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June 22, 2023

By Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor (filing room)
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Columbia Water Company; 2023 General Base Rate Increase Filing; Docket
No. R-2023-3040258; **PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is Columbia Water Company's Prehearing Conference Memorandum in the above-captioned matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (717) 236-1300.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

Whitney E. Snyder
Thomas J. Sniscak
Phillip D. Demanchick Jr.

Counsel for Columbia Water Company

WES/das
Enclosure

cc: Honorable Mary D. Long (by email, malong@pa.gov)
Honorable Charece Z. Collins (by email, charcollin@pa.gov)
Per Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	Docket Nos.	R-2023-3040258
Office of Small Business Advocate	:		C-2023-3040567
Office of Consumer Advocate	:		C-2023-3040746
Sandra Shaub	:		C-2023-3041197
Vincent Collier III	:		C-2023-3041198
	:		
v.	:		
	:		
Columbia Water Company	:		

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
OF COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY**

TO THE HONORABLE MARY D. LONG AND HONORABLE CHARECE Z. COLLINS:

Pursuant to Your Honors’ June 15, 2023 Prehearing Conference Order and 52 Pa. Code § 5.222(d), Columbia Water Company (“Columbia Water” or “CWC”) submits this Prehearing Conference Memorandum.

I. HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDING

On April 28, 2023 Columbia Water filed Supplement No 121 to Tariff Water – PaPUC No. 7. Supplement No. 121 changes the schedule of rates for all customers in the Columbia and Marietta Rate Divisions to produce an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$999,900 based upon date for a Future Test Year ending December 31, 2023.

On May 9, 2023 the Office of Small Business Advocate filed a Notice of Appearance and Rate Case Complaint, Public Statement and Verification.

On May 17, 2023 the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a Notice of Appearance and Rate Case Complaint.

On May 17, 2023 the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement filed a Notice of Appearance.

On June 9, 2023 the Commission served Sandra E. Shaub's Formal Rate Complaint.

On June 9, 2023 the Commission served Vincent E. Collier III's Formal Rate Complaint.

On June 13, 2023 Columbia Water Company served Direct Testimony of David Lewis (CWC Statement No. 1), Gary Shambaugh (CWC Statement No. 2) and Dylan D'Ascendis (CWC Statement No 4).

On June 15, 2023, the Commission issued an order suspending Supplement No. 121 by operation of law until January 27, 2024.

On June 21, Columbia Water Company served Direct Testimony of David Fox (CWC Statement No. 3).

II. ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE

Counsel for Columbia Water Company consents to electronic service and proposes the parties agree to accept service of all documents by email by 4:30 PM as satisfying in-hand delivery. Service of documents in this proceeding shall be accepted on behalf of Columbia Water Company by:

Whitney E. Snyder, Attorney I.D. No. 316625
Thomas J. Sniscak, Attorney I.D. No. 33891
Phillip D. Demanchick Jr., Attorney I.D. No. 324761
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Counsel for Columbia Water Company requests that any electronic service list utilized by the parties in this proceeding include Whitney E. Snyder (wesnyder@hmslegal.com), Thomas J. Sniscak (tjsniscak@hmslegal.com) and Phillip D. Demanchick Jr.

pddemanchick@hmslegal.com). Columbia Water Company is willing to extend the same courtesy upon request of any other party for any e-mails or electronic service to the parties.

III. PRIMARY SPEAKER AND TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Whitney Snyder will be the primary speaker for Columbia Water Company and will be calling from phone number 717.503.2383.

IV. ISSUES AND WITNESSES

Below is a list of the witnesses and the areas of their testimony comprising Columbia Water's direct case in this proceeding. The subject matters listed below represent as complete a statement of issues that Columbia Water can provide at this stage of the proceeding. Further definition of contested issues by the parties will develop within the scope of the subject matters listed below during the course of the proceeding.

Columbia Water presently intends to offer the following witnesses to testify in the base rate proceeding on the following subject matters:

- Columbia Water Company St. No. 1, Direct Testimony of David T. Lewis - concerning Operations and Performance and Certain Going Level Adjustments
- Columbia Water Company St. No. 2, Direct Testimony of Gary Shambaugh - concerning Revenues, Expenses, Rate Base, and Appropriate Ratemaking Adjustments
- Columbia Water Company St. No. 3, Direct Testimony of David Fox - concerning Cost of Service and Rate Design
- Columbia Water Company St. No. 4, Direct Testimony of Dylan D'Ascendis - concerning Cost of Common Equity

Columbia Water reserves the right to present testimony, sponsored either by the witnesses listed above or by further witnesses, as may be needed, regarding additional issues and subject matters that may arise during this proceeding.

V. PROPOSED PLAN AND SCHEDULE OF DISCOVERY

To date, Columbia Water has been served with and has answered numerous interrogatories and requests for production of documents.

Proprietary information has been requested in discovery, and Columbia Water intends to timely submit an appropriate Motion for Protective Order.

The parties are continuing to work to reach agreement on discovery modifications. Columbia Water proposes the following discovery modifications:

A. Answers to interrogatories shall be served in-hand within best efforts for seven (7) calendar days and no later than ten (10) calendar days unless otherwise agreed to by the parties. Interrogatories served after 12:00 p.m. on a Friday or the day before a Commission holiday shall be deemed served on the next business day.

B. Objections to interrogatories to be communicated orally within three (3) calendar days of service; unresolved objections shall be served on the propounding party in writing within five (5) calendar days of service of interrogatories.

C. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories shall be filed within three (3) calendar days of service of written objections.

D. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories shall be filed within three (3) calendar days of service of such motions.

E. Rulings over such motions shall be issued, if possible within seven (7) calendar days of the filing of the motion.

F. Responses to requests for document production, entry for inspection, or other purposes to be served in-hand within ten (10) calendar days.

G. Requests for admission to be deemed admitted unless answered within seven (7) calendar days or objected to within five (five) calendar days of service.

H. Answers to on-the-record data requests will be served in-hand within three (3) calendar days of the request.

VI. SETTLEMENT

Columbia Water will actively seek to participate in settlement discussions with the other parties.

VII. PROPOSED LITIGATION SCHEDULE AND PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS

Columbia Water, I&E, OCA, and OSBA are continuing to work to reach agreement on a litigation schedule. The schedule that is currently under consideration by the parties is as follows:

Event	Columbia Water Rate
Other Parties Direct	August 1
Rebuttal	August 14
Surrebuttal	August 22
Written Rejoinder	August 25
Hearings (telephonic)	August 29
Main Brief	September 12
Reply Brief	September 21

The Company is proposing holding one telephonic public input hearing session beginning at 6:30 PM on one of the following dates: July 10, July 11, July 12, or July 13.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

Whitney E. Snyder, Attorney I.D. No. 316625
Thomas J. Sniscak, Attorney I.D. No. 33891
Phillip D. Demanchick Jr., Attorney I.D. No. 324761
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Counsel for Columbia Water Company

Dated: June 22, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY:

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Erin L. Gannon, Esquire
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/s/ Whitney E. Snyder

Whitney E. Snyder
Thomas J. Sniscak
Phillip D. Demanchick

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2023