

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: CITY OF NEWPORT WATER DIVISION'S MULTI-YEAR RATE PLAN
COMPLIANCE FILING AND PETITION TO RECOVER ELECTRONIC PAYMENT
TRANSACTION FEES – DOCKET NOS. 4933 AND 5254

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws §39-3-11, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) hereby gives notice that it will conduct a hearing on **Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 9:30 A.M.** in Hearing Room A at the PUC's office located at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The purpose of this hearing is to take public comments on Newport Water Division's proposal to change rates. The hearing may continue thereafter as required. The hearing will be streamed live at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.

People interested in providing public comment at the meeting may participate in a Zoom meeting through the internet or by calling in, preferably 5-10 minutes prior to the hearing. To participate, click this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89222529439> and you will be given instructions to enter the meeting by internet. If you choose to participate by telephone, you may call 929-205-6099 and enter meeting number 892 2252 9439 followed by the # symbol when prompted. (The Zoom link will close at the expiration of the public comment period.) If you are not interested in providing public comment, please watch the live stream at the address in the first paragraph. You will be able to observe the hearing and hear others' public comment.

Following public comments, the PUC will proceed with examination on the following dockets:

Docket No. 4933 – In this docket, Newport Water filed to collect additional revenues in the amount of \$906,047 per year under the second step and final phase of the multi-year rate plan approved by the Commission in this docket. The revenues will support increased debt service for system-wide water main improvements.

Docket No. 5254 – In this docket, Newport Water filed new rates to recover costs associated with the payment of credit card, debit card and voice transaction fees (Electronic Payment Transaction Fees). Newport Water seeks to recover \$106,918.48 for Electronic Payment Fees incurred on behalf of customers from July 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022, and any fees incurred thereafter until the date of the Commission's decision in this docket. These costs were incurred as a result of Commission emergency orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic issued in Docket No. 5022 which prevented utilities from charging these fees. Additionally, Newport Water seeks to recover \$74,400 per year on a going forward basis to cover the payment of these fees on an annual basis.

The combined rate impact for a typical residential customer using 84,000 gallons of water annually, will result in an annual bill increase of \$52.08 or 5.6%. The impact on other users will vary depending on user classification meter size and consumption.

The proposals are available for examination at the Commission's office. The dockets can also be accessed at <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/4933page.html> and <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5254page.html>. Reference is also made to Chapters 42-35 and 39-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Public Utilities Commission is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Commission Clerk's office at 780-2107, seventy-two hours in advance of hearing.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
June 4, 2022