

Rebuttal Testimony
of
GREGG M. GLASSON, PE
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

for

PROVIDENCE WATER

DOCKET# 4618

December 9th, 2016

1 **Q. Please state your name and your position.**

2 A. My name is Gregg M. Giasson and I am the Deputy General Manager of
3 Operations/Executive Engineer for the Providence Water Supply Board. I have general
4 oversight of the Engineering, Water Supply and Transmission & Distribution Departments.

5

6 **Q. Please describe your educational background and work experience.**

7 A. I obtained a Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic
8 Institute in 2001 and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Tufts University in
9 1992. I have worked for the Providence Water Supply Board for three and a half years, the
10 first two years as the Senior Director of Operations and the last year and a half as the Deputy
11 General Manager of Operations/Executive Engineer. From 2008 to 2012, I worked for the
12 Pawtucket Water Supply Board as the Assistant Chief Engineer/Chief of Operations. Prior to
13 Pawtucket, I worked at the consulting firm Camp, Dresser & McKee for 12 years where I
14 worked on a variety of drinking water projects as both a project engineer and project
15 manager. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Rhode Island.

16

17 **Q. What items are being addressed in this rebuttal testimony?**

18 A. My testimony will cover the following:

19 (a) Additional staffing needs;

20 (b) Construction Costs for the Central Operations Facility (COF); and

21 (c) Unaccounted for Water.

1 Additional Staffing needs

2 **Q. Do you have anything to add to Mr. Caruolo's testimony relative to staffing needs?**

3 A. Yes, I do. Because of the size of Providence Water relative to other water utilities within
4 Rhode Island, Providence Water referenced two American Water Works Association
5 (AWWA) documents.

6 1. In *Benchmarking – Performance Indicators for Water – 2013 Survey Data and Analyses*
7 *Report*, AWWA provides the benchmark millions of gallons per day (mgd) of water
8 produced per employee, which is the average daily demand divided by the number of full
9 time employees (FTE). In the AWWA Benchmarking Survey, the top quartile of mgd/FTE
10 was 0.33, the median was 0.25, and the bottom quartile was 0.16. Utilizing an average daily
11 demand of 64 mgd and the requested number of FTE of 254, Providence Water would be at
12 0.25 mgd/FTE which is right at the median.

13 2. In the *2016 AWWA Compensation Survey*, 31% of the water utilities surveyed increased
14 their full time staff. Only 15% either decreased or maintained their current staffing levels.

15
16 Construction Costs for the Central Operations Facility (COF)

17 **Q. Please respond to Ms. Marchand's concerns relative to the costs for the COF.**

18 A. As stated in the response to BCWA 1-27, the cost of the purchase, renovation, and cost of
19 bond issuance for 125 Dupont Drive will not exceed \$30 million. The cost of issuance for
20 the \$30 million bond was \$2,326,681.61. The purchase price for 125 Dupont Drive was
21 \$10,387,154.50. Subtracting the cost of issuance and the purchase price from the \$30 million
22 bond leaves \$17,286,163.89 for building renovation. The total cost of purchase and

1 renovation for Dupont Drive is \$27,673,318.39. The estimate provided during Docket 4571
2 was preliminary and was based on an initial walkthrough of 125 Dupont Drive and a
3 preliminary programming of the COF. The cost of renovation is sufficient to meet
4 Providence Water's needs for the COF and is within the \$30 million allocated for the
5 purchase and renovation of 125 Dupont Drive.

6 Unaccounted for Water

7 **Q. Please respond to Ms. Marchand's concerns relative to unaccounted for water (UFW)?**

8 A. In Ms. Marchand's testimony she states "I am concerned about the amount of water
9 Providence uses for continuous running of blow-offs and the flushing of the distribution
10 system for water quality, summer open hydrants, construction, meter error and unauthorized
11 usage in the distribution system."

12 I'll address each one of these concerns individually. In terms of continuous running
13 blowoffs, this was a practice when Ms. Marchand was Chief Engineer. Now that Providence
14 Water has a Unidirectional Flushing Program, we no longer have continuous running
15 blowoffs.

16 In terms of flushing of the distribution system for water quality, this amount is captured in
17 the "Water used by Company" line item.

18 In terms of summer open hydrants, this may have been an issue when Ms. Marchand was
19 Chief Engineer, however Providence Water utilizes custodians on our hydrants that requires
20 a special tool to open hydrants. Consequently summer open hydrants are no longer an issue.

1 In terms of construction and unauthorized usage, this amount of water is captured in the 95%
2 of the UFW that is allocated to the retail customer base.

3 In terms of meter error, this error applies to both the retail and wholesale meters.

4 One example of UFW that has not been discussed is the water that is used to flush and
5 disinfect the 78-inch and 102-inch aqueducts when they are dewatered and inspected. As
6 such, it is reasonable to assume that Providence Water's current allocation of UFW is fair
7 and reasonable.

8 **Q. Mr. Giasson, does that conclude your testimony?**

9 **A. Yes, it does**