#### **BEFORE THE**

# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE WATER )
SUPPLY BOARD )
DOCKET NO. 4406

SETTLEMENT TESTIMONY

**OF** 

THOMAS S. CATLIN

ON BEHALF OF THE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

**November 4, 2013** 



ASSOCIATES, INC. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway Suite 300 Columbia, Maryland 21044

### BEFORE THE

### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## OF RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE WATER	)	DOCKET NO. 4406
SUPPLY BOARD	)	DOCKET NO. 4400

## **Settlement Testimony of Thomas S. Catlin**

1	Q.	WOULD YOU PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS
2		ADDRESS?
3	A.	My name is Thomas S. Catlin. I am a principal with Exeter Associates, Inc. Our
4		offices are located at 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300, Columbia, Maryland
5		21044. Exeter is a firm of consulting economists specializing in issues pertaining to
6		public utilities.
7	Q.	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY IN THIS
8		PROCEEDING?
9	A.	Yes. My direct testimony on behalf of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
10		(the Division) was submitted on August 23, 2013. My qualifications and experience
11		are set forth in that testimony.
12	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SETTLEMENT TESTIMONY?
13	A.	The purpose of my settlement testimony is to briefly explain the how the issues that I
14		raised in my direct testimony that remained after Providence Water Supply Board
15		(Providence Water) filed its rebuttal testimony are resolved by the settlement that has
16		been reached between Providence Water and the Division. I also sponsor the

1		schedules that show the calculation of the overall revenue increase that Providence
2		Water will receive under the settlement.
3	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE SETTLEMENT RESOLVES THE
4		REAMINING ISSUES THAT YOU RAISED IN YOUR DIRECT
5		TESTIMONY IN LIGHT OF PROVIDENCE WATER'S REBUTTAL
6		TESTIMONY.
7	A.	In his rebuttal testimony, Mr. Smith accepted my adjustments to salaries and wages,
8		payroll clearing (capitalized wages), benefits expense, insurance expense, property
9		taxes, inflation, unidirectional flushing program costs, bad debt expense, and
10		regulatory and rate case expense. The settlement resolves the remaining issues that I
11 12		raised in my direct testimony as follows:
13 14 15 16 17		<ul> <li>Chemicals and Sludge Handling. In rebuttal, Ms. Bondarevskis and Mr. Smith generally accepted my adjustment to chemicals expense, but proposed to increase the amount of the contribution to the Chemical and Sludge Handling Restricted Account by \$50,000 to reflect an increase in sludge handling expense. The settlement accepts this update.</li> </ul>
18 19 20 21 22 23		<ul> <li>Overhead Rate Applied. Providence Water disagreed with my proposal to recognize overhead rate applied amounts as a capitalized cost that is charged to the IFR fund. For purposes of settlement, Providence Water and the Division have agreed to reduce rate year costs to recognize overhead rates applied as being reimbursed from the IFR fund.</li> </ul>
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32		• Operating Reserve. Providence Water did not accept my proposal to use the one time increase in revenues generated from the conversion to monthly billing to help fund the operating reserve in its rebuttal testimony. For settlement purposes, the Division and Providence Water have agreed that, in lieu of utilizing the one-time increase in revenues from monthly billing to partially fund the operating reserve, the costs of converting to monthly billing would be excluded from the rate year cost of service in this case. This results in a reduction in rate year expenses of \$431,693.
33 34 35 36 37		• <u>Miscellaneous Expenses</u> . In its rebuttal, Providence Water provided additional information about the miscellaneous expenses that I questioned in my direct testimony and agreed to eliminate the amounts related to an air quality violation (except for \$400 for the annual permit fee) and the

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amounts related to customer refunds. In determining the revenue requirement in this settlement, it has been further agreed that: the test year expense of \$28,000 for software conversion would be eliminated; the \$35,000 test year expense for appraisal services would be normalized based on one-third of the test year amount; and the \$69,933 test year expense for legal services and strategic planning would be normalized at a level of \$45,000 based on FY 2013 expense. The remaining items for Oracle support services and hazardous waste disposal and containment would be allowed.

A.

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# Q. DOES THE SETTLEMENT INCLUDE OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO PROVIDENCE WATER'S RATE YEAR COST OF SERVICE?

Yes. Providence Water's restricted operating reserve fund is expected to exceed the limit of two times the current total operating reserve allowance of three percent of revenues by the time the rates approved in this case go into effect. Therefore, the settlement reduces the total operating revenue allowance to two percent with 0.5 percent restricted and 1.5 percent unrestricted. The current limitation on the use of the restricted reserve established in Docket No. 4061 will remain in effect. It has been agreed that no request will be made for the Commission to open a proceeding at this time to further adjust rates due to the limit being reached. Instead, in Providence Water's next rate case, the parties will have the opportunity to review the level of the fund at that time and to propose alternative uses of any amounts in the fund in excess of the limitation of two times the current operating revenue allowance.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS?

Yes. One of the issues that has received a great deal of attention is the potential use of the revenues being collected for the Capital Fund to acquire a new operations facility for Providence Water. The settlement requires Providence Water to submit status reports to the Commission every six months. This will provide the opportunity

1		for the Commission to review the potential use of the monies in the Capital Fund, to
2		request additional information if needed, and to advise Providence Water if it views
3		any acquisition of property for a new facility as inappropriate.
4	Q.	HAVE YOU PREPARED SCHEDULES THAT SHOW THE
5		DETERMINATION OF THE REVENUE INCREASE THAT WILL BE
6		ALLLOWED UNDER THE SETTLEMENT?
7		Yes. As shown on my Settlement Schedule TSC-1, Providence Water's overall
8		revenue requirement under the settlement is \$69,973,343. This represents an increase
9		of \$9,942,513 over revenues at present rates.
10	Q.	DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?
11	A.	Yes, it does.

#### **BEFORE THE**

# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE WATER	)	DOCKET NO 4406
SUPPLY BOARD	)	DOCKET NO. 4406

# SCHEDULES ACCOMPANYING THE SETTLEMENT TESTIMONY

**OF** 

THOMAS S. CATLIN

# ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

**November 4, 2013** 



ASSOCIATES, INC. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway Suite 300 Columbia, Maryland 21044

Summary of Revenues and Expenses at Present and Proposed Rates Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Pe	Rate Year er Providence Rebuttal	Settlement Adjustments		Rate Year at Present Rates	at Present		Rate Year at Proposed Rates	
Revenue	•	5 005 040	•		<b>A</b> 5005040	•	4 755 050	Φ 0.040.000	
Service Charge	\$	5,825,849	\$	-	\$ 5,825,849	\$	1,755,250	\$ 6,642,360	
Retail Sales		32,217,079		-	32,217,079		6,604,044	37,887,558	
Wholesale Sales		16,375,278		-	16,375,278		994,192	18,598,873	
Private Fire Protection		2,290,098		-	2,290,098		339,612	2,641,337	
Retail FPSC		1,182,374		-	1,182,374		94,466	1,616,210	
Public Fire Protection		960,983		-	960,983		157,148	1,415,519	
Miscellaneous	_	1,179,169	_	<u>-</u>	1,179,169	_		1,179,169	
Total Revenue	\$	60,030,830	\$	-	\$60,030,830	\$	9,944,712	\$ 69,975,542	
Expenses									
Operation & Maintenance (1)		29,486,452		(511,540)	28,974,912		-	28,974,912	
Insurance		1,802,547		(0 · · ·,0 · · o)	1,802,547		_	1,802,547	
Chemicals & Sludge		4,500,000		_	4,500,000		_	4,500,000	
City Services		839,167		_	839,167		_	839,167	
Property Taxes		6,487,515		_	6,487,515		_	6,487,515	
Captital Reimbursement		(834,389)		(1,257,383)	(2,091,772)		_	(2,091,772)	
Net Operations	\$	42,281,292	\$	(1,768,923)	\$40,512,369	\$	-	\$ 40,512,369	
Capital Fund		2,450,000			2,450,000			2,450,000	
Western Cranston		62,069		-	62,069		-	62,069	
Infrastructure Replacement Fund		24,000,000		=	24,000,000			24,000,000	
Cash Funded AMR/Meter Replacement		1,000,000		=	1,000,000			1,000,000	
				-	, ,				
Equipment Replacement Fund		600,000		-	600,000			600,000	
Property Tax Refund Fund Revenue Reserve Fund		1,384,284		(1,047,057)	337,226			227 226	
		1,304,204		(1,047,057)	337,220		-	337,226	
Less: Reserve Funded from Monthly Billing	\$	20.406.252	\$	(1.047.057)	# 20 440 20E	Φ.		¢ 20 440 205	
Total Capital	Ф	29,496,353	Ф	(1,047,057)	\$ 28,449,295	\$	-	\$ 28,449,295	
Total Expenses	\$	71,777,645	\$	(2,815,980)	\$68,961,664	\$	-	\$ 68,961,664	
Operating Reserve		692,142		319,537	1,011,679		<u>-</u>	1,011,679	
Total Cost of Service	\$	72,469,786	\$	(2,496,443)	\$69,973,343	\$	-	\$ 69,973,343	
Revenue Surplus/(Deficiency)	\$	(12,438,956)	\$	2,496,443	(\$9,942,513)	\$	9,944,712	\$2,199	

Note: (1) Amount per Providence Water includes a correction to filed rebuttal amount.

#### Summary of Division Adjustments to Rate Year Expenses Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

Description	Amount		Source
Rate Year Salaries and Wages	\$	_	Schedule TSC-3
Payroll Clearing		-	Schedule TSC-4
Overhead Clearing		(1,257,383)	Schedule TSC-5
Benefits		-	Schedule TSC-6
Inflation		-	Schedule TSC-7
Bad Debt		-	Schedule TSC-8
Insurance		-	Schedule TSC-9
Chemicals		-	Schedule TSC-10
Property Taxes		-	Schedule TSC-11
Unidirectional Flushing		-	Schedule TSC-12
Regulatory and Rate Case Expense		-	Schedule TSC-13
Miscellaneous Expenses		(79,847)	Schedule TSC-14
Incremental Monthly Billing		(431,693)	Schedule TSC-15
Operating Reserve		(727,520)	See Note (1)
Total Expense Adjustments	\$	(2,496,443)	

#### Note:

(1) Based on 2.0% of total expenses less miscellaneous revenues. Total is split with 0.5% going to restricted revenue reserve fund and 1.5% being unrestricted.

Adjustment to Salaries and Wages to Reflect Normal Employee Vacancies Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

		Salary
Total FY 2013 Wages (1) Less: Wages for Engineers Paid directly from IFR Fund (1)	\$	13,587,511 (332,464)
FY 2013 Wage Expense per Books	\$	13,255,047
Plus Wages for Employees on Workers Compensation (1)	·	274,221
Total Salaries and Wages for Existing Employees	\$	13,529,268
Plus Wages for 3 New Employees (2)	\$	132,384
Adjusted FY 2013 Salaries and Wages	\$	13,661,652
Adjustment to Bring to Rate Year Level	·	1.04545
Rate Year Wages per Division	\$	14,282,574
Amount per Providence Water Rebuttal (4)	·	14,282,574
Adjustment to Salaries and Wages	\$	

- (1) Per response to DIV 4-12.
- (2) Based on average wages for 19 vacant positions as of June 30, 2013.
- (3) Per Schedule HJS-S3. Reflects rate year effect of 3 % wage increases on July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014.
- (4) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S3.

#### Adjustment to Payroll Clearing Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

Payroll Clearing in Test Year (1)	\$ 798,115
Adjustment to Reflect Wage Increases (2)	 1.0455
Rate Year Payroll Clearing	\$ 834,389
Amount per Providence Water Rebuttal Filing	834,389
Adjustment to Rate Year Expense	\$ 

- (1) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S1.
- (2) Reflects 3 percent increase on July 1, 2013 and one-half of the annual effect of a 3% increase on July 1, 2014. Providence Water did not grant wage increases on July 1, 2012

Adjustment to Recognize Overheads Applied As Reimbusable from Capital Funds Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

Overhead Clearing in Test Year (1)	\$ 1,202,719
Adjustment to Reflect Increase to Rate Year (2)	1.0455
Rate Year Payroll Clearing	\$ 1,257,383
Amount per Providence Water	-
Adjustment to Rate Year Expense	\$ (1,257,383)

- (1) Per Schedule HJS-A1.
- (2) Based on increase in payroll clearing from test year to rate year per Schedule TSC-4.

#### Adjustment to Benefits Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

FRINGE BENEFIT		Test Year FY 2012	Adjustment	Rate Year CY 2014
Union Combined Benefits (1)	\$	586,821	\$ -	\$ 586,821
Union Pension (1)		331,312	124,905	456,217
Death Benefit Insurance (2)		1,943	91	2,034
Educational Classes/Certification (2)		2,649	124	2,773
FICA (3)		1,014,048	46,139	1,060,187
State Unemployment Compensation (3)		14,716	670	15,386
Healthcare EE Cash Payment (4)		9,500	(500)	9,000
1/2% Wage Assignment (3)		35,820.00	1,630	37,450
Blue Cross (4)		2,072,201	792,107	2,864,308
Less Employee Co-Share (4)		(355,216)	(137,709)	(492,925)
Delta Dental (4)		254,556	3,731	258,287
GASB 43/45 Reserve Required (5)		1,230,000	(750,000)	480,000
City Retirement (6)		2,315,228	629,981	2,945,209
Total	\$	7,513,577.79	\$ 711,169	\$ 8,224,746
Amount per Providence Water Rebutal (Schedule HJS-S	S6)		_	\$ 8,224,746
Adjustment			_	\$ 

- (1) Amounts per DIV 1-18. Union Combined Benefits are not subject to increase. Union Pension increased by 37.7%.
- (2) Adjusted by Division inflation rate per Schedule TSC-7.
- (3) Reflects compounded salary increase of 4.55% per Schedule HJS-S6.
- (4) Reflects FY 2014 rates per Comm 1-11. Amounts have been adjusted to reflect 240 full time employees instead of 254 full time employees including 19 vacancies as of June 30, 2013.
- (5) Per Schedule HJS-S6A.
- (6) Per response to DIV 1-20.

#### Adjustment to Inflation Related Expense Increases Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Inflation Base (1)	Inflation per Division (2) 4.695%	Inflation per Prov. Water (3) 4.695%	Adjustment
Purchased Power Costs (4) Pumping Water Treatment Transmission and Distribution Administrative and General Subtotal	\$ 778,684 457,253 12,019 113,972 \$ 1,361,928	\$ - - - - - - -	\$ - - - - - - - -	\$ - - - - - - -
Other Expenses Source of Supply Pumping Expenses Water Treatment Transmission and Distribution Customer Accounts (5) Administrative and General Subtotal	638,455 11,629 523,922 865,429 208,639 1,877,577 \$ 4,125,651	29,976 546 24,599 40,633 9,796 88,155 \$ 193,705	29,976 546 24,599 40,633 9,796 88,155 \$ 193,705	- - - - - - - -
Total	\$ 5,487,579	\$ 193,705	\$ 193,705	\$ -

- (1) Amounts subject to inflation adjustment per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S2.
- (2) Based on increase in Average GDP-PI for four quarters ending 2Q12 to four quarters ending 4Q14 per Blue Chip Economic Indicators dated August 10, 2013.
- (3) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S2.
- (4) Refer to testimony for explanation regarding not inflating power supply costs.
- (5) Excludes Bad Debt which is treated separately on Schedule TSC-8.

#### Adjustment to Bad Debt Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

		Total
Bad Debt Expense (1)	<u>-</u>	
12 Months Ending 6/30/2010	\$	720,206
12 Months Ending 6/30/2011		(524, 135)
12 Months Ending 6/30/2012		445,333
6 Months Ending 12/31/2012		(1,320,107)
Total	\$	(678,703)
Average Annual Expense (divide by 4)	\$	(193,915)
Amount per Providence Water Rebuttal Filing (2)		
Adjustment to Bad Debt Expense (Eliminate Claimed Expense)	\$	-

- (1) Per response to DIV 1-4 and Comm 1-28.
- (2) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S2.

#### Adjustment to Insurance Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	FY 2011 (1)	FY 2012 (2)	FY 2013 (3)	FY 2014/ CY 2014 (4)	_
Worker's Compensation Injuries and Damages Property and Casualty Program Expense Safety Supplies & Other	\$ 837,689 28,851 1,011,910 1,800 36,627	\$ 874,015 54,528 1,006,353 7,150 17,602	\$ 848,550 109,666 1,062,090 N/A N/A	\$ 693,532 64,348 1,018,753 7,486 18,428	3 3 6
Total Expenses (5)	\$ 1,916,877	\$ 1,959,648	\$ 2,020,306	\$ 1,802,547	,
Amount per Providence Water Rebuttal (2)				1,802,547	<u>,</u>
Adjustment to Insurance Expense				\$ -	

- (1) Per response to DIV 1-13.
- (2) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S5.
- (3) Per response to DIV 1-14.
- (4) Refer to testimony for explanation of development of costs.

#### Adjustment to Chemicals Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

		Actual	Usage	Greater of		
	Estimated	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012 or	Rate Year	Annual
	Quantity (1)	Usage (2)	Usage (3)	FY 2013	Unit Price (4)	Cost
Ferric Sulfate (Gallons)	1,460,000	1,136,679	870,563	1,136,679	\$ 1.4000	\$ 1,591,351
Quicklime (Tons)	3,139	2,834	2,322	2,834	214.1600	606,929
Chlorine (Tons)	200	173	194	194	800.0000	155,200
Flouide (Gallons)	70,000	56,903	50,681	56,903	2.5630	145,842
Carbon Dioxide (Tons) Total Treatment Chemical Costs	1,000	506	353	See Note (5)	-	\$ 2,499,322
Sludge Maintenance Costs						1,700,000
Total Chemical Costs and Sludge Handling Costs						\$ 4,199,322
Incremental Restricted Fund Contribution to Eliminate Shortfall (5)						300,000
Division Recommended Funding of Chemical and Sludge Maintenance Restricted Account (Rounded)						\$ 4,500,000
Proposed Funding Contribution per Providence Water Rebuttal (Schedule HJS-S-8.)						\$ 4,500,000
Adjustment to Chemical and Sludge Maintenance Funding						\$ -

- Notes:
  (1) Per response DIV 1-27.
  - (2) Per response to DIV 1-26.
  - (3) Per resonse to DIV 4-10.
  - (4) Per response to DIV 4-1.
  - (5) Refer to testimony.

#### Adjustment to Reflect Updated Property Tax Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>F</u>	Actual Y 2011 (1)	<u>F</u>	Actual Y 2012 (1)	<u>E</u>	Actual Y 2013 (1)	<u>E</u>	Actual <u>Y 2014 (2)</u>	-	Estimated Y 2015 (3)	CY 2014 <u>Average</u>
Scituate Glocester		4,974,437 49,380		5,087,357 51,478		5,087,357 53,537		5,566,124 55,679		5,677,446 57,906	5,621,785 56,793
All Other North Providence West Glocester Fire Harmony Fire District Chepachet Fire District Johnston Foster Cranston West Warwick	\$	239,090 3,932 155 120 86,695 331,673 107,568 3,761	\$	266,581 3,708 164 131 90,117 331,673 110,523 3,761	\$	266,581 3,708 164 133 90,117 306,694 118,597 3,761	\$	268,137 3,708 171 138 94,907 307,901 120,152 3,682	\$	273,500 3,782 177 144 98,703 314,059 124,958 3,756	\$ 270,818 3,745 174 141 96,805 310,980 122,555 3,719
Subtotal-All Other	\$	772,994	\$	806,658	\$	789,755	\$	798,796	\$	819,079	\$ 808,938
Total Property Taxes	\$	5,796,811	\$	5,945,492	\$	5,930,648	\$	6,420,599	\$	6,554,432	\$ 6,487,515
Amount per Providence Water	r Rel	outtal (1)						6,608,270		6,872,599	6,487,515
Adjustment to Property Tax Ex	kpen	se									\$ 

- (1) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S4A.
- (2) Per response to DIV 4-7 except Harmony and Chepachet Fire Districts which are increased by 4 percent over FY 2013.
- (3) Refer to testimony for derivation of FY 2015 amounts. Scituate is based on recent increases in the property tax rate. Glocester reflects the taxes due pursuant to the tax treaty with Providence Water. All other amounts escalated by 2% based on the overall average increase in taxes other than Scituate and Gloster in recent years. Refer to testimony.

### Adjustment to Unidirectional Flushing Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	 Total		
Field Operations-per Company Rebuttal (1)	\$ 290,000		
Field Operations-Revised Estimate (2)	290,000		
Adjustment to Unidirectional Flushing Costs	\$ 		

- (1) Per Rebuttal Schedule HJS-S2.
- (2) Per response to DIV 1-30.

#### Adjustment to Rate Case and Regulatory Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	 Total
Docket 4062/Conservation Rate Filing (1)	\$ 8,593
Field Operations-Revised Estimate (1)	 9,033
Adjustment to Remove Costs of Prior Proceedings (2)	\$ -

- (1) Per response to DIV 1-24.
- (2) Amounts have been removed in Providence Water's rebuttal filing.

Adjustment to Miscellaneous Expense Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	7	Total (1)	
Hazardous Waste Disposal and Containment-Triumvirate Environmental Air Quality Violation-R.I. Department of Environmental Management Customer Refund 1 Customer Refund 2 Software Conversion-Zandar Billing Software/Oracle Support-Adaptive Minds Appraisal Service-Sansoucy Legal Services/Strategic Plan-Partridge, Snow & Hahn Total	\$	28,000 - 23,333 24,933 76,266	Accepted Test Year Amount Eliminated by Prov. Water Eliminated by Prov. Water Eliminated by Prov. Water Accepted Test Year Amount Reflects 3 year Normalization Reflects allowance of \$45,000
Escalation Factor for Inflation (2)		1.04695	
Adjustment to Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	(79,847)	

- (1) Per response to Comm 1-33.
- (2) Per Schedule TSC-7. Amount in Providence Water reflected inflation factor of 6.376% which was adjusted to reflect Division inflation factor or 4.695% on Schedule TSC-7.

### Adjustment to Eliminate Incremental Costs of Monthly Billing Rate Year Ended December 31, 2014

	 Total (1)
Sr, Administrative Clerk Fringe Benefits Bill Processing	\$ 42,452 21,226 319,015
Additional Lock Box Costs	 49,000
Total Incremental Costs Per Filing	\$ 431,693
Amount per Settlement	
Adjustment to Rate Year Expenses	\$ (431,693)

#### Notes:

(1) Amounts per response to DIV 1-39.