Mary B. Shekarchi Attorney at Law

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April 7, 2021

Ms. Luly Massaro, Clerk **RI Public Utilities Commission** 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888

> RE: Kent County Water Authority – Docket # 5133

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Please find enclosed herewith Kent County Water Authority's Responses to the Public Utilities Commission's First Set of Data Requests in the above-referenced Docket. Should you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Mary B. Shekarchi Sincer

Attorney at Law

MBS/mdc Enclosure

Cc: Docket 5133 Service List (via electronic mail)

Respectfully submitted, Kent County Water Authority By its Attorney,

Mary B. Shekarchi (#4767) Attorney at Law 33 College Hill Rd., Suite #15E Warwick, RI 02886 Tel. (401) 828-5030 Fax (401) 823-1400 marybali@aol.com

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify on this 7th day of April, 2021, I sent a copy of the within to the Parties listed on the attached service list.

MBS-

Dated: April 7, 2021

Docket No. 5133 - Kent County Water Authority – Tariff Advice Filing Serve List 3/5/21

Name/Address	E-mail Address	Phone
Kent County Water Authority (KCWA) Mary B. Shekarchi, Esq. 33 College hill Rd., Suite 15-E Warwick, RI 02886	marybali@aol.com;	401-828-5030
David L. Simmons, P.E. Executive Director/Chief Engineer Kent County Water Authority 1072 Main St. West Warwick, RI 02893-0192	dsimmons@kentcountywater.org;	401-821-9300
David Bebyn, CPA B&E Consulting, LLC 21 Dryden Lane Providence, RI 02904	<u>dbebyn@gmail.com;</u>	
Division of Public Utilities & Carriers (Division) Tiffanny Parenteau, Esq. Dept. of Attorney General 150 South Main St. Providence, RI 02903 Jerome Mierzwa Layfayette Morgan Exeter Associates, Inc. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300	Tparenteau@riag.ri.gov;Christy.hetherington@dpuc.ri.gov;John.bell@dpuc.ri.gov;Al.mancini@dpuc.ri.gov;Pat.smith@dpuc.ri.gov;Hakeem.ottun@dpuc.ri.gov;Margaret.L.Hogan@dpuc.ri.gov;Robert.Bailey@dpuc.ri.gov;Mfolcarelli@riag.ri.gov;Dmacrae@riag.ri.gov;jmierzwa@exeterassociates.com;Imorgan@exeterassociates.com;	401-274-4400
Columbia, MD 21044 Original & nine (9) copies file w/: Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02888	Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov; Cynthia.WilsonFrias@puc.ri.gov; Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov; Rudolph.S.Falcone@puc.ri.gov;	401-780-2107
Kathleen Crawley Water Resources Board	Kathleen.crawley@doa.ri.gov;	401-222-6696

IN RE: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY:TARIFF ADVICE FILING – TRANSFER TO:MONTHLY BILLING:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (KCWA) (Issued April 5, 2021)

1-1. Referencing DGB Schedule 1.1, please explain why the private fire service revenue is 1/3 of the rate year when the rest of the categories are not.

RESPONSE:

The private fire service revenue was understated on this page since it was calculated at four times the monthly rate instead of twelve times. Normally the current private fire service rate is presented on a quarterly basis however schedule 5.0, which is the source of rate, presented the rate on a monthly basis so the reviewer could evaluate the impact of the change to monthly billing on the proposed rate. A copy of the corrected schedule 1.1 is attached to this response. The adjusted schedule is now in agreement with private fire service revenue presented on schedule 1.0. This schedule did not have any impact on any other calculations, so no other changes are needed.

Witness responsible: David G. Bebyn, CPA

RATE YEAR REVENUE AT DOCKET 5012 RATES AND COUNTS

Kent County Water Authority

Revised DGB Schedule-1.1

AMOUNTS APPROVED IN Docket 5012

Quarterly	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
5/8 & 3/4	88,320	\$15.10 \$	1,333,632
1	14,600	\$20.14 \$	294,044
1 1/2	1,296	\$29.59 \$	38,349
2	2,008	\$37.77 \$	75,842
3	44	\$48.48 \$	2,133
4	356	\$69.27 \$	24,660
6	356	\$115.26 \$	41,033
8 & up	268	\$195.27 \$	52,332
<u>Monthly</u>			
5/8 & 3/4	60	\$10.90 \$	654
1	12	\$12.58 \$	151
1 1/2	108	\$15.73 \$	1,699
2	96	\$18.46 \$	1,772
3	12	\$22.03 \$	264
4	36	\$28.96 \$	1,043
6	84	\$44.28 \$	3,720
8 & up	60	\$70.95 \$	4,257
		\$	1,875,584
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Consumption Charge:	100/cu.ft.		
Proposed			
Small-Single Register	2,523,356	\$5.23 \$	13,209,226
Medium-Single Register	34,267	\$5.56 \$	190,658
Large-Single Register	69,253	\$5.10 \$	353,528
Medium-with Bypass	94,938	\$5.56 \$	528,221
Large-with Bypass	526,880	\$5.10 \$	2,689,649
Wholesale	35,135	\$3.83 \$	134,621
		\$	17,105,903
Fire Protection:			
Public Hydrants	2,357.00	\$164.05 \$	1,546,663
# bills	32.00	\$8.80 \$	282
		\$	1,546,945
Private Fire Protection			
4 in	97.00	\$22.02 \$	25,627
6 in	200.00	\$58.37 \$	140,096
8 in	84.00	\$121.08 \$	122,045
10 in	17.00	\$215.40 \$	43,941
12 in	1.00	\$346.12 \$	4,153
hydrant	635.00	\$58.37 \$	444,805
		\$	780,668
Total		\$	21,309,100
Plus: Misc Revenues		\$	330,651
Pro Forma Revenue		\$	21,639,751

IN RE: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY:TARIFF ADVICE FILING – TRANSFER TO:MONTHLY BILLING:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (KCWA) (Issued April 5, 2021)

1-2. Referencing DGB Schedule 2.0, Existing Total Counts, what is the source of the 316 in the monthly count? In cycles two and three, should the 316 continue to be added to the QTR billings? It appears there is an overstatement of accounts in this section.

RESPONSE:

The calculation for the 316 monthly count is calculated on Schedule 2.1. In essence the 316 accounts is made up of the current monthly presented in Docket 5012 along with the expansion of adding large meters from each of the current cycle counts. This can be seen if you look at the total 3 inch meters for all quarterly cycle counts and adding to the current monthly count on schedule 2.2. The sum of those meters on schedule 2.2 equals eleven which is part of that 316 monthly meter total. There is no overstatement of accounts once you compare the total counts presented at the bottom of schedules 2.1 and 2.2.

Witness responsible: David G. Bebyn, CPA

IN RE: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY : TARIFF ADVICE FILING – TRANSFER TO : DOCKET NO. 5133 MONTHLY BILLING :

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (KCWA) (Issued April 5, 2021)

1-3. Referencing the DGB Schedule 6.0 (all of them), please explain why private fire service rates increase and then decrease?

RESPONSE:

This is due to presenting the current quarterly basis to a monthly basis by taking one third of the quarterly rate. While the proposed actually calculates a monthly rate. The issue that comes in is that there is a fixed billing component charge that is embedded in the private fire rates. The first step of the calculation is driven up by the calculation assigning a full fixed month to the calculation. This impact is eliminated once all accounts are fully transitioned to monthly billing.

Witness responsible: David G. Bebyn, CPA.

IN RE: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY:TARIFF ADVICE FILING – TRANSFER TO:MONTHLY BILLING:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (KCWA) (Issued April 5, 2021)

1-4. Please provide a total of the credit card fees that have been absorbed by the operating reserve. This was something KCWA voluntarily undertook in the last rate case. However, the expenses that are reducing the operating reserve are not clearly shown.

RESPONSE:

KCWA began absorbing both credit card and E-check fees on 6/5/20. KCWA also changed payment processing vendors when the new utility billing and customer information software systems were deployed. KCWA was using RI.gov until 3/4/21. The new payment vendor, Jetpay, went online on 3/5/21. There were sizable savings with KCWA changing payment processors. Credit cards transaction fees were reduced and Jetpay does not charge on ACH transactions. The CC expenses reducing the operating reserve can be found on last page of the revised DGB Schedule 1.0 and 1.2 using the projected annual fees on monthly billing below. Please see breakdown of absorbed fees to date and projected into the future.*

Actual CC and ACH costs absorbed to date:

Total fees incurred and absorbed by KCWA with RI.gov and Jetpay to date = \$57,748

<u>Projected CC and ACH costs to be absorbed in the future:</u> Total projected annual fees to be incurred and absorbed by KCWA using Jetpay on quarterly billing = \$48,779

Total projected annual fees to be incurred and absorbed by KCWA using Jetpay on monthly billing = \$61,478

*For detailed breakdown of numbers, please see attachment PUC DR 1-4

Witness responsible: David L. Simmons, P.E

DOCKET NO. 5133 Attachment for PUC- DR 1-4

KCWA began absorbing both credit card and E-check fees on 6/5/20. KCWA also changed payment processing vendors when the new utility billing and customer information software systems were deployed. KCWA was using RI.gov until 3/4/21. The new payment vendor, Jetpay, went online on 3/5/21. There were sizable savings with KCWA changing payment processors. Credit cards transaction fees were reduced and Jetpay does not charge on ACH transactions.

Actual CC and ACH costs absorbed to date:

RI.gov fees charged 6/5/20-3/5/21 (273 days):	Jetpay fees incurred from 3/5/21-3/31/21 (27 days):
RI.Gov charged 1.75% plus \$1.00 per each credit card transaction.	Jetpay charges 1.50% plus \$.25 per each credit card transaction.
RI.Gov charged \$.50 per each ACH transaction.	Jetpay does not charge for ACH transactions.
Credit card fees incurred from 6/5/20-3/5/21 (273 days):	Credit card fees incurred from $3/5/21-3/31/21$:
12,697 transactions x \$1.00/transaction = \$12,697	986 transactions x \$0.25/transaction = \$246.50
<u>1.75% x \$2,227,293 in bills paid by CC = \$38,978</u>	<u>1.50% x \$137,482 in bills paid by CC = \$2,062</u>
TOTAL CC Fees: \$51,675	TOTAL CC Fees: \$2,309
ACH fees incurred from 6/5/20-3/4/21 from RI.Gov <u>7528 transactions x \$0.50/transaction = \$3764</u> TOTAL ACH Fees : \$3,764	No ACH fees incurred from 3/5/21-3/31/21 from Jetpay TOTAL ACH Fees: \$0.00

Total fees incurred and absorbed by KCWA with RI.gov and Jetpay to date = \$57,748

Savings realized by changing payment processors as shown in the example below.

Example-\$100.00 credit	t card payment received:
<u>RI.Gov</u>	<u>Jetpay</u>
100.00 x .0175 = 1.75 + 10.00 = 2.75	100.00 x .015 = 1.50 + 0.25 = 1.75

Projected CC and ACH costs to be absorbed in the future:

The total projected monthly and annual fees to KCWA using Jetpay based on the averages generated from RI.gov transactions over 9 months. The details are as follows:

Number of Transactions and Cost:

- 1411 transactions per month or 16,932 transactions per year
- Annual transaction cost \$4,233 with quarterly billing
- 5644 transactions per month or 67728 transactions per year
- Annual transaction cost \$16,932 with monthly billing

Credit Card % based Fee: Annual fees \$44,546

Total projected annual fees to be incurred and absorbed by KCWA using Jetpay on quarterly billing = \$48,779

Total projected annual fees to be incurred and absorbed by KCWA using Jetpay on monthly billing = \$61,478

	Reve	Detailed of Rate Year Revenue & Expenses		Revise	Attachment for PUC-DR Revised DGB Schedule-		
K	ent Cou	ļ	Water Autho Rate Year Approved in Docket 5012	S	ummary of djustments		Proposed Rate Year
Revenues - at approved Dock	<u>ket 5012</u>	rate	<u>s</u>				
Service Charges		\$	1,875,584	\$	-	\$	1,875,584
Metered Rates			17,105,903		C		17,105,903
Public Fire			1,546,945		C		1,546,945
Private Fire	-		780,668		0		780,668
Rate Re	evenues	\$	21,309,100	\$	-	\$	21,309,100
Miscellaneous Income			244,795		-		244,795
Interest Income			21,464		-		21,464
Merchand & Jobbing			18,811		-		18,811
6.9% of Water Prot Fee	-		45,581		-		45,581
Miscel	laneous	\$	330,651	\$	-	\$	330,651
Total F	Revenue	\$	21,639,751	\$	-	\$	21,639,751
PUMPING OPERATIONS fuel for pumping power labor-pumping pumping expense maint structures & improv diesel oil maint equip	Subtotal	\$	19,149 5,019,241 5,038,389 24,762 804,411 88,457 - 89,053 - 60,420 1,067,104	\$ \$ \$		\$\$\$	19,149 <u>5,019,241</u> 5,038,389 24,762 804,411 88,457 - 89,053 - <u>60,420</u> 1,067,104
		•	, , -	·		1	,,-
WATER TREATMENT							
chemicals		\$	170,263	\$	-	\$	170,263
labor			199,893		-		199,893
operating / Mishnock			70,718		-		70,718
maint water treat equip			18,978		-		18,978
maint structure			704		-		704
:	Subtotal	\$	460,556	\$	-	\$	460,556
TRANS & DISTR. EXPENSE storage facilities exp.		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-

Detailed of Rate Year

Revenue & Expenses

Attachment for PUC-DR 1-4 Revised DGB Schedule-1.0

	Kent Cou	nty '	Water Authq	rity			
		A	Rate Year pproved in ocket 5012	Sum	mary of Istments		Proposed Rate Year
labor			25,794		-		25,794
supplies			115,531		-		115,531
labor-meter			56,374		-		56,374
meter - supp & exp			13		-		13
cust. install.			-		-		-
misc.			14,332		-		14,332
maint - struct. & improv.			61,616		-		61,616
maint res & stdp			21,960		-		21,960
maint mains			649,344		-		649,344
maint service			155,029		-		155,029
maint meters			150,716		-		150,716
maint hydrants			85,649		-		85,649
construction labor			(70)		-		(70)
	Subtotal	\$	1,336,287	\$	-	\$	1,336,287
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT labor- meter read cust record labor cust records sup meter read supplies uncollectible	(a) Subtotal	\$	118,526 218,968 103,571 2,708 62,046 505,818	\$	- - 166,521 - - 166,521	\$	118,526 218,968 270,091 2,708 62,046 672,338
ADMIN. & GENERAL							
salaries		\$	479,217	\$		\$	479,217
office supplies & expenses		φ	278,498	Ψ		φ	278,498
insurance (property/liability			278,482				278,482
OPEB Trust Contrib.	wc)		82,715				82,715
employee benefits			1,091,013				1,091,013
maint plant			157,568				157,568
maint vehicles			65,155				65,155
miscellaneous			17,123				17,123
vacation, holiday, sick			321,965		-		321,965
regul. exp.			104,514				104,514
outside service					-		
	Subtotal	¢	<u>97,156</u> 2,973,405	\$		\$	<u>97,156</u> 2,973,405
TOTAL O&M		<u> </u>	11,381,558	<u>ֆ</u> \$	- 166,521	ֆ \$	11,548,079
			, - ,		,		, , ,

FIXED CHARGES

Detailed of Rate Year

Revenue & Expenses

Attachment for PUC-DR 1-4

Revised DGB Schedule-1.0

Kent Cou	nty Water Aut	harity	I	
	Rate Year Approved in Docket 5012	Summary of Adjustments		Proposed Rate Year
Debt Service				
Existing	\$2,183,25	50 \$0	\$	2,183,250
New	-	-		-
Reserves and Coverage	-	-		-
O&M Reserve		0 -		0
R&R Reserve		- (0)		(0)
Renewal & Replacement - Equip	100,00	- 00		100,000
Infrastructure Replacement	6,000,00	- 00		6,000,000
Meter Replacement	-	-		-
CIP	1,453,81	9 -		1,453,819
Payroll Taxes	175,62	- 21		175,621
PILOT	23,12	- 23		23,123
SUBTOTAL FIXED	\$9,935,81	3 \$0		\$9,935,813
OPERATING REVENUE RESERVE	\$ 317,00	8 \$ (166,521) \$	150,487
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 21,634,37	' 9\$-	\$	21,634,379
Miscellaneous Income	330,650.7	2		330,650.72
NET REQUIRED FROM RATES	\$ 21,303,727.	93	\$	21,303,727.93

ALLOCATION OF RATE YEAR EXPENSES APPROVED IN DOCKET 5012

BASE	\$ 12,739,655.51	
EXTRA CAPMAX DAY	3,154,837.29	
EXTRA CAPPEAK HR	1,205,475.80	
GENERAL WATER		17,099,968.60
CUSTOMER BILL	985,029.45	
CUSTOMER METER	927,660.74	
CUSTOMER SERVICE		1,912,690.19
PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE	1,546,707.65	
PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE	744,279.46	
CUSTOMER SERVICE		2,290,987.11
TOTAL REVENUE REQUIREMENT		\$ 21,303,645.91

RATE YEAR BILLING COSTS Attachment for PUC-DR 1-4 AS RESULT OF TRANSTION TO MONTHLY BILLING Revised DGB Schedule-1.2

Kent County Water Authority

Propose	d Costs Billings	Cost Per Bill	Amount
			Amount
Processi	ng		
	27267/Month	0.1225	\$ 40,025.16
Postage			
	27267/Month	0.36	\$ 117,793.44
Propose	d Cost per Year		\$ 157,818.60

Current Cos	ts				
<u>Billings</u>		<u>Cost Per Bill</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
Processing					
	27228/Qtr	0.1225	\$	13,341.72	
	39/Month	0.1225	\$	57.33	
Postage					
	27228/Qtr	0.36	\$	39,208.32	
	39/Month	0.36	\$	168.48	
Current Cost per Year		\$	52,775.85		
Increased P	rocessing & P	ostage cost	\$	105,042.75	
-					
•	ojected annua				
		oy KCWA using			
Jetpay on monthly billing			61,478.00		
Increased cost for Monthly Billing		\$	166,520.75		