Pawtucket Water Board, 85 Branch Street,  
4 Pawtucket, RI 02860  
5

6 **Q: Have you had an opportunity to review the testimony filed on behalf of the**  
7 **Division of Public Utilities and Carriers and Cumberland?**

8 A: Yes. I have.  
9

10 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

11 A. I have read the pre-filed testimony of Andrea C. Crane, which she prepared for the  
12 Division of Public Utilities and Carriers regarding the revenue requirement in this  
13 docket. This rebuttal testimony presents my comments relating to the following  
14 recommendation made by Ms. Crane:  
15

- 16 • ACC – 13 Police Details  
17

18 **Q. Do you disagree with Ms. Crane's adjustment to the Police Detail Expense?**

19 A. No. I do not. As set forth in Mr. Benson's direct testimony, and in Mr. Woodcock's  
20 schedule CPNW 1.1, we used seven months of actual costs (from July 1, 2008 to  
21 January 31, 2008) from the municipalities where we incur police detail costs to  
22 develop our rate year expenses. These actual costs were then annualized over a twelve  
23 month period and an inflation adjustment was applied to arrive at the rate year cost.  
24 However, when we annualized these costs we increased the costs for Central Falls  
25 details. In Mr. Benson's testimony, he explained why the cost for Central Falls was  
26 doubled. However, Ms. Crane believes that our reasoning is "arbitrary and should be  
27 rejected by the Commission." I disagree with Ms. Crane, and I urge the Commission  
28 to accept our calculation for Police details.  
29

30 As I pointed out in my direct testimony, the PWSB did not take over ownership of the  
31 Central Falls system until August 31, 2008. As Mr. Benson noted in his direct  
32 testimony, before the PWSB took over ownership, all police details in Central Falls

1 were the responsibility of the Central Falls Public Works Department. Thus, the seven  
2 month period we used to calculate our total police detail costs includes two months  
3 when we didn't incur any costs in Central Falls because we did not yet own the  
4 system. Furthermore, the five months when we did own the system, which were  
5 included in our calculation, were September through January. This would not  
6 typically be considered to be the busy season for road work. In addition, we did not  
7 begin doing road work right away when we took over ownership. It took us many  
8 months to become somewhat familiar with the system and we are, in fact, still trying  
9 to determine the extent of the work that is actually needed. Thus, while the five  
10 month sample of costs in Central Falls was the best information available at the time  
11 of our original filing, it was not truly representative of the cost we expect to incur.

12  
13 It must also be stressed that when we did begin working in Central Falls, we  
14 encountered problems with the City regarding police details. The Central Falls Police  
15 Department required a police detail *every* time we did *any* work in the City. This  
16 included work where police details are not required in Pawtucket or Cumberland such  
17 as when minor work is needed to repair or check the operation of a curbstop or  
18 curbstop box, or for the simple operation of exercising a valve in the street. As this  
19 would have led to exorbitant costs for police details, the majority of the work we  
20 performed in Central Falls was of an emergency nature. This would include repairs  
21 made to service or main leaks, valves necessary to isolate the areas being worked on,  
22 curb stops that were needed to shut off homes for different reasons. These repairs  
23 would be considered emergency in nature because the repairs were not part of our  
24 routine maintenance program.

25  
26 Since taking over the system and recognizing the problem with the police details, we  
27 have had several meetings with the Central Falls Police. The result of these meetings  
28 is a relaxed policy from the department on detail requirements. We have been able to  
29 make minor repairs without utilizing details when the work does not have an impact  
30 on traffic. The need for details is still dictated by the Central Falls Police  
31 Department, but they have demonstrated a willingness to be flexible on minor work

1 details. It should be noted that we have not been a major presence in Central Falls yet  
2 as we are still trying to get a handle on all of the work necessary in the system. This  
3 level of effort will be increasing significantly in the coming year as the needed repairs  
4 and improvements are identified.

5  
6 In the future, it is our intent to remove and replace the outdated fire hydrants in  
7 Central Falls, replace lead and iron services, and replace questionable valves.  
8 Another major undertaking that is necessary is the removal of redundant water mains  
9 from service. Many streets in Central Falls contain multiple active water mains. It  
10 appears that when mains were replaced by Central Falls, the existing mains were not  
11 removed from service and not all services were connected to the new mains.  
12 Currently each street with multiple mains has services connected to all mains for no  
13 particular reason. This creates confusion when work is being completed and  
14 complicates shut downs and can lead to water quality issues due to the low flow in  
15 some of the mains. The PWSB will be connecting all services to the newer mains and  
16 removing the old mains from service. This work will be a significant effort and will  
17 require many more police details than we have experienced while only completing the  
18 emergency repairs necessary to keep the Central Falls system operational.

19  
20 Since the date of our original filing we have been able to determine our actual costs  
21 for FY08. These costs are as follows:

22 Pawtucket	\$33,731
23 Cumberland	\$12,374
24 Central Falls (10 months September-June)	\$24,920
25 Total	\$71,025

26  
27 As demonstrated in these figures, the FY08 costs for police details in Pawtucket and  
28 Cumberland exceed our test year costs. In addition, if the Central Falls costs were  
29 annualized over a twelve month period, the cost would be \$29,904, and our test year  
30 costs would be \$76,009, which is only \$191 less than our actual test year.

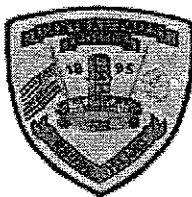
1 In addition, we have also been notified that as of 9/1/08, the detail rate will increase  
2 from \$38 to \$40. (See attached notice from Central Falls) Thus, it the PWSB's  
3 position that its request is not arbitrary. Rather, it is logical and reasonable given  
4 these underlying facts.

5

6 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

7 A. Yes. Subject to review of further documentation and the testimony of the Division and  
8 any Intervenors, this concludes my direct testimony.

9



## Central Falls Police Department

Date: July 19, 2008

Re: Invoice#08-200

To whom it may concern,

Enclosed is a list of officers that worked a traffic detail (emergency) for your company.

07/01/08 Wayne Solan 9:00am – 2:00pm 5 hours Total \$210.00

TOTAL FEE: \$210.00

The total for this invoice is \$210.00 Please make check payable to the City of Central Falls and **identify check with the above invoice number**. Any questions, please call me at 727-7411.

Sincerely

Sergeant Wayne Solan

**## Note ##**

**Please note as of 09/01/08 the detail rate of \$38.00 will go up to \$40.00, thanks.**