BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED WATER OF) RHODE ISLAND, INC.)

DOCKET NO. 4255

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

THOMAS S. CATLIN

ON BEHALF OF THE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



ASSOCIATES, INC. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway Suite 300 Columbia, Maryland 20904

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BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED WATER OF)	
RHODE ISLAND, INC.)	DOCKET NO. 4255

Direct Testimony of Thomas S. Catlin

1		Introduction
2	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS
3		ADDRESS?
4	A.	My name is Thomas S. Catlin. I am a principal with Exeter Associates, Inc. Our
5		offices are located at 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300, Columbia, Maryland
6		21044. Exeter is a firm of consulting economists specializing in issues pertaining to
7		public utilities.
8	Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.
9	A.	I hold a Master of Science Degree in Water Resources Engineering and Management
10		from Arizona State University (1976). Major areas of study for this degree included
11		pricing policy, economics, and management. I received my Bachelor of Science
12		Degree in Physics and Math from the State University of New York at Stony Brook
13		in 1974. I have also completed graduate courses in financial and management
14		accounting.
15	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL
16		EXPERIENCE?
17	A.	From August 1976 until June 1977, I was employed by Arthur Beard Engineers in
18		Phoenix, Arizona, where, among other responsibilities, I conducted economic
19		feasibility, financial and implementation analyses in conjunction with utility

construction projects. I also served as project engineer for two utility valuation studies.

1

2

3 From June 1977 until September 1981, I was employed by Camp Dresser & 4 McKee, Inc. Prior to transferring to the Management Consulting Division of CDM in 5 April 1978, I was involved in both project administration and design. My project 6 administration responsibilities included budget preparation and labor and cost 7 monitoring and forecasting. As a member of CDM's Management Consulting 8 Division, I performed cost of service, rate, and financial studies on approximately 9 15 municipal and private water, wastewater and storm drainage utilities. These 10 projects included: determining total costs of service; developing capital asset and 11 depreciation bases; preparing cost allocation studies; evaluating alternative rate 12 structures and designing rates; preparing bill analyses; developing cost and revenue 13 projections; and preparing rate filings and expert testimony.

14 In September 1981, I accepted a position as a utility rates analyst with Exeter 15 Associates, Inc. I became a principal and vice-president of the firm in 1984. Since 16 joining Exeter, I have continued to be involved in the analysis of the operations of 17 public utilities, with particular emphasis on utility rate regulation. I have been 18 extensively involved in the review and analysis of utility rate filings, as well as other 19 types of proceedings before state and federal regulatory authorities. My work in 20 utility rate filings has focused on revenue requirements issues, but has also addressed 21 service cost and rate design matters. I have also been involved in analyzing affiliate 22 relations, alternative regulatory mechanisms, and regulatory restructuring issues. 23 This experience has involved electric, natural gas transmission and distribution, and 24 telephone utilities, as well as water and wastewater companies.

Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED IN REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS ON UTILITY RATES?

3 Yes. I have previously presented testimony on more than 250 occasions before the A. 4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the public utility commissions of 5 Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, 6 Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New 7 Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as 8 before this Commission. I have also filed rate case evidence by affidavit with the 9 Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control and have appeared as a witness on 10 behalf of the Louisiana Public Service Commission before the Nineteenth Judicial 11 District Court. 12 ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES? О. 13 A. Yes. I am a member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the 14 Chesapeake Section of the AWWA. I serve on the AWWA's Rates and Charges 15 Committee and on the AWWA Water Utility Council's Technical Advisory Group on Economics. 16 17 Q. **ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING?** 18 A. I am presenting testimony on behalf of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

19 (the Division).

20 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED ON WATER UTILITY ISSUES21 BEFORE THIS COMMISSION?

- A. Yes, I have been asked by the Division to address water utility issues on numerous
 occasions. I testified on revenue requirement, cost of service and/or rate design
 issues in <u>Newport Water Division</u>, Docket Nos. 2029, 2985, 3457, 3578, 3675, 3818
- 4025 and 4243; Providence Water Supply Board, Docket Nos. 2022, 2048, 2304,

1		2961, 3163, 3446, 3684, 3832 and 4061; Kent County Water Authority, Docket Nos.
2		2098 and 3942, Woonsocket Water Department, Docket Nos. 2099 and 2904; United
3		Water Rhode Island, Inc., (formerly Wakefield Water Company), Docket Nos. 2006
4		and 2873; and Pawtucket Water Supply Board, Docket Nos. 3193, 3378, 3497, 3674
5		and 4171.
6		
7		Purpose and Summary
8	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?
9	А.	Exeter Associates was retained by the Division to assist it in the evaluation of the rate
10		filing submitted by the United Water of Rhode Island, Inc. (United or the Company)
11		on June 3, 2011. This testimony presents my findings and recommendations with
12		regard to United's rate year rate base and net operating income at present rates. Based
13		on these amounts, I have determined the overall revenue increase that would be
14		required to generate the return on rate base recommended by Mr. Matthew I. Kahal
15		on behalf of the Division. My associate, Mr. Jerome D. Mierzwa addresses cost
16		allocation and rate design on behalf of the Division.
17	Q.	HAVE YOU PREPARED SCHEDULES TO ACCOMPANY YOUR
18		TESTIMONY?
19	А.	Yes. I have prepared Schedules TSC-1 through TSC-15, which are attached to my
20		testimony. These schedules present my findings regarding United's rate year revenue
21		requirements.
22	Q.	WHAT TIME PERIODS HAVE YOU UTILIZED IN MAKING YOUR
23		DETERMINATION OF UNITED'S REVENUE REQUIREMENTS?
24	А.	Consistent with United's filing, I have accepted the 12 months ending December 31,
25		2010 as the test year. I have also accepted the 12 months ending December 31, 2012

1		as the rate year for purposes of determining the Company's revenue requirements and
2		the revenue increase necessary to recover those requirements.
3	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION WITH REGARD TO THE
4		APPROPRIATE INCREASE IN REVENUES IN THIS PROCEEDING?
5	A.	As shown on Schedule TSC-1, it is my recommendation that United receive a revenue
6		increase of \$896,196 in this proceeding. This amount is \$322,506 less than the
7		increase of \$1,218,702 that United has requested based on rate year revenues at
8		present rates.
9	Q.	PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR FINDINGS REGARDING THE
10		COMPANY'S REVENUE REQUIREMENTS.
11	A.	As shown on Schedule TSC-1, I have determined the Company has a revenue
12		deficiency of \$896,196. This is the amount by which revenues at present rates are
13		less than those required to generate an overall return of 7.58 percent after reflecting
14		my adjustments to United's claimed rate year rate base and operating income. The
15		return of 7.58 percent represents Mr. Kahal's findings regarding the Company's
16		overall cost of capital.
17		Schedule TSC-2 summarizes my adjustments to United's proposed rate year
18		rate base. Schedule TSC-3 provides a summary of my adjustments to rate year
19		revenues and expenses and the resulting net income at present rates. Schedule TSC-4
20		presents a proof of income taxes at present and proposed rates.
21	Q.	HOW IS THE REMAINDER OF YOUR TESTIMONY ORGANIZED?
22	A.	In the remainder of my testimony, I document and explain each of the adjustments to
23		rate base and operating income which I have made to arrive at the test year revenue
24		surplus shown on Schedule TSC-1. My discussion of these adjustments is organized

1		into sections corresponding to the issue being addressed. These sections are set forth
2		in the Table of Contents for this testimony.
3		
4		Indian Lake Shore Plant
5	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ADJUSTMENT TO PLANT IN SERVICE
6		RELATED TO THE INDIAN LAKE SHORE DEVELOPMENT.
7	A.	In March 2012, the transmission main that services the Indian Lake Shore
8		Development is scheduled to be turned over to United as a contributed asset. In its
9		filing, the Company included \$198,000 in contributions in-aid-of construction, but
10		failed to include the \$198,000 cost of the main in plant in service. As shown on the
11		rate base summary provided on Schedule TSC-2, I have increased plant in service by
12		\$198,000 to include this investment.
13		
14		Materials and Supplies
15	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO THE BALANCE OF
16		MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES?
17	A.	In its filing, United assumed that the balance of materials and supplies would remain
18		at its historical 13-month average balance of \$103,664 that existed during the 2010
19		test year. However, since mid-2010, the balance of materials and supplies has
20		declined. To reflect this decline and more accurately reflect known investment levels,
21		I am proposing to update that balance of materials and supplies to reflect the most
22		recent 13-month average balance available. As shown on Schedule TSC-5, this
23		adjustment reduces the average balance of materials and supplies by \$15,575.

1		Cash Working Capital
2	Q.	HOW HAS UNITED CALCULATED ITS CLAIMED ALLOWANCE FOR
3		CASH WORKING CAPITAL?
4	A.	The Company has calculated its claimed cash working capital allowance as
5		one-eighth (1/8 th) of operating and maintenance (O&M) expense.
6	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENTS ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO
7		UNITED'S CLAIM?
8	A.	I am proposing to make two adjustments to United's claim. First, I have eliminated
9		tank painting amortization expense from the expense base used in the calculation of
10		cash working capital. United records the amortization of deferred painting costs as
11		O&M expense. However, given that the balance of deferred costs is recorded as a
12		regulatory asset and included in rate base, the amortization should be treated like all
13		other depreciation and amortization expenses and not included in the calculation of
14		cash working capital. Second, I have adjusted the O&M base to which the one-eighth
15		factor is applied to reflect the adjustments to O&M expense that I have made on
16		behalf of the Division.
17	Q.	HAVE YOU PREPARED A SCHEDULE SHOWING YOUR ADJUSTED
18		CASH WORKING CAPITAL ALLOWANCE?
19	A.	Yes, Schedule TSC-6 presents my calculation of the Division's recommended
20		allowance for cash working capital based on the one-eighth method. As shown there,
21		I have calculated a cash working capital allowance of \$219,609, which is \$15,419 less
22		than amount included in United's filing.
23		

1		Deferred Tank Painting Expense
2	Q.	WHAT CLAIM HAS UNITED MADE FOR DEFERRED TANK PAINTING
3		COSTS?
4	А.	United has three water tanks – the Howland Aerator Tank, the Sherman Tank and the
5		Boston Neck Tank – that require painting every 10 or so years. The Sherman and
6		Howland Aerator tanks were painted in 2008 and the Boston Neck Tank is scheduled
7		to be painted in 2012. United is proposing to include the amortization of the costs of
8		painting of all three tanks over 10 years in rate year expense. In addition, the
9		Company has included the unamortized balance of the tank painting costs net of
10		deferred taxes in rate base. (For income tax purposes, tank painting costs can be
11		expensed when incurred, thereby creating deferred income taxes when the costs are
12		deferred for ratemaking purposes.)
13	Q.	WHAT CONCERN DO YOU HAVE WITH THE COMPANY'S CLAIM?
14	A.	The balance of deferred tank painting costs claimed by the Company assumes that the
15		amortizations of the costs of painting the Sherman and Howland Aerator tanks that
16		took place in 2008 does not begin until February 1, 2012.
17	Q.	IS THIS APPROPRIATE?
18	A.	No. The amortization of tank painting costs should begin when the painting is
19		completed and should take place over the interval between tank paintings - ten years
20		in this case. It is inappropriate to postpone the start of the amortization for almost
21		four years. While tank painting costs are technically an expense, not a capital cost, if
22		the costs are to be deferred and amortized, then amortization should begin when the
23		tank is placed back in service just as the depreciation or amortization of a capital
24		addition begins when the project is placed in service.

1	Q.	IF TANK PAINTING COSTS ARE TECHNICALLY AN EXPENSE, DID
2		UNITED REQUEST COMMISSION APPROVAL TO BE ALLOWED TO
3		DEFER AND AMORTIZE THE COSTS?
4	A.	No. United did not request approval to be allowed to defer and amortize the costs or
5		to be allowed to postpone amortization until some future date when it filed a rate
6		case. I have accepted the deferral of the costs because doing so is common practice.
7		However, as discussed above, amortization should have begun when the painting was
8		completed.
9	Q.	WHAT REASON DID THE COMPANY PROVIDE FOR NOT
10		BEGINNING THE AMORTIZATION OF THE 2008 COSTS OF
11		PAINTING THE HOWLAND AERATOR AND SHERMAN TANKS
12		UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2012?
13	A.	According to the response to Div. 2-9, the Company delayed the amortization to
14		match the amortization with recovery from ratepayers. However, this rationale fails
15		to recognize that an allowance for tank painting amortization was already included in
16		rates. In the Company's 1999 rate case in Docket No. 2873, the rate year cost of
17		service reflected the ongoing amortization of tank painting costs incurred in prior
18		years. Since no adjustment was made to remove the amortization of those costs when
19		it was completed in early 2003, matching tank painting amortization with rate
20		recovery is not a basis for postponing the amortization of tank painting costs incurred
21		in 2008.
22	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING?
23	A.	I am proposing to adjust the balance of deferred tank painting costs included in rate
24		base to reflect the amortization of the costs of the Howland Aerator and Sherman
25		Tanks beginning in 2008. The painting of both tanks was completed in April 2008.

1		Therefore, I have accounted for the 45 months of additional amortization from May
2		2008 up to February 2012 when United assumed amortization would begin.
3		As shown on Schedule TSC-7, this adjustment reduces the unamortized balance of
4		deferred tank painting costs by \$88,401. After accounting for the associated
5		reduction in accumulated deferred income taxes, the net reduction in rate base is
6		\$57,461.
7		
8		Deferred Rate Case Expense
9	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ADJUSTMENT TO ELIMINATE DEFERRED
10		RATE CASE EXPENSE FROM RATE YEAR EXPENSES.
11	A.	United is proposing to amortize its projected rate case expense in this proceeding over
12		three years and has included the projected average balance of unamortized rate case
13		expense during the 2012 rate year in rate base. Consistent with this Commission's
14		long-standing practice, as affirmed by the Rhode Island Supreme Court in Providence
15		Gas Company v. Malachowski (656 A 2d. 949 at 953 (R.I. 1995)), I have eliminated
16		the balance of deferred rate case expenses from rate base. As shown on my rate base
17		summary schedule (TSC-7), this adjustment reduces rate base by \$272,756. I address
18		the amortization of rate case expense subsequently.
19	Q.	DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO
20		DEFERRED RATE CASE EXPENSE?
21	А.	Yes. Like tank painting costs, rate case expenses are deductible for income tax
22		purposes when incurred. Accordingly, if unamortized rate case costs were to be
23		included in rate base, the amount should be stated on a net of tax basis.

Direct Testimony of Thomas S. Catlin

1		Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes
2	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO THE
3		BALANCE OF ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAXES?
4	А.	In developing its projection of the balance of accumulated deferred income taxes
5		(ADIT) in the rate year, the Company did not take into account the provision for
6		federal bonus depreciation of 100 percent in 2011 and 50 percent in 2012. As a
7		result, United's projected rate year ADIT balance is understated. I have adjusted the
8		projected balance of ADIT for the rate year to take federal bonus depreciation into
9		account. As shown on Schedule TSC-8, this adjustment increases the balance of
10		ADIT and reduces rate base by \$44,972.
11		
12		Incentive Compensation
13	Q.	PLEASE SUMMARIZE UNITED'S CLAIM FOR INCENTIVE
14		COMPENSATION EXPENSE.
15	A.	As shown on Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 2A, page 1 of 4, the Company's claimed
16		rate year payroll expense includes \$32,758 for incentive compensation, of which
17		78.91 percent is charged to O&M and 21.09 percent is capitalized. This amount is
18		based on all employees receiving their targeted bonus payments under the Company's
19		Short Term Incentive Plan (STIP). For exempt employees, these target payments
20		range from five percent to 15 percent of their salaries and are based on achieving a
21		combination of financial and performance goals. However, no bonuses are paid if the
22		80 percent threshold for the financial goals is not achieved. For non-exempt
23		employees, the two percent award is determined by management.
24	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO
25		INCENTIVE COMPENSATION EXPENSE?

1	A.	I am proposing two adjustments to the incentive compensation amounts included for
2		United's exempt employees. First, I have reduced the amounts included for the
3		Manager and Superintendent from the full targeted bonus levels of 15 percent and
4		10 percent to 12.45 percent and 7.55 percent, respectively, of their base salaries.
5		These lower percentages reflect the average bonus each employee received over the
6		last three years (2008 through 2010). Over that period, neither employee received the
7		full targeted bonus in any year. To be conservative, I have accepted the full five
8		percent target award for the Supervisor position because the employee in that position
9		was a new hire in 2010 and there is no historical data for that position.
10		The second adjustment I am making is to include only 60 percent of the over-
11		all bonuses for the Manager, Superintendent and Supervisor as an allowable expense
12		for ratemaking. This adjustment excludes the 40 percent of the incentive
13		compensation amounts that are directly associated with meeting financial goals.
14	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE PROPOSING TO ELIMINATE
15		40 PERCENT OF STIP EXPENSE FOR EXEMPT EMPLOYEES.
16	A.	The portion of STIP expense that is directly attributable to meeting financial
17		performance goals is not properly recoverable from ratepayers for several reasons.
18		First, if the financial goals are set properly, achieving the necessary performance
19		should be self-supporting. That is, measures that achieve additional cost savings,
20		improve sales, or otherwise improve the financial results of the Company should
21		provide the income necessary to fund the awards. Second, the payouts are made
22		independent of the quality of service, efficiency or safety goals. Finally, the incentive
23		to improve financial performance is not necessarily consistent with ratepayers'
24		interests.

1	Q.	WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF YOUR TWO ADJUSTMENTS TO THE
2		INCENTIVE COMPENSATION AMOUNTS INCLUDED IN RATES FOR
3		UNITED'S EXEMPT EMPLOYEES?
4	A.	As shown on Schedule TSC-9, adjusting the incentive compensation expense
5		included in rates to reflect historical payment percentages and exclude the amounts
6		associated with achieving financial goals reduces rate year labor expense by \$10,332.
7		Accounting for the concomitant reduction in payroll taxes of \$790 results in a total
8		reduction in test year expenses of \$11,122.
9	Q.	ARE YOU PROPOSING AN ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE
10		INCENTIVE COMPENSATION EXPENSE BILLED TO UNITED IN
11		BILLINGS FROM THE SERVICE COMPANY?
12	A.	Yes. In addition to the amounts included in rate year expenses for United employees
13		in Rhode Island, Management and Service (M&S) fees billed to the Company by
14		United Water Management and Services (UWM&S) also include incentive
15		compensation paid to UWM&S employees. The amounts for UWM&S employees
16		include bonuses paid under three plans: the STIP, the Long-Term Incentive Plan
17		(LTIP) and the non-Exempt Bonus Plan. According to the response to Div. 8-1, rate
18		year M&S fees include \$26,000 for incentive compensation payments to UWM&S
19		employees. Of this total, \$17,000 represents amounts attributable to meeting
20		corporate financial goals. For the same reasons that I excluded incentive
21		compensation payments attributable to meeting financial goals for United's Rhode
22		Island employees, I am also proposing to eliminate those amounts paid to UWM&S
23		employees. As shown on Schedule TSC-10, this adjustment reduces M&S billings by
24		\$18,301 when the FICA taxes associated with the incentive compensation payments
25		are taken into account.

1	Q.	ON WHAT BASIS ARE AWARDS UNDER THE LTIP AND NON-
2		EXEMPT BONUS PLANS AWARDED?
3	А.	The LTIP applies only to United Water, Inc. employees in salary grades 22 through
4		24 (senior management employees) and all awards are based on financial
5		performance. The Non-Exempt Bonus Plan applies to all non-exempt employees and
6		the awards are based 50 percent on meeting financial performance and 50 percent on
7		meeting safety and customer service goals.
8		
9		Benefits Transferred Out
10	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ADJUSTMENT OF BENEFITS
11		TRANSFERRED OUT.
12	А.	In its filing, United has adjusted the test year fringe benefit capitalized or transferred
13		out to reflect rate year levels separately from its adjustment to bring test year benefits
14		expense to rate year levels. In response to Div. 6-5, the Company agreed that in
15		calculating rate year benefits transferred, it inadvertently omitted the rate year amount
16		for the OPEB transition obligation. As shown on Schedule TSC-11, including this
17		item increases benefits transferred out and reduces O&M expense by \$1,078.
18		
19		Medical Benefits Expense
20	Q.	WOULD YOU BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE HOW UNITED DEVELOPED
21		ITS PROJECTION OF MEDICAL BENEFITS EXPENSE FOR THE RATE
22		YEAR?
23	А.	Yes. The Company's projection of rate year medical benefits expense is based on
24		estimates of the premiums for medical, dental and vision insurance and the number of
25		employees subscribing to the various types of coverage (employee, family, etc.).

1		For those employees who opted out of medical coverage, the Company has included a
2		medical waiver payment of \$1,000 annually.
3	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO UNITED'S
4		CLAIMED EXPENSE FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS?
5	A.	In response to Div. 2-23, the Company indicated that corrections were necessary to its
6		filed estimate of medical benefits costs related to the number of employees
7		subscribing to the various types of coverage. Instead of two employees receiving
8		waiver payments for opting out of medical coverage, the correct number is three.
9		In addition, there are two less employees receiving medical coverage than originally
10		shown and one less employee receiving vision insurance. As shown on Schedule
11		TSC-12, the net effect of these changes is to reduce benefits expense by \$10,051
12		before accounting for the portion of benefits capitalized. Of this total, 21.09 percent
13		or \$2,120 is "transferred out" or capitalized for a net reduction in O&M expense of
14		\$7,931.
15		
16		Rate Case Expense Amortization
17	Q.	WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO THE
18		AMORTIZATION OF RATE CASE EXPENSE?
19	A.	United has proposed to amortize the costs associated with this rate proceeding over
20		three years. I am proposing to extend the amortization period to five years. The use
21		of a five-year amortization period is conservative in light of the fact that the
22		Company's last rate case in Docket No. 2873 was in 1999 and the case prior to that
23		was in 1991 in Docket No. 2006. This represents an average interval between rate
24		cases of approximately 10 years.
25	Q.	WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THIS ADJUSTMENT ON RATE EXPENSES?

1	A.	As shown on Schedule TSC-13, this adjustment reduces the rate case amortization
2		expense by \$42,733.
3		
4		Outside Services Expense
5	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ADJUSTMENT TO OUTSIDE SERVICES
6		EXPENSE.
7	А.	As part of the adjustment to outside services expense shown on Exhibit 4 (Lippai),
8		Schedule 15A, United increased Other Outside Service costs to reflect a three-year
9		average plus inflation. As shown in note (e) on that schedule, the costs recorded in
10		2009 and 2010 were both significantly less than in 2008. In response to Div. 2-35
11		and Div. 6-7 parts (1) and (2), United has indicated that Other Outside Services
12		includes the costs for Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) that are undertaken every
13		year. However, in 2009 and 2010, the costs were recorded in a different account.
14		Accordingly, there is no need to adjust Other Outside Services to effectively include
15		costs that already included elsewhere in the rate year cost of service. Accordingly,
16		I have eliminated this adjustment, which reduces rate year expenses by \$4,403 as
17		shown on Schedule TSC-14.
18		
19		<u>CIS Amortization</u>
20	Q.	PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANY'S CLAIM RELATED TO A
21		NEW CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM.
22	A.	United Water Resources, Inc. (United Corporation) is replacing its existing Customer
23		Information System (CIS) in 2011. The Company is seeking to include its allocated
24		share of the CIS investment in the amount of \$472,333 in rate base and is proposing
25		to amortize that investment over seven years.

1

2

Q.

WHAT ADJUSTMENT ARE YOU PROPOSING TO MAKE TO UNITED'S CLAIM?

3	A.	I am proposing to adjust the amortization period for the new CIS from seven years to
4		ten years. As shown on Schedule TSC-15, this adjustment reduces CIS amortization
5		expense by \$20,243. In addition, it reduces the average rate year balance of
6		accumulated depreciation and amortization by \$14,358. After accounting for the
7		increase in ADIT due to the increase in the excess of tax over book depreciation, the
8		net increase in rate base is \$9,333.
9	Q.	WHY ARE YOU RECOMMENDING THE USE OF A TEN-YEAR
10		AMORTIZATION PERIOD?
11	A.	I believe that the seven-year amortization period proposed by United is unnecessarily
12		short. In two recent rate cases in which I was involved, the utilities had recently
13		installed totally new Customer Information Systems as a result of changes in
14		ownership. ¹ Both of those utilities identified the expected lives of their new systems
15		to be ten years. While I have not conducted a detailed review, ten years is also
16		generally consistent with the service life uses CIS systems in other cases in which
17		I have participated. Accordingly, I am recommending the use of a ten-year
18		amortization for United's new CIS.
19	Q.	DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY
20	A.	Yes it does.

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Direct Testimony of Thomas S. Catlin

¹ The two cases were Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC, Docket No. R-2010-2201702 before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and Northern Utilities, Inc,. Docket No. 2011-92 before the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED WATER OF RHODE ISLAND, INC.

)

DOCKET NO. 4255

SCHEDULES ACCOMPANYING THE

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

THOMAS S. CATLIN

ON BEHALF OF THE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



ASSOCIATES, INC. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway Suite 300 Columbia, Maryland 20904

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UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Summary of Operating Income Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Amount per Company at Present Rates		Division Adjustments		I	mount per Division at esent Rates	Revenue Increase/ (Decrease)		Amounts After Revenue Incr. / (Decr.)	
Operating Revenues Metered Sales Fire Protection Other Operating Revenues	\$	2,569,432 252,568 36,302			\$	2,569,432 252,568 36,302	\$	896,196 -	\$	3,465,628 252,568 36,302
Total Operating Revenues	\$	2,858,302	\$	-	\$	2,858,302	\$	896,196	\$	3,754,498
Operating Expenses O&M Expense Depreciation Expense Property Tax Payroll Rax Gross Receipts Tax Income before Income Taxes Current Income Taxes Deferred Federal Income Taxes Amortization of ITCs	\$	1,877,083 510,632 271,022 56,446 35,729 107,390 (159,075) 83,486 (4,668) 2,670,655	\$	(84,778) (20,243) (790) - 105,811 35,788 7,085 - (62,939)	\$	1,792,305 490,389 271,022 55,656 35,729 213,201 (123,287) 90,571 (4,668) 2,607,716	\$	2,309 - - 11,202 882,685 308,940 - 322,451	\$	1,794,613 490,389 271,022 55,656 46,931 1,095,886 185,653 90,571 (4,668) 2,930,167
Total Operating Expenses	φ	2,070,000	Φ	(62,939)	φ	2,007,710	φ	322,401	<u> </u>	2,930,107
Utility Operating Income	\$	187,647	\$	62,939	\$	250,586	\$	573,745	\$	824,331
Rate Base	\$	11,073,931			\$	10,875,081			\$	10,875,081
Rate of Return		1.69%				2.30%				7.58%

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Determination of Revenue Increase Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

			mount per ompany (1)	•		Amount per Division Source
Proposed Rate Base			11,073,931	\$	10,875,081	Schedule TSC-2
Required Rate of Return			8.74%		7.58%	
Net Operating Income Required		\$	967,862	\$	824,331	
Net Operating Income at Present Rates			187,647		250,586	Schedule TSC-1, page 1
Net Income Surplus/(Deficiency)		\$	(780,215)	\$	(573,745)	
Revenue Multiplier (2)			1.5620102		1.5620102	
Base Rate Revenue Increase		\$	1,218,703	\$	896,196	
<u>Verification</u> Revenue Increase/(Decrease) PUC Assessment Gross Receipts Tax	0.25759% 1.25%	\$ \$	1,218,703 3,139 15,234	\$ \$	896,196 2,309 11,202	
Federal Taxable Income		\$	1,200,330	\$	882,685	
Federal Income Tax	35.00%		420,116		308,940	
Net Income		\$	(780,215)	\$	(573,745)	

Notes: (1) Per Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 10.

(2) Calculation of Conversion Factor	Tax Rates	
Revenues		1.000000
PUC Assessment	0.25759%	0.002576
Gross Receipts Tax	1.25%	0.012500
Net Federal Taxable Income		0.984924
Federal Income Tax	35.00%	0.344723
Revenue Conversion Factor		0.6402007
Revenue Multiplier		1.56201025

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UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Summary of Rate Base Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

Description		Amount per Company (1)	Division stments (2)	Adjusted Per Division		
Utility Plant in Service Less: Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	\$	22,270,513 (6,213,068)	\$ 198,000 14,358	\$	22,468,513 (6,198,710)	
Net Utility Plant in Service	\$	16,057,445	\$ 212,358	\$	16,269,803	
Materials and Supplies		103,664	(15,575)		88,089	
Cash Working Capital		235,028	(15,419)		219,609	
Deferred Tank Painting (net of Deferred Income Tax)		147,639	(57,461)		90,178	
Deferred Rate Case Expense		272,756	 (272,756)		-	
Total Additions	\$	759,087	\$ (361,210)	\$	397,877	
Contributions in Aid of Construction		- (3,596,531)	-		- (3,596,531)	
Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes		(1,534,287)	(49,997)		(1,584,284)	
Unamortized ITCs		(98,414)	(,,		(98,414)	
Unfunded FAS 106 (net of Deferred Income Tax)		(513,369)	-		(513,369)	
Total Deductions	\$	(5,742,601)	\$ (49,997)	\$	(5,792,598)	
Total Rate Base	\$	11,073,931	\$ (198,850)	\$	10,875,081	

Notes:

(1) Per Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 1, page 4 of 4.

(2) Refer to page 2 of this Schedule.

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UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Summary of Adjustments to Rate Base Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	 Amount	Source
Rate Base per Company Filing	\$ 11,073,931	Per Exhibit 3, Schedule 1, page 4
Division Adjustments		
Indian River Transmission Main	198,000	Response to Div. 2-30
Materials and Supplies	(15,575)	Schedule TSC-5
Cash Working Capital	(15,419)	Schedule TSC-6
Deferred Tank Painting	(57,461)	Schedule TSC-7
Deferred Rate Case	(272,756)	Refer to Testimony
Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	(44,972)	Schedule TSC-8
CIS Amortization Changes	 9,333	Schedule TSC-15
Total Division Adjustments	\$ (198,850)	
Division Adjusted Rate Base	\$ 10,875,081	

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UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Summary of Adjustments to Net Income Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	 Amount	Source
Net Income per Company	\$ 187,647	Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 10
Division Adjustments		
Incentive Compensation-Company Employees	7,230	Schedule TSC-9
Incentive Compensation-UWM&S Fees	11,895	Schedule TSC-10
Benefits Transferred Out	701	Schedule TSC-11
Corrected Medical Benefits	5,155	Schedule TSC-12
Rate Case Amortization	27,776	Schedule TSC-13
Other Outside Services	2,862	Schedule TSC-14
CIS Amortization	13,158	Schedule TSC-15
Interest Synchronization	 (5,839)	Schedule TSC-4
Total Division Adjustments	\$ 62,939	
Net Income Per Division	\$ 250,586	

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UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Summary of Adjustments to Net Income Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Revenues	O&M Expenses	Depreciation Expense	Taxes Other Than Oincome	Current Federal Income Taxes	Deferred Federal Income Taxes	ITC Amortization	Net Operating Income	
Net Income per Company	\$ 2,858,302	\$ 1,877,083	\$ 510,632	\$ 363,197	\$ (159,075)	\$ 83,486	\$ (4,668)	\$ 187,647	
Division Adjustments Incentive Compensation-Company Employees Incentive Compensation-UWM&S Fees Benefits Transferred Out Corrected Medical Benefits Rate Case Amortization Other Outside Services CIS Amortization Interest Synchronization		(10,332) (18,301) (1,078) (7,931) (42,733) (4,403)	(20,243)	(790)	3,893 6,405 377 2,776 14,957 1,541 7,085 5,839	- - - - - -	-	7,230 11,895 701 5,155 27,776 2,862 13,158 (5,839)	
Total Division Adjustments	\$-	\$ (84,778)	\$ (20,243)	\$ (790)	\$ 42,873	\$-	\$-	\$ 62,939	
Division Adjusted Net Income	\$ 2,858,302	\$ 1,792,305	\$ 490,389	\$ 362,406	\$ (116,202)	\$ 83,486	\$ (4,668)	\$ 250,586	

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Calculation of Current Income Tax Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	C	mount per ompany at esent Rates (A)	Division Adjustments (B)		[Adjusted perRevenueDivision atIncrease/Present Rates(Decrease)(C)(D)		Amounts After Revenue Increase (E)		
Operating Revenue	\$	2,858,302	\$	-	\$	2,858,302	\$	896,196	\$	3,754,498
O&M Expense Depreciation Expense Property Tax Payroll Rax Gross Receipts Tax Operating Income Before Income Taxes	\$	1,877,083 510,632 271,022 56,446 35,729 107,390	\$	(84,778) (20,243) - (790) - 105,811	\$	1,792,305 490,389 271,022 55,656 <u>35,729</u> 213,201	\$	2,309 - <u>11,202</u> 882,685	\$	1,794,613 490,389 271,022 55,656 46,931 1,095,886
Interest Expense		323,359		(16,682)		306,677				306,677
Exceess Tax Depreciation		238,531		20,243		258,774				258,774
Current Federal Taxable Income		(454,500)		102,251		(352,249)		882,685		530,436
Federal Income Tax at 35% Deferred Federal Income Tax Investment Tax Credit Amortization	\$	(159,075) 83,486 (4,668)	\$	35,788 7,085 -	\$	(123,287) 90,571 (4,668)	\$	308,940 - -	\$	185,653 90,571 (4,668)
Total Federal Income Tax	\$	(80,257)	\$	42,873	\$	(37,384)	\$	308,940	\$	271,555

Notes:

(1) Calculation of Interest Deduction				
Rate Base	\$ 11,073,931		\$ 10,875,081	\$ 10,875,081
Weighted Cost of Debt	2.92%		2.82%	2.82%
Interest Deduction	\$ 323,359	\$ (16,682)	\$ 306,677	\$ 306,677
		-		
Federal Income Tax Effect at 35%		5,839		
Interest Synchronization Adjustment		\$ 5,839		

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Materials and Supplies to Reflect Most Recent 13 Month Average Balance Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Bal	ance (1)
August September October November December January 2011 February March April May	\$	101,586 101,027 108,169 85,305 86,030 77,218 92,724 87,121 84,078 83,025
June July		75,377 83,889
August		79,871
Average Balance	\$	88,109
Balance per Company		103,684
Adjustment to Balance of Materials & Supplies	\$	(15,575)

Note:

(1) Per Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 1 and the response to Div. 2-3.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Cash Working Capital Analysis Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Expense Amount	Working Capital
O&M Expense per Company (1)	1,880,222	235,028
Division Adjustments (2)		
Exclude Tank Painting Amortization	(38,574)	(4,822)
Incentive Compensation-Company Employees	(10,332)	(1,292)
Incentive Compensation-UWM&S Fees	(18,301)	(2,288)
Benefits Transferred Out	(1,078)	(135)
Corrected Medical Benefits	(7,931)	(991)
Rate Case Amortization	(42,733)	(5,342)
Other Outside Services	(4,403)	(550)
Adjustment to Cash Working Capital		(15,419)
Cash Working Capital Per Division		\$ 219,609

Notes:

(1) Per Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 1, page 4 of 4.

(2) Reflects exclusion of tank painting amortization and Division adjsustments as summarizd on Schedule TSC-3.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Deferred Tank Painting Costs Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	/	Amount
Average Balance Ber Company		
Deferred Tank Painting	\$	227,137
Accumulated Deferrred Income Taxes		79,498
Net Balance per Company	\$	147,639
Adjustment to Reflect Amortization from Completion		
Monthly Amortization for Howland Aerator and Sherman Tanks		1,964
Months from May 2008 through January 31, 2012		45
Additional Amortization	\$	88,401
Accumulated Deferred Income Tax Effect		30,940
Net Reduction in Balance	\$	57,461
Adjusted Balance per Division		
Deferred Tank Painting		138,736
Accumulated Deferrred Income Taxes		48,558
Net Balance per Division	\$	90,178

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes to Reflect Federal Bonus Deprecaiton Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

la successive ADIT Delances due (a Denue Denue sisting (4)	An	nount
Increase in ADIT Balance due to Bonus Depreciation (1)	•	~ / - /
December 2011	\$	37,454
January 2012		45,598
February		45,598
March		45,598
April		45,598
Мау		45,598
June		45,598
July		45,598
August		45,598
September		45,598
October		45,598
November		45,598
December		45,598
13 Montrh Average Increase	\$	44,972

Note:

(1) Per response to Div. 6-1.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Company Incentive Compensation Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	_	12 Base alary (1)	Historal Incentive Payment % (2)	Non Financial Percentage (3)	In	coverable centive pensation
Supervisor Superindentent Manager UWRI Total	\$ \$ \$	64,277 78,632 99,695	5.00% 7.55% 12.45%	60.00% 60.00% 60.00%	\$	1,928 3,562 7,447 12,938
Amount per Company (1)						26,031
Reduction in Total Eligible Incentive Co	mpen	sation			\$	(13,093)
Amount Charged to Capital at 21.09% (1))					(2,761)
Adjustment to O&M Expense					\$	(10,332)
Adjustment to FICA Taxes at 7.65%						(790)
Total Adjustment to Rate Year Expense					\$	(11,122)

Note:

(1) Amounts per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 2A, page 1 of 4.

(2) Percentages per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 2A, page 1 of 4, multiplied by historical ratio of actual bonus to target bonus for Superintendent and Manager.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Incentive Compensation included in UWM&S Fees Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	/	Amount
UWM&S Incentive Compenstion attributable to Meeeting Corporate Financial Goals (1)	\$	(17,000)
FICA Taxes at 7.65%		(1,301)
Adjustment to Rate Year UWM&S Fees	\$	(18,301)

Note:

(1) Per response to Div. 8-1.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Include OPEB Transition Obligation In Determination of Benefits Transferred Out Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	A	mount
OPEB Transition Obligation (1)	\$	5,113
Percentage of Benfiets Transferred Out (2)		21.09%
Adjustment to Operating Expense	\$	(1,078)

Notes:

(1) Amount per response to Div. 6-5.

(2) Per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 3A, page 1 of 1.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Medical Benefits Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Amount r Fliling (1)	 orrected nount (2)	Ad	ljustment
Medical Waiver Payments	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$	1,000
Health, Dental and Vision Insurance	 118,851	 107,800		(11,051)
Adjustment to Operating Expesne	\$ 120,851	\$ 110,800	\$	(10,051)
Amount Charged to Capital at 21.09% (3)				(2,120)
Adjustment to O&M Expense			\$	(7,931)

Notes:

- (1) Per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 8 and 8A, page 1 of 1.
- (2) Per response to Div. 2-23.
- (3) Per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 3A, page 1 of 1.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Rate Case Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	 Amount
Projected Rate Case Expense (1)	\$ 320,500
Division Recommended Amortization Period-Years	 5
Annual Amortization Expense	\$ 64,100
Amortization per Company (1)	 106,833
Adjustment to Amortization Expense	\$ (42,733)

Note:

(1) Per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 13.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to Outside Services Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	A	mount
Increase in Other Outside Services per Company (1)	\$	4,403
Amount Per Division (2)		-
Adjustment to Outside Services Expense	\$	(4,403)

Notes:

- (1) Per Exhibit 4 (Lippai), Schedule 15A.
- (2) Refer to testimony.

UNITED WATER RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Adjustment to CIS Amortization Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Amount	
CIS Investment (1)	\$	472,333
Division Recommended Amortization Period (Years)		10
Annual Amortiztion Expense per Division	\$	47,233
Amortization Expense per Company (1)		67,476
Adjustment to Amortization Expense	\$	(20,243)
Rate Year Accumulated Depreciation per Division (2)	\$	33,501
Rate Year Accumulated Depreciation per Company (1)	\$	47,859
Adjustment to Accumulated Depreciation	\$	(14,358)
Deferred Income Tax Effect of Reduction in Accumulated Depr. at 35%	\$	5,025
Net Adjustment tot Rate Base	\$	9,333

Notes:

(1) Per Exhibit 3 (Michaelson), Schedule 3, page 13.

(2) Calculated using Excel version of Exhibit 3, Schedule 3 with 10 year life.