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Pennsylvania Public      |
Utility Commission,     |
      v.                 | Docket No.:
Newtown Artesian        | R-2024-3050208 et al.
Water Company           |
                        |
In-Person Public Input  |
Hearing                 |
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Council Rock School District
Administration Building
(Chancellor Center)
30 North Chancellor Street
Newtown, PA

October 7, 2024
Commencing at 1:33 p.m.

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Docket No. R-2024-3050208 et al.

Hearing Date: October 7, 2024

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OSBA Introductory Remarks

Statement on Behalf of
Newtown Artesian Water Company
Regarding Its Request to Increase Rates for Water Service
PUC Docket No. R-2024-3050208

October 7, 2024 Public Input Hearing
1:00 PM (In Person)
6:00 PM (Telephonic)

Good Afternoon. My name is Courtney Schultz and I am an attorney at Saul Ewing LLP representing the Newtown Artesian Water Company in this proceeding.

Before I begin, I want to thank you for the opportunity to make an opening statement in support of the Company's requested rate increase. I also want to thank any members of the public who have taken the time to participate in this hearing today. We very much appreciate your participation, and we look forward to hearing your views. Public participation is vital to this process, and we truly appreciate your time and interest.

At issue in this proceeding is a request to increase rates for water service for the purpose of producing approximately \$922,419.00 in additional annual revenues. If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a residential customer with a 5/8-inch meter, using 12,000 gallons per quarter would increase from \$106.45 to \$121.23 per quarter or 13.9%. The specific impact of the Company's proposal on any individual customer will depend on the rate class, size of the meter or service line, and the volume of water used. All of the proposed rates are posted on the Company's website and were included in the public notice of proposed rate changes. I would encourage customers to consult the Company's website for detailed information about specific proposed rate impacts.

There are a number of factors driving this increase, but two factors are particularly significant. First, the Company has invested millions in upgrading, replacing and maintaining its water infrastructure – specifically, the tanks, pumps and pipes that deliver treated water to its

customers – since the last rate case in 2019. Second, the Company has also invested significant funds in the construction of a new treatment plant for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “PFAS” or “forever chemicals.” The only way for the Company to recover the costs of those investments is to file a base rate case and request an increase in rates.

In addition, the length of time that current base rates have been in effect is also driving this request – as base rates were last set in September 2019. Costs for labor, healthcare, and energy, among other things, have all increased in the last five years, and it is necessary that the rates charged to customers reflect the cost of providing water service to them.

I want to thank the stakeholders here, Judge Vero and the Commission for holding this public input hearing and the customers that participate in it. With me today to listen to your questions and concerns is Dan Angove, the Company’s CEO. Company representatives will also be available to follow up with you after the hearing as appropriate. We appreciate your time and interest, and we look forward to your comments. Thank you.

OCA PUBLIC INPUT HEARING INTRODUCTION - SCRIPT

My name is Christy Appleby and I'm with the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate or OCA. We are an independent state office under the Pennsylvania Attorney General and we represent the interests of utility consumers in matters before the Public Utility Commission. We are not a part of the PUC.

The OCA filed a Formal Complaint against NAWC's rate increases. The information that we get from customers at this public input hearing will also help us to develop our case. On October 10th, we will provide our written recommendations to the PUC explaining why we believe that the Company's request is too high. We will recommend to the Administrative Law Judges and to the PUC that the Company's rates be set as low as reasonably possible.

The purpose of today's hearing is to hear from members of the public, to hear your opinions and your concerns.

I encourage everyone who is interested in this matter to testify. I also encourage you to testify under oath so that your testimony becomes part of the record and we can rely on it in our arguments to the PUC. After you testify, I might ask you some questions to get more details. There is no wrong answer, and it is ok to say "I don't know."

Katie Kennedy is another OCA attorney working on the case. Both of us will be available after the hearing to answer any questions. Also, we have put some materials on the table in the back of the room with tips for participating in this hearing.

Thank you for coming this afternoon, and I look forward to hearing your comments.

Public Input Hearing Exhibit No. 3

Newtown Artesian Water Company

Docket No. R-2024-3050208

October 7, 2024/1pm

Good afternoon. My name is Sharon Webb and I am an attorney with the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”). The OSBA is an independent office created by the legislature to represent the interests of small commercial customers in matters such as this before the Public Utility Commission.

Our office has filed a Formal Complaint and we have an expert witness assisting with the economic analysis of the filing in preparation for finalizing OSBA’s position in this proceeding.

Public Input Hearings are an important part of the review process because it is where we learn directly from customers how the filing will impact their individual situations.

I encourage you to testify under oath so that we can consider specific customer impacts as we finalize our position in the proceeding.

I thank you all for coming. I look forward to your testimony.