



PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

DK. 4994

COMPLIANCE FILING

FOR SECOND STEP - RATE INCREASE

APRIL 30, 2021

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 20 2021

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED
Shawn Allen CLERK

PROVIDENCE WATER
Docket No. 4994 Compliance Filing

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April 30, 2021

The Honorable Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Chairperson Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step Rate Increase

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Xaykham Khamsyvoravong
Chairperson

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Member

Dr. Alma M. Guerrero Bready
Member

Carissa R. Richard
Secretary

William E. O'Gara, Esq.
Legal Advisor

Dear Chairperson Gerwatowski:

The Providence Water Supply Board (Providence Water) files this compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the Commission in Docket 4994 and pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §39-15.1-4. The second (2nd) step is designed to collect additional revenues of \$4,310,146, representing an overall increase of 5.5%, effective July 1, 2021. We have included pre-filed testimony.

Providence Water has complied with all requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and R.I.G.L. §39-15.1-4. As required under R.I.G.L. §39-3-12.1 we are providing a copy of this filing to the following:

City Clerk - Providence
City Clerk - Cranston
Town Clerk - North Providence
Town Clerk - Johnston
Town Clerk - Lincoln
Town Clerk - Smithfield
Kent County Water Authority
Warwick Water Department
Greenville Water District
Bristol County Water Authority
Lincoln Water Commission
East Providence Water Department
Smithfield Water Department

MEMBER

Rhode Island Water Works Assn.
New England Water Works Assn.
American Water Works Assn.
Water Research Foundation

An EPA WaterSense Partner

(401) 521-6300

125 Dupont Drive
Providence, RI 02907

www.provwater.com

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facebook.com/Providencewater

Copies of this compliance filing have been sent to the Commission Clerk. Electronic copies have been sent to the service list in Docket No. 4994. Copies have also been provided to the Rhode Island Water Resources Board and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. Fire Chiefs will be notified by mail of the potential effect this filing may have on their rate.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD DOCKET NO. 4994
 MULTI-YEAR RATE PLAN

Notice of Multi-Year Rate Plan Compliance Filing

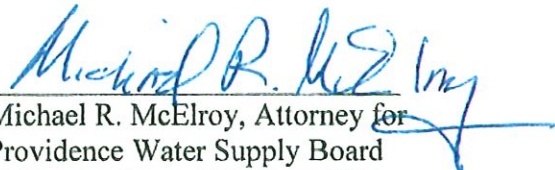
Pursuant to R.I. General Laws §39-15.1-4 and the Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission's") Report and Order No. 23928 in Docket 4994 (issued on October 20, 2020), the Providence Water Supply Board provides notice of its compliance filing to implement the second (2nd) step of a change in rates in accordance with the multi-year rate plan approved by the Commission in this docket.

This second (2nd) step rate increase is proposed to take effect on July 1, 2021. The proposed rates are designed to collect an additional \$4,310,146 in revenue to support Providence Water's total cost of service of \$89,309,453. In support of this proposed change in rates, Providence Water states as follows:

1. Providence Water Supply Board is a Board authorized by the City Charter of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, with its principal place of business at 125 Dupont Drive, Providence, Rhode Island.
2. Providence Water has filed its proposed tariffs to implement this second (2nd) step rate increase to become effective on July 1, 2021, or "effective sixty (60) days after the notice to the Commission and the Division, unless the Commission shall decide that the proposed rate increase may be unreasonable or inconsistent with the approved plan, in which case the Commission shall hold a hearing on the proposed rate increase and may approve, or reasonably amend the proposed rate increase." R.I.G.L. §39-15.1-4.
3. Correspondence for Providence Water in this General rate filing should be addressed to Mr. Ricky Caruolo, General Manager, Providence Water Supply Board, 125 Dupont Drive, Providence R.I. 02907, and to Mr. Michael R. McElroy, Esq., P.O. Box 6721, Providence, RI 02940-6721.

Providence Water Supply Board,
By its Attorney,

Dated: April 30, 2021


Michael R. McElroy, Attorney for
Providence Water Supply Board
21 Dryden Lane, P.O. Box 6721
Providence, RI 02940-6721
401-351-4100
401-421-5696 (fax)
Michael@McElroylawoffice.com

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true copy of the within was hand-delivered to the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, RI 02888 mailed via first-class mail to the Department of Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 and served on the service list in PUC Docket No. 4994 on the 30th day of April, 2021.



Mary L. Deignan-White,
Providence Water Supply Board

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD
Docket No. 4994

**NOTICE OF FILING AND CHANGE IN RATES AND SCHEDULES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE APPROVED MULTI-YEAR RATE PLAN**

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws (R.I.G.L) §39-15.1-4 and the Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission's") Report and Order No. 23928 in Docket 4994 (issued on October 20, 2020), the Providence Water Supply Board provides Notice of its compliance filing to implement the second step of a change in rates in accordance with the multi-year rate plan approved by the Commission in this docket.

In this compliance filing, the Providence Water Supply Board seeks to implement the previously approved second (2nd) step rate increase of the multi-year rate plan approved by the Commission pursuant to R.I.G. L §39-15.1-4. The second step rate increase is proposed to take effect on July 1, 2021. The impact on a residential customer with an annual consumption of 100 HCF will be an increase of \$2.23 per month, or 5.5%, from \$40.51 to \$42.74. For Providence residents, the Fire Protection Service Charge for a 5/8" meter will also increase by \$.10 per month. The rate impact on other retail, wholesale, and fire service customers will vary based on customer class and consumption levels. The proposed rates are designed to collect an additional \$4,310,146 in revenue to support Providence Water's total cost of service of \$89,309,453

While the new rates requested under the second (2nd) step increase are proposed to become effective July 1, 2021, no rate change will take effect until the Commission has conducted a review of the petition. If hearings are necessary, the Commission will publish a notice of the hearing dates when they are scheduled.

A copy of the filing was provided to the Cities of Providence and Cranston; the Towns of North Providence, Johnston, Lincoln, and Smithfield; the Kent County Water Authority, Greenville Water District, Bristol County Water Authority, Lincoln Water Commission, Warwick Water Department, East Providence Water Department and Smithfield Water.

A copy of the application is on file at Providence Water's office at 125 Dupont Drive, Providence, Rhode Island, and at the Commission's office, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island, and may be reviewed by the public during regular business hours.

Correspondence for Providence Water in this rate filing should be addressed to Mr. Ricky Caruolo, General Manager, Providence Water Supply Board, 125 Dupont Drive, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907 and to Mr. Michael R. McElroy, Esq., Post Office Box 6721, Providence, Rhode Island, 02940-6721.

SCHEDULE A

Providence Water Supply Board Service Charges Retail

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: August 27, 2020

Applicability

Applicable to all metered customers for industrial, commercial, and residential use, exclusive of fire service connection, in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each service connected to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following customer service charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
5/8"	\$9.92
3/4	10.57
1	12.47
1 1/2	15.00
2	21.99
3	73.49
4	92.57
6	137.07
8	187.92
10	234.01
12	280.10

However, for each Providence Water service connected in the City of Providence the following additional Fire Protection service charge shall apply to Providence ratepayers:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
5/8"	\$1.82
3/4	2.72
1	6.76
1 1/2	18.03
2	43.25
3	117.11
4	198.18
6	405.37
8	612.56
10	936.86
12	1,549.41

Terms of Payment All customer service charges are billed monthly and are due and payable when rendered. Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

SCHEDULE B

Providence Water Supply Board Metered Sales Retail

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: January 31, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all general metered water service in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For all quantities used, except for bulk sales to public authorities for resale, the following rates per HCF shall apply:

Monthly Accounts

Residential	\$3.671
Commercial	\$3.847
Industrial	\$3.498

East Smithfield Water District

Applicable to the former customers of the East Smithfield Water District, the following Debt Service Surcharge will apply:

East Smithfield Surcharge \$0.35 per HCF

Town of Johnston Water System

Applicable to the former customers of the Town of Johnston Water System, the following Annexation fee will apply:

Johnston Water System Annexation fee \$0.34 per HCF

Terms of Payment

All metered sales bills are rendered in arrears monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

SCHEDULE C

Providence Water Supply Board Bulk Sales to Public Authorities for Resale

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: January 31, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all public authorities in the Providence Water Supply Board service area purchasing water for resale.

Rates-Volume Charge

Bristol County Water Authority

\$ 2,104.17 per million gallons, or

\$1.573918 per HCF

East Providence

\$2,151.12 per million gallons, or

\$1.609038 per HCF

Greenville

\$2,208.41 per million gallons, or

\$1.651888 per HCF

Kent County

\$2,101.03 per million gallons, or

\$1.571574 per HCF

Lincoln

\$2,170.79 per million gallons, or

\$1.623754 per HCF

Smithfield

\$2,218.24 per million gallons, or

\$1.659247 per HCF

Warwick

\$2,257.20 per million gallons, or

\$1.688386 per HCF

Johnston

\$1,805.96 per million gallons, or

\$1.350858 per HCF

Note: This is the rate was determined in Docket 4618. It will remain in effect until Providence Water acquires the Johnston Water System. In the event that the acquisition does not occur, Providence Water shall calculate an individual wholesale rate consistent with the approach required by the Public Utilities Commission for the calculation of individual wholesale rates in Docket 4994.

Terms of Payment

All bills for bulk sales are rendered monthly in arrears and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

SCHEDULE D

Providence Water Supply Board Public Fire Protection

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: August 27, 2020

Applicability

Applicable to all service to public fire hydrants in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each hydrant Annual Amount: \$595.68
For each hydrant billed Quarterly: \$148.92

For each hydrant in Providence, as allowed by statute: \$0

Terms of Payment

All bills for public fire service are rendered quarterly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

SCHEDULE E

Providence Water Supply Board Private Fire Service

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: August 27, 2020

Applicability

Applicable for service to private fire protection appliances owned and maintained by the customer in the Providence Water Supply service area.

Rates

For each fire service connection to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
$\frac{3}{4}$	\$11.34
1	13.40
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	16.50
2	24.46
4	104.53
6	170.42
8	258.11
10	359.57
12	482.35
16	753.22

Terms of Payment

All bills for private fire services are rendered monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

**SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
(effective August 27, 2020)
page 1 of 2**

NOTE: All applicants must complete financial arrangements prior to services being rendered. Applicants are responsible for obtaining and paying for all permits and any additional fees.

SERVICE	FEE
PHOTOCOPYING	
Distribution Sheet	\$ 3.00/copy
Letter or Legal Size Document	\$.15/copy
LIEN CERTIFICATE	\$ 6.00
RETURNED CHECK FEE	\$ 20.00
PLAN CHECKING/WATER AVAILABILITY REVIEW	\$ 57.00/hour
EASEMENT/ABANDONMENT REQUEST	\$ 50.00/hour
FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TEST	\$ 118.00
NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - BASIC	
1" Water Service	\$1,673.00
1 ½" Water Service	2,596.00
2" Water Service	2,931.00
4" Water Service	3,700.00
6" Water Service	3,998.00

NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

All services greater than 6" will be installed and charged on a time and materials basis, consistent with the methodology used in computing the above service charges. **Notwithstanding the above schedule**, any sites where special circumstances may be encountered (ie. ledge, special fittings, routing around other utilities) will also be charged on a time and materials basis. The average time rate for all manpower and equipment (including overhead) averages approximately \$400/hr.

PAVEMENT/SIDEWALK RESTORATION CHARGES

Applicants are responsible for all *actual* road and/or sidewalk restoration charges, as the charge varies with the size of the excavation and the pavement thickness. For illustrative purposes, on average, the charge is approximately \$300 for pavement restoration and \$75 for sidewalk restoration.

SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
(effective August 27, 2020)
page 1 of 2

SERVICE	FEE
POLICE DETAILS	
If the work being performed presents a safety hazard and it is necessary to employ police details for traffic control, the applicant will be responsible for such costs at the then-current rate of the respective Town or City.	
NEW WATER METER INSTALLATION - INCLUDING ERT	
5/8" Meter	\$ 184.00
3/4" Meter	230.00
1" Meter	266.00
1 1/2" Meter	457.00
2" Meter	545.00
All meters greater than 2" will be charged on an actual time and materials basis.	
NEW ERT - ALL METER SIZES	\$ 70.00
(Applies only to existing ERT's that are lost, stolen, or damaged by customers. There is no charge to retro-fit an existing meter to AMR technology.)	
SERVICE SHUTOFF FEE	\$ 64.00
SERVICE RESTORATION FEE	\$ 43.00
SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR SERVICES NOT LISTED ABOVE THAT DO NOT BENEFIT ALL CUSTOMERS	Billed at actual Cost plus overhead Rates in effect

REDLINED

PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD TARIFF

Replaces Tariff
~~February 17, 2017~~
August 27, 2020/January 31, 2021

Effective: ~~August 27, 2020~~
July 1, 2021

RI Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

TARIFF SCHEDULES

Schedule

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | Service Charges – Retail |
| B | Metered Sales – Retail |
| C | Bulk Sales to Public Authorities for Resale |
| D | Public Fire Protection |
| E | Private Fire Service |
| F | Miscellaneous Charges |

REDLINED

SCHEDULE A

Providence Water Supply Board Service Charges Retail

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: ~~August 27, 2020~~
July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all metered customers for industrial, commercial, and residential use, exclusive of fire service connection, in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each service connected to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following customer service charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	
5/8"	\$9.92	\$10.47
3/4	10.57	11.15
1	12.47	13.16
1 1/2	15.00	15.82
2	21.99	23.20
3	73.49	77.53
4	92.57	97.66
6	137.07	144.60
8	187.92	198.25
10	234.01	246.87
12	280.10	295.50

However, for each Providence Water service connected in the City of Providence the following additional Fire Protection service charge shall apply to Providence ratepayers:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	
5/8"	\$1.82	\$1.92
3/4	2.72	2.87
1	6.76	7.13
1 1/2	18.03	19.02
2	43.25	45.63
3	117.11	123.55
4	198.18	209.07
6	405.37	427.65
8	612.56	646.23
10	936.86	988.36
12	1,549.41	1,634.58

Terms of Payment All customer service charges are billed monthly and are due and payable when rendered. Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

REDLINED

SCHEDULE B

Providence Water Supply Board Metered Sales Retail

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: ~~January 31, 2021~~
July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all general metered water service in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For all quantities used, except for bulk sales to public authorities for resale, the following rates per HCF shall apply:

Monthly Accounts

Residential	\$3.674 \$3.87
Commercial	\$3.847 \$4.06
Industrial	\$3.498 \$3.69

East Smithfield Water District

Applicable to the former customers of the East Smithfield Water District, the following Debt Service Surcharge will apply:

East Smithfield Surcharge \$0.35 per HCF

Town of Johnston Water System

Applicable to the former customers of the Town of Johnston Water System, the following Annexation fee will apply:

Johnston Water System Annexation fee \$0.34 per HCF

Terms of Payment

All metered sales bills are rendered in arrears monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

SCHEDULE C

**Providence Water Supply Board
Bulk Sales to Public Authorities for Resale**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: ~~January 31, 2021~~
July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all public authorities in the Providence Water Supply Board service area purchasing water for resale.

Rates-Volume Charge

Bristol County Water Authority	
\$2,104.17 per million gallons, or	\$2,188.72 per million gallons, or
\$1.573918 per HCF	\$1.637161 per HCF
East Providence	
\$2,151.12 per million gallons, or	\$2,237.56 per million gallons, or
\$1.609038 per HCF	\$1.673692 per HCF
Greenville	
\$2,208.41 per million gallons, or	\$2,297.14 per million gallons, or
\$1.651888 per HCF	\$1.718264 per HCF
Kent County	
\$2,101.03 per million gallons, or	\$2,185.46 per million gallons, or
\$1.571574 per HCF	\$1.634723 per HCF
Lincoln	
\$2,170.79 per million gallons, or	\$2,258.02 per million gallons, or
\$1.623754 per HCF	\$1.688999 per HCF
Smithfield	
\$2,218.24 per million gallons, or	\$2,307.38 per million gallons, or
\$1.659247 per HCF	\$1.725918 per HCF
Warwick	
\$2,257.20 per million gallons, or	\$2,347.90 per million gallons, or
\$1.688386 per HCF	\$1.756228 per HCF
Johnston	
\$1,805.96 per million gallons, or	
\$1.350858 per HCF	

Note: This is the rate was determined in Docket 4618. It will remain in effect until Providence Water acquires the Johnston Water System. In the event that the acquisition does not occur, Providence Water shall calculate an individual wholesale rate consistent with the approach required by the Public Utilities Commission for the calculation of individual wholesale rates in Docket 4994.

Terms of Payment

All bills for bulk sales are rendered monthly in arrears and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

REDLINED

SCHEDULE D

Providence Water Supply Board Public Fire Protection

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: ~~August 27, 2020~~
July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all service to public fire hydrants in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each hydrant Annual Amount:	\$595.68	\$628.42
For each hydrant billed Quarterly:	\$148.92	\$157.11

For each hydrant in Providence, as allowed by statute: \$0

Terms of Payment

All bills for public fire service are rendered quarterly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

REDLINED

SCHEDULE E

Providence Water Supply Board Private Fire Service

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: ~~August 27, 2020~~
July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable for service to private fire protection appliances owned and maintained by the customer in the Providence Water Supply service area.

Rates

For each fire service connection to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	
¾	\$11.34	\$11.96
1	13.40	14.14
1 ½	16.50	17.41
2	24.46	25.80
4	104.53	110.28
6	170.42	179.79
8	258.11	272.30
10	359.57	379.34
12	482.35	508.87
16	753.22	794.62

Terms of Payment

All bills for private fire services are rendered monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

**SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
(effective August 27, 2020 July 1, 2021)
page 1 of 2**

NOTE: All applicants must complete financial arrangements prior to services being rendered. Applicants are responsible for obtaining and paying for all permits and any additional fees.

SERVICE	FEE
PHOTOCOPYING	
Distribution Sheet	\$ 3.00/copy
Letter or Legal Size Document	\$.15/copy
LIEN CERTIFICATE	\$ 6.00
RETURNED CHECK FEE	\$ 20.00
PLAN CHECKING/WATER AVAILABILITY REVIEW	\$ 57.00/hour
EASEMENT/ABANDONMENT REQUEST	\$ 50.00/hour
FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TEST	\$ 118.00
NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - BASIC	
1" Water Service	\$1,673.00
1 ½" Water Service	2,596.00
2" Water Service	2,931.00
4" Water Service	3,700.00
6" Water Service	3,998.00

NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

All services greater than 6" will be installed and charged on a time and materials basis, consistent with the methodology used in computing the above service charges. **Notwithstanding the above schedule**, any sites where special circumstances may be encountered (ie. ledge, special fittings, routing around other utilities) will also be charged on a time and materials basis. The average time rate for all manpower and equipment (including overhead) averages approximately \$400/hr.

PAVEMENT/SIDEWALK RESTORATION CHARGES

Applicants are responsible for all *actual* road and/or sidewalk restoration charges, as the charge varies with the size of the excavation and the pavement thickness. For illustrative purposes, on average, the charge is approximately \$300 for pavement restoration and \$75 for sidewalk restoration.

REDLINED

**SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE**
(effective ~~August 27, 2020~~ **July 1, 2021**)
page 1 of 2

SERVICE	FEE
POLICE DETAILS	
If the work being performed presents a safety hazard and it is necessary to employ police details for traffic control, the applicant will be responsible for such costs at the then-current rate of the respective Town or City.	
NEW WATER METER INSTALLATION - INCLUDING ERT	
5/8" Meter	\$ 184.00
3/4" Meter	230.00
1" Meter	266.00
1 1/2" Meter	457.00
2" Meter	545.00
All meters greater than 2" will be charged on an actual time and materials basis.	
NEW ERT - ALL METER SIZES	\$ 70.00
(Applies only to existing ERT's that are lost, stolen, or damaged by customers. There is no charge to retro-fit an existing meter to AMR technology.)	
SERVICE SHUTOFF FEE	\$ 64.00
SERVICE RESTORATION FEE	\$ 43.00
SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR SERVICES NOT LISTED ABOVE THAT DO NOT BENEFIT ALL CUSTOMERS	Billed at actual Cost plus overhead Rates in effect

PROPOSED

PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD TARIFF

Replaces Tariff
August 27, 2020/January 31, 2021

Effective: July 1, 2021

RI Public Utilities Commission Docket No. **4994**

TARIFF SCHEDULES

Schedule

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | Service Charges – Retail |
| B | Metered Sales – Retail |
| C | Bulk Sales to Public Authorities for Resale |
| D | Public Fire Protection |
| E | Private Fire Service |
| F | Miscellaneous Charges |

PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD TARIFF

Replaces Tariff
February 17, 2017

Effective: August 27, 2020

RI Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

TARIFF SCHEDULES

Schedule

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | Service Charges – Retail |
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| D | Public Fire Protection |
| E | Private Fire Service |
| F | Miscellaneous Charges |

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE A

**Providence Water Supply Board
Service Charges
Retail**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all metered customers for industrial, commercial, and residential use, exclusive of fire service connection, in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each service connected to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following customer service charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
5/8"	\$10.47
3/4	11.15
1	13.16
1 1/2	15.82
2	23.20
3	77.53
4	97.66
6	144.60
8	198.25
10	246.87
12	295.50

However, for each Providence Water service connected in the City of Providence the following additional Fire Protection service charge shall apply to Providence ratepayers:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
5/8"	\$1.92
3/4	2.87
1	7.13
1 1/2	19.02
2	45.63
3	123.55
4	209.07
6	427.65
8	646.23
10	988.36
12	1,634.58

Terms of Payment All customer service charges are billed monthly and are due and payable when rendered. Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE B

**Providence Water Supply Board
Metered Sales
Retail**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all general metered water service in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For all quantities used, except for bulk sales to public authorities for resale, the following rates per HCF shall apply:

Monthly Accounts

Residential	\$3.87
Commercial	\$4.06
Industrial	\$3.69

East Smithfield Water District

Applicable to the former customers of the East Smithfield Water District, the following Debt Service Surcharge will apply:

East Smithfield Surcharge \$0.35 per HCF

Town of Johnston Water System

Applicable to the former customers of the Town of Johnston Water System, the following Annexation fee will apply:

Johnston Water System Annexation fee \$0.34 per HCF

Terms of Payment

All metered sales bills are rendered in arrears monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE C

**Providence Water Supply Board
Bulk Sales to Public Authorities for Resale**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all public authorities in the Providence Water Supply Board service area purchasing water for resale.

Rates-Volume Charge

Bristol County Water Authority

\$2,188.72 per million gallons, or

\$1.637161 per HCF

East Providence

\$2,237.56 per million gallons, or

\$1.673692 per HCF

Greenville

\$2,297.14 per million gallons, or

\$1.718264 per HCF

Kent County

\$2,185.46 per million gallons, or

\$1.634723 per HCF

Lincoln

\$2,258.02 per million gallons, or

\$1.688999 per HCF

Smithfield

\$2,307.38 per million gallons, or

\$1.725918 per HCF

Warwick

\$2,347.90 per million gallons, or

\$1.756228 per HCF

Terms of Payment

All bills for bulk sales are rendered monthly in arrears and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE D

**Providence Water Supply Board
Public Fire Protection**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable to all service to public fire hydrants in the Providence Water Supply Board service area.

Rates

For each hydrant Annual Amount: \$628.42
For each hydrant billed Quarterly: \$157.11

For each hydrant in Providence, as allowed by statute: \$0

Terms of Payment

All bills for public fire service are rendered quarterly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE E

**Providence Water Supply Board
Private Fire Service**

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 4994

Effective: July 1, 2021

Applicability

Applicable for service to private fire protection appliances owned and maintained by the customer in the Providence Water Supply service area.

Rates

For each fire service connection to the Providence Water Supply Board mains, the following charges shall apply:

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
¾	\$11.96
1	14.14
1 ½	17.41
2	25.80
4	110.28
6	179.79
8	272.30
10	379.34
12	508.87
16	794.62

Terms of Payment

All bills for private fire services are rendered monthly and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Interest at a rate of 1% per month will be charged on unpaid account balances over 30 days from the due date.

**SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
(effective July 1, 2021)
page 1 of 2**

NOTE: All applicants must complete financial arrangements prior to services being rendered. Applicants are responsible for obtaining and paying for all permits and any additional fees.

SERVICE	FEE
PHOTOCOPYING	
Distribution Sheet	\$ 3.00/copy
Letter or Legal Size Document	\$.15/copy
LIEN CERTIFICATE	\$ 6.00
RETURNED CHECK FEE	\$ 20.00
PLAN CHECKING/WATER AVAILABILITY REVIEW	\$ 57.00/hour
EASEMENT/ABANDONMENT REQUEST	\$ 50.00/hour
FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TEST	\$ 118.00
NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - BASIC	
1" Water Service	\$1,673.00
1 ½" Water Service	2,596.00
2" Water Service	2,931.00
4" Water Service	3,700.00
6" Water Service	3,998.00

NEW WATER SERVICE INSTALLATION - SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

All services greater than 6" will be installed and charged on a time and materials basis, consistent with the methodology used in computing the above service charges. **Notwithstanding the above schedule**, any sites where special circumstances may be encountered (ie. ledge, special fittings, routing around other utilities) will also be charged on a time and materials basis. The average time rate for all manpower and equipment (including overhead) averages approximately \$400/hr.

PAVEMENT/SIDEWALK RESTORATION CHARGES

Applicants are responsible for all *actual* road and/or sidewalk restoration charges, as the charge varies with the size of the excavation and the pavement thickness. For illustrative purposes, on average, the charge is approximately \$300 for pavement restoration and \$75 for sidewalk restoration.

PROPOSED

SCHEDULE F
PROVIDENCE WATER
TERMS & CONDITIONS
SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
(effective July 1, 2021)
page 1 of 2

SERVICE	FEE
POLICE DETAILS	
If the work being performed presents a safety hazard and it is necessary to employ police details for traffic control, the applicant will be responsible for such costs at the then-current rate of the respective Town or City.	
NEW WATER METER INSTALLATION - INCLUDING ERT	
5/8" Meter	\$ 184.00
3/4" Meter	230.00
1" Meter	266.00
1 1/2" Meter	457.00
2" Meter	545.00
All meters greater than 2" will be charged on an actual time and materials basis.	
NEW ERT - ALL METER SIZES	\$ 70.00
(Applies only to existing ERT's that are lost, stolen, or damaged by customers. There is no charge to retro-fit an existing meter to AMR technology.)	
SERVICE SHUTOFF FEE	\$ 64.00
SERVICE RESTORATION FEE	\$ 43.00
SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR SERVICES NOT LISTED ABOVE THAT DO NOT BENEFIT ALL CUSTOMERS	Billed at actual Cost plus overhead Rates in effect



PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

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Steve Coutu,
Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Bristol County Water Authority
450 Child Street
Warren, RI 02885

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Coutu:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed new rate for each individual wholesaler will increase 4.02% over the current rate. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

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General Manager

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Lewis Prescott, Superintendent
Lincoln Water Commission
96 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Prescott:

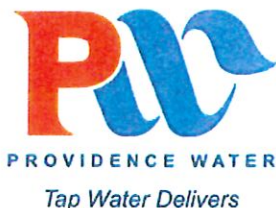
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Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

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James Marvel, Water Superintendent
East Providence Water
60 Commercial Way
East Providence, RI 02914

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Marvel:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed new rate for each individual wholesaler will increase 4.02% over the current rate. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
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Ricky Caruolo
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City Clerk
City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, RI 02903

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RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Sir or Madam:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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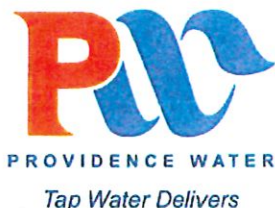
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Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
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Ricky Caruolo
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City of Cranston
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

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RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Sir or Madam:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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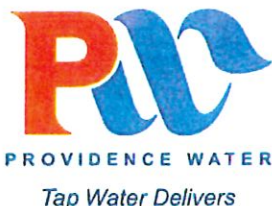
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Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
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Ricky Caruolo
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Town Clerk
Town of North Providence
2000 Smith Street
North Providence, RI 02911

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RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

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Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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April 30, 2021

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Town Clerk
Town of Johnston
1385 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Sir or Madam:

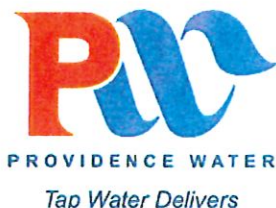
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Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
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Town of Lincoln
100 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865

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Legal Advisor

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

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Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

MEMBER

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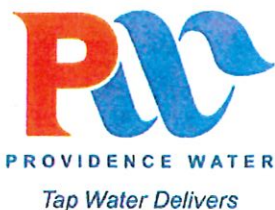
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April 30, 2021

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Town Clerk
Town of Smithfield
64 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917

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Legal Advisor

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Sir or Madam:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
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Gene Allen, Water Commissioner
Smithfield Water Supply Board
64 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

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William E. O'Gara, Esq.
Legal Advisor

Dear Mr. Allen:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed new rate for each individual wholesaler will increase 4.02% over the current rate. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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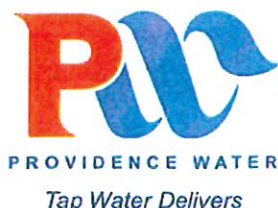
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By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

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Ms. Kathleen Crawley, Acting General Manager
RI Water Resources Board
235 Promenade Street, Suite 230
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Crawley:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

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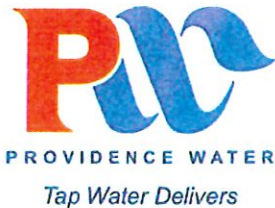
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By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

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Mr. Peter F. Neronha, Esq.
Attorney General
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Neronha:

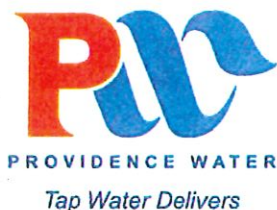
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Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

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David L. Simmons, P.E.
Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Kent County Water Authority
P.O. Box 192
West Warwick, RI 02893

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Simmons:

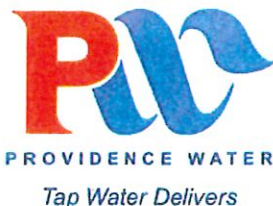
Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed new rate for each individual wholesaler will increase 4.02% over the current rate. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

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David M. Powers, Jr.
District Superintendent
Greenville Water District
P.O. Box 595
Greenville, RI 02828

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Powers:

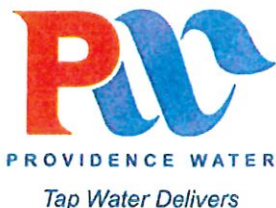
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Providence, RI 02907

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Terry DiPetrillo, Division Chief
City of Warwick Water Division
935 Sandy Lane
Warwick, RI 02889

RE: Dk 4994- Providence Water Supply Board – Compliance Filing for Second (2nd)
Step-Rate Increase

Dear Mr. DiPetrillo:

Providence Water has filed a compliance filing seeking approval to implement the second (2nd) step of the rate increases approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission in the above docket. The proposed new rate for each individual wholesaler will increase 4.02% over the current rate. The proposed effective date of this rate increase is July 1, 2021.

Respectfully,

Providence Water Supply Board
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Mary L. Deignan-White

By: Mary L. Deignan-White
Division Manager – Regulatory

Prefiled Direct Testimony
of
RICKY CARUOLO
before the
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
for
PROVIDENCE WATER
DOCKET No. 4994
Step 2 Compliance

April 30, 2021

1 **Q. Please state your full name and title.**

2 A. Ricky Caruolo, General Manager of the Providence Water Supply Board (Providence Water)

3 **Q. How long have you been employed at Providence Water?**

4 A. I have been employed at Providence Water for more than 26 years. I was appointed General
5 Manager on June 11, 2014.

6 **Q. Please describe your education and work experience.**

7 A. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in
8 Finance and a Bachelor of Science in Management. I also graduated from Providence
9 College in 1994 with a Master of Business Administration. As an employee of Providence
10 Water, I have held various management positions in the finance department, commercial
11 services department and in executive management.

12 **Q. What are your duties and responsibilities?**

13 A. I am responsible for managing the operations of a public water supply system that serves
14 more than 600,000 people. I provide administrative, financial and supervisory oversight of
15 all divisions within the organization.

16 **Q. Do you belong to any professional organizations or committees?**

17 A. Yes. I belong to the American Water Works Association, the New England Water Works
18 Association and the Rhode Island Water Works Association.

19 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

20 A. To provide an update to the Commission on Providence Water's personnel expense and
21 current recruitment of vacant positions.

22

1 **Q. What is Providence Water's personnel expense for FY 2021 through March 31st?**

2 **A. Providence Water's current personnel expense is \$10,094,975 as of March 31st.**

3 **Q. What is the forecasted personnel expense for FY 2021 and how was it calculated?**

4 **A. The forecasted personnel expense is \$14,172,335. I added the actual payroll expense through**
5 **March 31st to the actual payroll expense for the months of April, May and June of 2019 and**
6 **then added the forecasted Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) expense for FY 2021. Please**
7 **see below**

8 $\$10,094,875 + \$1,081,585 + \$1,731,547 + \$1,135,140 + 129,188 = \$14,172,335$

9 **Q. Why did you use the 2019 figures as opposed to the 2020 figures for the remaining**
10 **months?**

11 **A. I felt that the 2019 figures would be the best representation for our future spending through**
12 **the remainder of the fiscal year because they were pre COVID as opposed to the 2020**
13 **figures.**

14 **Q. Who will receive the COLA and why is it being added now?**

15 **A. The COLA was negotiated by Local 1033 for their bargaining unit members and the city**
16 **typically applies it to all eligible management employees as well. Due to COVID, the city**
17 **suspended the COLA for management employees only. However, I have recently learned**
18 **that the city will now be applying the COLA to all eligible management employees**
19 **retroactively for FY2021.**

20

1

2 **Q. What is the difference between the approved payroll expense authorized by the**
3 **Commission and Providence Water's forecasted payroll expense for FY2021?**

4 A. $\$16,250,923 - \$14,172,335 = \$2,078,588$ (difference)

5 **Q. Is there an explanation for the difference?**

6 A. Yes. COVID has disrupted Providence Water's normal operations and we continue to feel
7 the effects today. However we are very close to returning to our normal operations as it
8 relates to revenues and expenses.

9 **Q. Can you provide specific examples that have impacted the payroll expense?**

10 A. Yes.

11 (1) Workshare Program

12 (2) City Early Retirement Incentive

13 (3) Cancellation of Remote Working (telecommuting).

14 **Q. What is the Workshare Program?**

15 A. The city and Local 1033 negotiated the implementation of a Workshare Program during
16 COVID which allowed eligible employees to work a portion of the work week and collect
17 unemployment benefits on the days that they did not work without losing their job. In
18 addition, the participating employees would also receive the Coronavirus Aid Relief and
19 Economic Security Benefit known as the CARES Benefit.

1 For example, employees that were deemed eligible worked a 3-day work week based on their
2 salary and collected unemployment for the other 2 days. Other eligible employees worked a
3 4-day work week based on their salary and collected unemployment for 1 day. Ultimately,
4 the employee's part time salary, unemployment benefits and the CARES Benefit resulted in
5 the employee receiving more money working part time than they would have received
6 working full time. As a result, the program reduced payroll expense.

7 **Q. What was the monetary value of the CARES Benefit?**

8 \$600 per week from 6/15 through 7/20

9 \$300 per week from 7/27 through 8/31

10 **Q. Did all Providence Water employees participate in the program, and how long did they**
11 **participate?**

12 A. No. Approximately 95 employees (65 bargaining unit and 30 management) participated in
13 the program from June 15, 2020 through September 5, 2020.

14 **Q. Did the Workshare Program end on September 5, 2020 for all city employees?**

15 A. No. The City of Providence eligible employees continued to participate in the Workshare
16 Program through January 15, 2021.

17 **Q. Why didn't Providence Water continue to participate from September 5, 2020, through**
18 **January 15, 2021?**

19 A. The Workshare Program did not prove to be advantageous for Providence Water on a long-
20 term basis. Executive management and senior management had numerous discussions

1 regarding the time and effort it took to manage the program. It was determined that the
2 Workshare Program was having a negative impact on our operations.

3 Providence Water's facilities are recognized by the Department of Homeland and Security as
4 critical infrastructure which carries a considerable amount of responsibility. We had
5 numerous security and operational concerns and determined that it was in the best interest of
6 our rate payers for Providence Water to stop participating. Therefore, we made a decision to
7 stop participation in the Workshare Program when the City and Local 1033 negotiated the
8 extension. Providence Water has ordered all employees to report back to work on a full time
9 basis in order to better serve our rate payers.

10 **Q. Did the city sponsored Early Retirement Incentive also impact Providence Water?**

11 A. Yes. The city sponsored early retirement incentive also had an impact on Providence Water.
12 For example, two bargaining unit employees decided to take the incentive and they retired
13 abruptly.

14 **Q. Has the city cancelled telecommuting (remote working)?**

15 A. No. Most white-collar city employees are still working remotely on a part time basis.
16 However, Providence Water determined that we needed our workforce to report in person in
17 order to improve our operations. We were able to have our employees report to work in
18 conjunction with the RIDOH COVID guidelines. The Providence Central Operations
19 Facility and the Scituate purification plant both allow us to socially distance and we have
20 implemented other safety precautions in order to accommodate a safe return for all
21 employees.

1 **Q. When did Providence Water return to work on a full- time basis?**

2 **A. As of March 29, 2021, all Providence Water employees reported to work for their standard**
3 working shift.

4 **Q. Did the decision to return to work in person have a negative impact on your payroll**
5 **expense?**

6 **A. Yes. There were several employees that did not want to report to work in person and they**
7 made formal requests to telecommute due to COVID. Regular telecommuting is no longer
8 available at Providence Water and the telecommuting requests were denied. The denials lead
9 to several unforeseen retirements and resignations.

10 **Q. How many employees have retired or resigned since July 1, 2020?**

11 **A. Nine (9) employees have retired and five (5) employees have resigned to date.**

12 **Q. Have you also experienced hiring delays due to COVID?**

13 **A. Yes. We have been experiencing delays throughout the entire hiring process. The delays**
14 have occurred internally and at City Hall.

15 **Q. What specific delays are directly related to COVID?**

16 **A. Processing our requests to fill positions has been slow at the City level due to limited**
17 staffing because of the following: Illness, quarantine, limited office hours, workshare
18 participation and available staffing due to telecommuting.

19 In addition, City Hall experienced an unforeseen delay when their personnel software system
20 crashed in November and it took approximately six to eight weeks for it get repaired and

1 brought back on line. It was extremely difficult for the city to address this software issue
2 because there was a lack of available vendor resources and staffing during the holiday
3 season.

4 Last but not least, we are experiencing a dwindling pool of qualified candidates who are
5 willing to report to work. Several potential recruits have passed on the opportunity to work
6 at Providence Water which I feel is directly related to COVID. The government stimulus
7 program has provided a monetary incentive for potential candidates to remain out of the
8 workforce

9 **Q. What is the current status of the 14 vacancies that were discussed during the hearings?**

10 **A.** Providence Water has prioritized filling the 14 positions. Please see below.

11 **1. Director:** Hired a Cyber Information Security Officer who is starting May 17th.

12 **2. Division Manager:** Hired a Director of Transmission and Distribution who is currently
13 working.

14 **3. Manager Distribution:** Promoted an internal candidate to Division Manager from the
15 Manager of Safety & Compliance position which is currently advertised and closes April 30.

16 **4. Meter Reader:** Hired a Utility Worker in Training who is currently working.

17 **5. Network Operations Analyst:** Hired and currently working.

18 **6. Senior Administrative Clerk:** Hired (2) Utility Maintenance Workers who are currently
19 working.

1 **7. Senior Administrative Clerk:** Our hiring recommendation is being processed at City
2 Hall for a Junior Chemist.

3 **8. Senior Draftsperson:** Our hiring recommendation is being processed at City Hall for a
4 GIS Systems Specialist.

5 **9. Supervisor of Accounting:** We have completed interviews for a Systems Administrator.

6 **10. Supervisor Facilities and Equipment:** We are hiring a Jr. Network Administrator and
7 the candidate has received all approvals and is expected to start on May 17th.

8 **11. Supervisor Water Plant Operations:** We switched the funding to a Project Engineer
9 and we will be posting the job.

10 **12. Water Supply Board Clerk:** Hired and is currently working

11 **13. Water Treatment Operator:** Promoted internally from Jr. Chemist and is currently
12 working. The Junior Chemist position was filled.

13 **14. Watershed Inspector:** Hired and is currently working.

14
15 **Q. Are there any other positions in recruitment?**

16 **A. Yes. Please see the list of positions below along with their current status.**

17 **1. Project Engineer** start date May 3rd.

18 **2. Flushing Technician** start date May 3rd.

19 **3. Watershed Maintenance Operator** start date May 3rd.

- 1 **4. Engineering Project Coordinator** received all approvals, awaiting BCI.
- 2 **5. Public Information Officer** our hiring recommendation is at City Hall.
- 3 **6. Watershed Inspector** our hiring recommendation is at City Hall.
- 4 **7. Supervisor Water Supply (2)** our hiring recommendations are in process to be sent to
- 5 City Hall.
- 6 **8. Manager of Safety & Risk** advertised closes April 30.
- 7 **9. Clerical Coordinator** bargaining unit candidate will be promoted internally.
- 8 **10. Water Supply Board Clerk** bargaining unit – has been posted.
- 9 **11. Senior Equipment Mechanic** bargaining unit – has been posted.
- 10 **12. Water System Mechanic** bargaining unit – our request to post is at City Hall.
- 11 **13. Utility Worker in Training** bargaining unit - our request to post is at City Hall.
- 12 **14. Engineering Project Coordinator (2)** our hiring recommendations are at City Hall.
- 13 **15. Project Engineer** our request to post is at City Hall.

14 **Q. What are the most important organizational needs for Providence Water?**

15 A. Cybersecurity and lead mitigation are the needs that we feel need the most personnel

16 resources as of today. Our new cyber information security officer (CISO) is expected to

17 report to Providence Water in early May. He has been instructed to create a new department

18 separate and apart from our information technology (IT) department as the organization will

1 be prioritizing resources and needs to address cybersecurity. Cybersecurity attacks directed
2 at water utilities continue to occur nationally.

3 Lead mitigation is generating considerable attention locally and nationally and it appears that
4 federal stimulus money may be available soon to the water industry. Providence Water is
5 positioning itself to be the recipient of federal grants in order to address private side lead
6 service replacements. This opportunity comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility in
7 order to manage and coordinate a private side lead service replacement program in
8 conjunction with our aggressive main rehabilitation program. Therefore, we are seeking
9 qualified engineering project coordinators and supporting staff to oversee the projects that
10 will impact lead mitigation.

11 **Q. How many people are currently on Providence Water's payroll?**

12 A. There are 232 people on the payroll.

13 **Q. How many positions are in active recruitment?**

14 A. Providence Water has 22 positions that are in active recruitment.

15 **Q. Is it safe to say that Providence Water will have 254 people on payroll in the near**
16 **future?**

17 A. Yes.

18 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

19 A. Yes.

1 COMPLIANCE TESTIMONY OF
2 HAROLD J. SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
3 RAFTELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC.
4
5
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7
8
9

10
11 for
12

13 PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD
14 DOCKET # 4994
15
16
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18
19
20
21

22
23 April 30, 2021
24

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Harold J. Smith, and my business address is, 5916 DTC Parkway, Suite 850,
4 Greenwood Village, Colorado.

5
6 **Q. Are you the same Harold Smith who submitted direct and rebuttal testimony on behalf
7 of the Providence Water Supply Board (Providence Water) in Docket 4994?**

8 A. Yes, I am.
9

10 **Q. Please describe the purpose of your testimony.**

11 A. My testimony provides an overview of Providence Water's compliance filing for the 2nd year
12 of the multiyear rate plan approved by Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (the
13 Commission) on August 27, 2020 (Commission Order 23928) as part of Commission Docket 4994.
14 These rates would be effective for usage on and after July 1, 2021.
15

16 **Q. Please provide a brief overview of Docket 4994 and the multiyear rate plan.**

17 A. Providence Water filed an application for general rate relief via a multiyear rate plan on
18 December 2, 2019. The parties then engaged in discovery and filed direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal
19 testimony regarding Providence Water's application. On July 3, 2020 Providence Water executed
20 an initial settlement agreement (the July 3 settlement agreement) with the Division of Public
21 Utilities and Carriers (the Division), Kent County Water Authority (KCWA) and the City of
22 Warwick. At its open meeting of August 18, 2020, the Commission rejected the July 3 settlement
23 agreement, and asked Providence Water to submit an amended settlement with modifications
24 identified at the August 18 open meeting. Providence Water filed an amended settlement
25 agreement (the ASA) on August 25, 2020. This settlement included Providence Water, KCWA
26 and the City of Warwick. The Division did not sign the ASA.
27

28 The Commission approved the ASA its open meeting of August 27, 2020 (Order no. 23928). The
29 approved ASA included the multiyear rate plan, namely Year 1 rates effective for usage on and

1 after the date of the Commission's Order (ultimately August 27, 2020); Year 2 rates effective for
2 usage on and after July 1, 2021; and Year 3 rates effective for usage on and after July 1, 2022.

3
4 **Q. What are the statutory requirements related to seeking and obtaining approval for a**
5 **multiyear rate filing?**

6 A. § 39-15.1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws provides authority for seeking and obtaining
7 approval for multiyear rate plans. Water suppliers regulated by the Commission may file a rate
8 plan for up to six (6) years to pay for the cost of providing service and to establish and maintain
9 operating and capital reserves (§ 39-15.1-4(a) (1) through (4)). The "commission shall then
10 approve or reasonably amend the plan and the rates proposed therein".

11
12 **Q. Mr. Smith, did the Commission approve Providence Water's multiyear rate plan?**

13 A. Yes. The Commission approved the ASA, which included the multiyear rate plan for rates
14 effective on July 1, 2021 (FYE 6/30/2022) and July 1, 2022 (FYE 6/30/2023).

15
16 **Q. What are statutory requirements related to implementing a rate change pursuant to an**
17 **approved multiyear rate filing?**

18 A. § 39-15.1-4 subpart c of the Rhode Island General Laws provides authority for implementing a
19 rate change pursuant to an approved multiyear rate filing: "A water supplier with a multiyear plan
20 approved by the commission may change its rates consistent with provisions of the plan, provided
21 that a forty-five (45) day notice is given to the commission and the division, which notice shall
22 state the amount of the proposed rate changes, the manner in which the proposed rate is consistent
23 with the approved plan, and the purpose of the proposed rate change. The proposed rate change
24 shall be effective sixty (60) days after the notice to the commission and the division, unless the
25 commission shall decide that the proposed rate increase may be unreasonable or inconsistent with
26 the approved plan, in which case the commission shall hold a hearing on the proposed rate increase
27 and may approve, or reasonably amend the proposed rate increase. Notwithstanding the foregoing
28 notice provision, the commission shall be bound by the suspension period set forth in § 39-3-11."
29 (emphasis added).

1 **Q. Mr. Smith, what is the amount of the proposed rate change?**

2 A. Providence Water is seeking to implement the 2nd year of the approved multiyear rate plan
3 included in the ASA. Retail rates would increase 5.5% across the board from the rates that became
4 effective August 27, 2020. Wholesale rates would increase 4.02% across the board from the rates
5 that became effective August 27, 2020. The details of all the increased rates as previously approved
6 by the Commission are set forth on Schedule HJS Amended Settlement-22, attached to the
7 approved ASA, and also attached hereto for convenience.

8
9 **Q. Mr. Smith, is that rate change consistent with the approved plan?**

10 A. Yes. Providence Water is seeking to implement the same rates the Commission approved for
11 the 2nd year of the multiyear plan.

12
13 **Q. Mr. Smith, what is the purpose of the proposed rate change?**

14 A. The purpose is to implement the 2nd year of the approved multiyear plan which provides funding
15 for ongoing operations, repair and replacement of critical water infrastructure and the maintenance
16 of appropriate restricted fund balances.

17
18 **Q. Mr. Smith, does this conclude your testimony?**

19 A. Yes, it does.

Honorable Ronald T. Gerwatoski, Chairperson

April 30, 2021

Page 2

A copy of our proposed Notice to be published in the Providence Journal is enclosed as required by Commission Rule 5.4. We will coordinate with the Commission Clerk to finalize the document before publication.

Michael R. McElroy, Esq., will be representing Providence Water as our legal counsel in this matter. He may be contacted at 21 Dryden Lane, Post Office Box 6721, Providence, RI 02940-6721.

Respectfully,
Providence Water Supply Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Caruolo", is written over the printed name.

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager