

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT COMPANY, INC.

DOCKET NO. DW 13-128

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE RATE SCHEDULES

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

LARRY D. GOODHUE

May 2013

1 **Background and Qualifications**

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

3 A. My name is Larry D. Goodhue. My business address is: Pennichuck Corporation, 25
4 Manchester Street, Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054.

5 **Q. What is your position with the Company?**

6 A. I am the Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Controller of Pittsfield Aqueduct Company,
7 Inc. ("Company" or "PAC") and of its parent company, Pennichuck Corporation (the
8 "Parent"). I joined the Company in December 2006, and served as the Controller and Chief
9 Accounting Officer of the Company and the Parent from that time, until my promotion into
10 my current role March 23, 2012. I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of
11 New Hampshire; my license is currently in an inactive status.

12 **Q. Have you previously testified before this or any other regulatory commission or**
13 **governmental authority?**

14 A. Yes. I have submitted written testimony in the following dockets before the New Hampshire
15 Public Utilities Commission ("NHPUC" or "Commission"):

16 **Financings**

17 Pennichuck East Utility – DW 13-017, DW 12-349 and DW 13-125

18 **Q. Please summarize your educational background.**

19 A. I have a Bachelor in Science degree in Business Administration with a major in
20 Accounting from Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts.

21 **Q. Please summarize your professional background.**

22 A. Prior to joining the Company, I was the Vice President of Finance and Administration and
23 previously the Controller with METRObility Optical Systems, Inc. from September 2000

1 to June 2006. In my more recent role with METRObility, I was responsible for all
2 financial, accounting, treasury and administration functions for a manufacturer of optical
3 networking hardware and software. Prior to joining METRObility, I held various senior
4 management and accounting positions in several companies.

5 **Q. What are your responsibilities as Chief Financial Officer of the Company?**

6 **A.** As Chief Financial Officer of the Company I am responsible for the overall financial
7 management of the Company including financing, accounting, compliance, and budgeting.
8 My responsibilities include issuance and repayment of debt, as well as quarterly and
9 annual financial and regulatory reporting and compliance. I work with the Chief Executive
10 Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Company to determine the lowest cost
11 alternatives available to fund the capital requirements of the Company, which result from
12 the Company's annual capital expenditures and its current debt maturities.

13 **Financial Overview**

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

15 **A.** I will address the Company's determination of its capital structure including debt financing
16 plans and the recent acquisition of the Company's Parent by the City of Nashua (the "City")
17 on January 25, 2012 (the "merger transaction"), in accordance with DW 11-026, and the
18 impact of that transaction upon the Company, which when all taken together, result in an
19 overall rate of return of 6.85%. I will also address the critical importance to the Company of
20 receiving adequate rate relief, in order to maintain its financial integrity and to ensure it an
21 opportunity to continue to raise debt at reasonable costs and on acceptable terms, while
22 continuing to properly support necessary operating costs, as addressed by Mr. Ware in his

1 testimony, and support necessary capital expenditures, as addressed by Mr. Boisvert in his
2 testimony.

3 **Q. Please comment on the Company's need to file a rate request at this time.**

4 A. The Company's current request for rate relief is in response to complying with the terms of
5 the DW 11-026 Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"). Absent that
6 requirement, the Company would still be pursuing a request for rate relief at this time, based
7 upon a comparison of actual revenues to the proposed new revenue requirement, as shown on
8 Schedule A. The revenue deficiency indicated on this schedule is \$63,909, a 9.34% increase
9 over the existing revenue level.

10 **Q. Please explain the Company's proposed capital structure.**

11 A. As shown in Section 15, Schedule 2, the Company's total pro forma capitalization as of
12 December 31, 2012, was approximately \$863,000, comprising intercompany debt of
13 approximately \$828,000 and actual common equity of approximately \$35,000 and yielding a
14 capital structure that is 96% debt and 4% equity. The common equity reflects the remaining
15 equity on the books of the Company prior to the merger transaction with the City, as it relates
16 to the common stock of the Company owned by Pennichuck Corporation as of December 31,
17 2011, and the retained earnings generated post-merger transaction; giving consideration to the
18 elimination of the City acquisition amounts allocable to the Company in accordance with the
19 Commission's order in DW 11-026. DW 11-026 required the elimination of the Municipal
20 Acquisition Regulatory Asset ("MARA") and the earned equity and paid in capital on the
21 books of the company as of January 25, 2012 (the date of the merger transaction).

22 **Q. What is the implication to the Company of a highly leveraged capital structure?**

1 A. The Company does not currently have any outstanding external third party long term debt. At
2 this point in time, its only long term debt is the intercompany debt discussed above. In order
3 to be eligible for external sources of long term debt, the Company would be held to a set of
4 standards similar to those of other corporations of PAC's size and type. Based on historical
5 experience for the Company's sister subsidiary, Pennichuck East Utility ("PEU"), which has
6 similar dynamics to the Company in some respects, it is expected that the Company would be
7 held to the minimum standards that PEU is held to for its existing external borrowings for
8 long-term debt. This is further supported by recent discussions held with one of PEU's
9 current creditors relating to the potential refinancing of PAC's existing intercompany note,
10 which will be discussed in more detail later in this testimony.

11 The standards for PAC would likely include a covenant that the Company's debt level not
12 exceed 65% or more of total capitalization, on a GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting
13 Principles) reporting basis. As of December 31, 2012, the Company's debt/equity ratio is not
14 calculated on a GAAP basis, as the Company did not have any outstanding external long term
15 debt. Had the existing intercompany note payable been treated as external debt, the
16 debt/equity ratio on a GAAP basis would have been 23.4%. PEU's current lender considers
17 the debt level on a GAAP basis to include MARA as a component of GAAP basis equity, in
18 accordance with the provisions of as noted in the Settlement Agreement. Thus, one potential
19 risk facing the Company in financing its future operations is whether lenders will continue to
20 consider MARA as a component of equity when assessing the minimum requirements related
21 to the Company's debt/equity ratio, in qualifying the Company for debt needed to fund
22 operations and capital improvements.

1 As reflected in the information included in the filing for DW 11-026, the Company's debt
2 leverage is going to increase over time. Such future change in the Company's leverage could
3 require the Company's financing to be more akin to municipal financing, which may employ
4 different metrics and possibly the need for different types of contingent bond or operating
5 reserves. Such mechanisms could impact the rate of interest to be charged on debt.

6 **Q. Are there other factors that might influence the ability to obtain long term financing for**
7 **the Company?**

8 A. Yes. In the Company's recent discussions with an existing lender to PEU concerning the
9 possible refinance of the existing intercompany note payable to the Parent, the lender
10 expressed no interest in providing refinancing for PAC due to its overall stand-alone credit
11 risk and the inherent volatility of operating income due to the Company's small size, as
12 discussed further below.

13 **Q. Are there other factors the Company should consider with related to potential external**
14 **debt obligations?**

15 A. Yes. In addition to maintaining a debt level at or below 65% of total capitalization, on a
16 GAAP basis, the Company would most likely need to maintain a debt service coverage level
17 similar to that of PEU. At present, the existing long term debt of PEU states that PEU must
18 maintain a debt service coverage level of at least 1.25. It is almost certain that PAC would be
19 held to a similar standard for this standard debt compliance covenant. As of December 31,
20 2012, there is no debt service coverage level for PAC because no external long term debt is
21 outstanding.

22 **Q. Would you please discuss the overall rate of return that the Company is requesting in**
23 **this rate proceeding?**

1 A. Yes. Section 15, Schedule 1 summarizes the Company's capital structure as well as the
2 proposed component costs for long-term debt and common equity. The Company is
3 requesting that the Commission authorize the Company to earn an overall rate of return on
4 investment (ROI) of 6.85%. The 6.85% weighted average cost of capital comprises two
5 components: (1) 6.61% for the cost of intercompany debt (6.89% cost of debt times 95.98%
6 debt ratio) and (2) 0.24% for the return on common equity (5.90% cost of equity times 4.02%
7 equity ratio).

8 Q. Does the overall rate of return result in a requested increase in the proposed revenues
9 for PAC, and if so, will temporary rates be sought as a part of this filing?

10 A. Yes, this rate of return does result in an increase in the proposed revenues in the amount of
11 \$63,909 per year, an increase of 9.34% over the existing revenue levels. The issue of
12 temporary rates was specifically addressed in DW 11-026, providing for the implementation
13 of such rates. Accordingly, the Company is requesting that the Commission approve a
14 temporary rate increase in the amount of \$47,878, or 7%, as discussed in the testimony of Mr.
15 Ware.

16 Q. What is the return on common equity that the Company is seeking in this rate
17 proceeding?

18 A. The Company is seeking a return on common equity in accordance with the allowed return on
19 common equity as defined in DW 11-026, which is specified to be the average rate of return
20 on 30-year Treasury bonds for 2012, plus an incremental 3%. As of December 31, 2012, the
21 average rate of return on 30-year Treasury bonds for 2012 was 2.90%, providing for an
22 allowed return on common equity of 5.90%.

1 **Q. Has the Company retained an outside expert witness for the return on (cost of) common**
2 **equity?**

3 A. No. The return on common equity formula, as discussed above, is computed in accordance
4 with the agreed upon formula provided in DW 11-026.

5 **Q. What is your opinion of the Company's specific business risk profile in comparison with**
6 **the overall water utility industry?**

7 A. There are a number of Company specific factors that need to be considered in evaluating its
8 business risk profile relative to the entire water utility industry. The first factor is the
9 Company's small size. Small size magnifies the impact of certain unavoidable fixed costs,
10 such as: state and local property taxes; and, property & casualty insurance. Another factor
11 magnifying the Company's business risk is its geographically small single state service
12 territory. Water companies that operate in multiple states across larger geographic areas are
13 generally considered to have less business risk as they are less reliant on a single regulator or
14 on the weather in a specific geography.

15 **Q. Please explain financial risk and why that is important to the Company in meeting its**
16 **long-term obligations.**

17 A. Financial risk reflects the assessment of the Company's corporate financing policies and
18 practices including: liquidity (i.e., credit lines), and debt capitalization and the ability to raise
19 sufficient debt to finance necessary capital expenditures, in relation to the Company's
20 operating and capital spending plans. More specifically, financial risk considers and seeks to
21 measure the Company's ability to finance its capital additions program while meeting its debt
22 obligations on a timely and consistent basis. Ratings agencies such as Moody's Investor
23 Service, Standard & Poors, and others have developed a number of key ratios (credit

1 benchmarks) which quantify financial risk by business risk category. Other things being
2 equal, the higher the business risk the higher the credit benchmarks necessary to achieve an
3 overall favorable credit rating. Certain aspects of the components of the Company's current
4 rate structure, as defined under the Settlement Agreement, helps to mitigate some of this
5 financial risk, including the establishment of the CBFRR and the RSF, as defined later in this
6 testimony.

7 **Q. Does the Company have a bond credit rating for its debt?**

8 A. No. The Company does not currently have a bond credit rating designated for its debt, as a
9 stand-alone company. However, the Company has recently completed discussions about the
10 potential refinancing of its existing intercompany notes payable with a banking institution,
11 and as a part of that process, the banking institution did an evaluation of the credit worthiness
12 of PAC. This lender declined to offer replacement financing for PAC, for these intercompany
13 notes, based upon the risk factors, and the business risk factors spoken about previously in
14 this testimony. This unfortunately did not allow us to restructure this existing debt to a lower
15 rate of interest, which would have brought about a lower overall rate of return for the
16 customers of PAC.

17 **Q. What factors support the Company's creditworthiness?**

18 A. In discussions with potential lenders, PAC's credit risk rating does have certain favorable
19 elements in existence, including: stability & predictability of the regulatory environment, cost
20 and investment recovery (ability and timeliness), operational efficiency, scale of capital
21 program and asset condition, overall organization structure, and its funding from operations
22 compared to its debt position.

23 **Q. With respect to the Company's creditworthiness, what challenges face the Company?**

1 A. The Company faces several challenges, including: the Company's capital additions program;
2 the need to properly maintain a program of ongoing infrastructure replacement; the need for
3 adequate rate relief to maintain financial ratios and service existing and new debt; and, the
4 small size of the Company.

5 **Q. What are the primary factors needed to maintain an acceptable credit profile?**

6 A. Certain elements of the Company's current rate structure, as provided for in DW 11-026, are
7 important in giving PAC access to necessary low cost debt funding, needed to maintain its
8 operations without any major disruptions, and to maintain compliance with potential financial
9 covenants (as discussed earlier in this testimony). These elements include the City Bond
10 Fixed Revenue Requirement ("CBFRR"), the Rate Stabilization Fund ("RSF"), the inclusion
11 of the MARA as an element of GAAP basis equity, the prescribed formulaic approach to the
12 allowed return on common equity (as discussed above), and the current corporate governance
13 structure as delineated by Mr. Patenaude in his testimony.

14 **Q. What are the likely consequences should the Company's credit profile deteriorate?**

15 A. Should the Company's credit profile deteriorate, its cost of capital could rise considerably and
16 its access to capital at reasonable costs and terms could be severely curtailed.

17 **Q. Can you discuss the Company's need for financing to support capital expenditures for**
18 **the years 2013 through 2015, and some of the implications and challenges that surround**
19 **obtaining that financing?**

20 A. Yes, as was disclosed in the testimony in DW 11-026 the Company has an ongoing need of
21 between \$100-200 thousand annually for the necessary replacement of aging infrastructure
22 and other necessary capital expenditures. The Parent does have a \$10 million line of
23 credit, which is available to provide short-term capital funding to its subsidiaries through

1 intercompany advances, however, sources of long-term capital funding is needed at the
2 Company level, in order to repay these short-term borrowings and/or provide for long-term
3 capital funding in lieu of using these short-term resources. The Company is pursuing
4 various sources of potential funding for its capital expenditure needs for the years 2013
5 through 2015, which result in ongoing discussions with a number of different lending
6 institutions and agencies, related to sources of funding necessary for capital expenditures.
7 With respect to certain qualified capital projects, monies are potentially available through
8 the State Revolving Fund as administered by the New Hampshire Department of
9 Environmental Services ("SRF"), to finance certain qualifying projects at a low cost of
10 money for a period of 20-years. However, as many projects would not qualify for the SRF
11 money, this source of funding will only provide for the financing of a portion of the overall
12 capital needs for the Company in the time period being discussed. In fact, no PAC projects
13 have qualified to date, for SRF financing. Discussions are ongoing with lending
14 institutions, to provide funding for the 2013 through 2015 capital projects. As a part of
15 these discussions, included is the possibility of accessing tax-exempt bond funding through
16 either one or more institutions, giving consideration to: financial covenants; the term for
17 which the money can be borrowed; and, the rate for which the money is available. It is the
18 intention of the Company to have access to low cost borrowed money to fund these
19 necessary capital improvements over a term that nearly approximates the underlying lives
20 of the financed assets, allowing for a proper matching of the cash flow generated by the
21 depreciation expense from these assets with the repayment of the principal for the debt
22 obligations.

1 Q. Can you explain what the CBFRR is and how the CBFRR for the Company was
2 calculated?

3 A. As discussed in Mr. Patenaude's testimony, the rate making structure utilized in the filing that
4 was agreed to in the Settlement Agreement, provided for two component elements of the
5 Company's revenue requirement: (1) a fixed portion of the revenues which provides for the
6 Company's pro rata share of the city's acquisition debt obligation (designated as the CBFRR);
7 and (2) the portion of the revenues which is based upon traditional ratemaking principles and
8 provides for coverage of operating expenses and an allowed rate of return on rate base (as
9 shown on Schedule 3). The CBFRR for the Company was calculated based upon the
10 prescribed formula, as defined in the Settlement Agreement. As noted in Mr. Patenaude's
11 testimony, the CBFRR amount is based upon the pro-rata share of the city's acquisition debt
12 obligation, which is based upon the PAC's percentage share of the total obligation for the
13 three regulated subsidiaries of the Parent; namely, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. ("PWW"),
14 Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. ("PEU") and PAC. The basis for this calculation was the
15 relative pro-rata equity balances for the three regulated subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011,
16 attributing the equity balance of one non-regulated subsidiary of the Parent (the Southwood
17 Corporation, hereinafter referred to as "Southwood") to the pro-rata share for PWW. As of
18 that date, the relative pro-rata equity balances were as follows:

	<u>Equity Balance at 12/31/11</u>	<u>Pro-rata Equity Share</u>
20 PWW & Southwood Equity	\$56,442,675	88.12%
21 PEU Equity	\$ 6,540,063	10.21%
22 PAC Equity	<u>\$ 1,066,353</u>	<u>1.66%</u>
23 Totals	<u>\$64,049,091</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

The pro-rata equity shares are then applied to the total of the city's acquisition debt obligation of \$150,570,000. This allocates the total debt obligation repayment between the three regulated utilities as follows:

	<u>Pro-rata Equity Share</u>	<u>Pro-rata Share of CBFRR</u>
PWW	88.12%	\$ 132,688,434
PEU	10.21%	\$ 15,374,727
PAC	<u>1.66%</u>	<u>\$ 2,506,839</u>
Totals	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$ 150,570,000</u>

The Settlement Agreement further provided for the establishment of the RSF, which will be discussed further below, as a component of the total acquisition debt, and therefore a component of the CBFRR calculation as a deduction from PWW's pro-rata share of the CBFRR, prior to calculating the annual fixed revenue requirement in support of the CBFRR. As such, the pro-rata share of CBFRR allocated to PWW is further calculated as follows:

	<u>Pro-rata Share of CBFRR</u>
PWW Share	\$ 132,688,434
Less: RSF funding	<u>\$ (5,000,000)</u>
Net Total PWW Share	<u>\$ 127,688,434</u>

The annual fixed revenue requirement defined under the CBFRR is then calculated by calculating the annual payment based upon the Company's pro-rata share of the CBFRR, using the City's true bond interest rate of 4.09% (as noted in Mr. Patenaude's testimony) for

1 the 30-year repayment term, which results in an annual payment amount for PAC of \$146,559
2 per annum beginning as of January 25, 2012.

3 **Q. Please discuss the Rate Stabilization Fund, how it was established, how it is being used,**
4 **and the features of the fund that pertain to PAC's usage, versus the usage of the fund by**
5 **the other two regulated utility companies (PWW and PEU)?**

6 A. The Settlement Agreement provided for a \$5,000,000 rate stabilization fund. This sum was
7 funded out of the money received from the City as a part of the merger transaction, and was
8 used to establish a bank account for PWW. This account is maintained in compliance with
9 the Settlement Agreement, and is treated as a restricted cash account. The fund was
10 established as a mechanism to allow the three regulated utilities to have access to the reserve
11 fund, which would be utilized to subsidize the pro-rata share of CBFRR revenues if those
12 revenues fell below the CBFRR requirement, as shown below.

13 As it pertains to PAC, the total allowed revenue level was established in DW 10-090 as
14 \$732,581 per annum. If the actual revenues for PAC fall below this total allowed revenue
15 level, PAC has the ability to access the reserve funds in the RSF via intercompany advances
16 from PWW, as described by Mr. Patenaude in his testimony. The ability to repay these
17 advances by PAC to PWW, as currently allowed for in the rate structure of PAC, is solely
18 dependent upon PAC's ability to produce operating income in excess of allowed levels. As
19 mentioned in Mr. Patenaude's testimony, a mechanism needs to be established for PAC,
20 similar to the mechanism currently in place for PWW, so that revenues earned in excess of the
21 CBFRR or below the CBFRR are subject to the establishment of a deferred credit (for
22 excesses) or deferred debit (for deficits) to be collected or refunded in rates, amortized over a
23 three-year period. This will provide the funding needed to insure repayment of intercompany

1 advances with PWW for usage of the RSF, from PAC. The usage of funds from the RSF by
2 PAC, or payment of funds into the RSF by PAC, is based on actual monthly revenues at the
3 end of each month, based on 1/12 of the fixed percentage of annual revenues attributed to the
4 CBFRR, as follows:
5

	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
PAC CBFRR Amount	\$ 146,559	\$12,213.25
PAC Allowed Revenue Requirement	<u>\$ 732,581</u>	
CBFRR Revenue Requirement % ^{Note 1}	<u>20.0058%</u>	

Note 1: This CBFRR Revenue Requirement % will be recalculated upon the issuance of a new Allowed Revenue Requirement pursuant to this rate filing. This newly calculated CBFRR Revenue Requirement % will be used for the calculation of excess/deficient actual revenues compared to the CBFRR Amount for years leading up to the next rate filing process for the Company.

To the extent that 20.0058% of actual revenues exceed \$146,559 per annum, the excess revenues from this calculation are used to repay funds previously borrowed from the RSF, via intercompany advances from PWW. To the extent that 20.0058% of monthly actual revenues are below \$146,559 per annum, the deficient amount is advanced to PAC via intercompany loans from PWW, as moneys transferred out of the RSF, in order to allow PAC to meet its portion of the obligation for funding of the monthly note payment to the City under the CBFRR. For the year ended December 31, 2012, PAC borrowed \$4,996 from PWW, accessing the RSF for the actual revenue shortfall versus the CBFRR revenue requirement for the year then ended. As discussed earlier, there is no mechanism currently in place to establish a deferred debit for this sum, enabling PAC to collect the money needed to repay this obligation to PWW out of PAC's currently allowed water rates.

Q. Can you discuss how the actual acquisition cost of \$150,570,000 differed from the estimated acquisition cost of \$152,099,885, per the Settlement Agreement, and what the major differences were in those recognized lower costs?

1 A. Yes, the major components of the estimated acquisition costs versus the actual acquisition
2 costs realized are summarized as follows:

3		<u>Estimated Costs</u>	<u>Actual Costs</u>
4	Merger consideration paid under the agreement	\$137,793,398	\$138,413,923
5	Bond issuance costs and fees	1,800,000	996,460
6	Transaction costs and fees	5,286,875	3,859,505
7	Severance costs	2,219,612	2,300,113
8	Establishment of the RSF	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>5,000,000</u>
9	Total acquisition costs	<u>\$152,099,885</u>	<u>\$150,570,000</u>

10

11 Q. Per the Settlement Agreement, there was anticipation that approximately \$1.7 million in
12 savings would be derived by taking the Parent Corporation from a publicly-traded
13 company to a privately owned and closely-held corporation owned by the City. Were
14 those savings realized?

15 A. Yes, that level of savings was realized. In fact, the actual savings realized was approximately
16 \$1.87 million. These savings were realized at the Parent company level, and as such, a pro-
17 rata share of those savings (pursuant to the 2006 Cost Allocation Agreement) were realized at
18 PAC, with the balance of the savings being realized in the other subsidiary companies of the
19 Parent. If the merger transaction had not been consummated, these savings would not have
20 been realized and the result would be a request for required revenues of \$832,570 (a 21.73%
21 increase over current water rates), as opposed to our current request for required revenues of
22 \$747,878 (a 9.34% increase over current water rates).

1 **Q. Why didn't the savings derived from the merger transaction discussed in the preceding**
2 **section, result in a decrease in the proposed required revenues for PAC?**

3 **A. These savings were offset by increases in certain operating costs, between the 2009 pro forma**
4 **test year (which was the basis of the cost savings analysis included in the settlement**
5 **agreement) and the current pro forma test year of 2012. The table below illustrates the major**
6 **items included in the increase of expenses between these two points in time, as well as the**
7 **equivalent 2010 level of expenses for these major item (consistent with manner of Mr. Ware's**
8 **testimony, and the overall expenses shown on the comparative operating income statements**
9 **included on Schedule 1):**

10

11

		Difference			
		<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012 vs. 2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
3	State and local property taxes				
4	PWW	\$2,842,739	\$3,425,687	\$ 582,948	\$2,775,635
5	PEU	543,505	842,830	299,325	652,297
6	PAC	80,397	99,882	19,485	60,787
7	Pension costs	948,133	1,559,184	611,051	894,529
8	Health insurance costs	1,122,036	1,441,356	319,320	1,187,966
9	Property and casualty insurance				
10	PWW	339,994	545,283	205,289	364,051
11	PEU	38,763	93,927	55,164	40,502
12	PAC	<u>48,180</u>	<u>47,431</u>	<u>(749)</u>	<u>51,400</u>
13	Total	<u>\$5,963,747</u>	<u>\$8,055,580</u>	<u>\$ 2,091,833</u>	<u>\$6,027,167</u>

The increase in state and local property taxes is the result of a number of factors, including: additions to net plant in service between 2009 and 2012; changes in the assessed values of the underlying property in the communities where the property resides; and, changes in the valuation methodology utilized by both the state and the local taxing authorities.

The increase in pension costs is primarily attributed to a decrease in the discount rate for the underlying benefit obligations, due to the depressed interest rates in the bond market since 2009.

The increase in health insurance costs is the result of premium increases experienced for those benefits, relative to the insured employee base.

1 The increase in property and casualty insurance premiums is the result of claims exposure and
2 a general tightening in the reinsurance market, resulting in the current underlying premiums
3 for the coverage's needed to properly protect the assets of the Company.

4 As shown above, some of these cost increases were realized at the corresponding subsidiary
5 company level, while the remaining cost increases for pension and health insurance were
6 allocable pursuant to the 2006 Cost Allocation Agreement, and thus, only a pro-rata share of
7 these cost increases were allocated to PAC, with the balance of the increases being realized in
8 the other subsidiary companies of the Parent.

9 **Q. Would you please explain the term "test year"?**

10 A. The test year (which is the calendar year 2012, for this rate case) is the period for which the
11 Company's costs are examined to determine if they are reasonable and establish a level of
12 water rates that will enable the Company to earn a reasonable return on its investment, and
13 properly allow the Company to meet its obligations under the Settlement Agreement related
14 to the CBFRR. Consistent with Commission practice, certain of the Company's financial
15 documents have been adjusted or pro formed, to reflect annualization or normalization of
16 known changes in conditions occurring during the test year and the twelve months thereafter.

17 **Pro-Forma Adjustments**

18 **Q. Please explain the pro forma adjustments reflected on Schedule A.**

19 A. Schedule A reflects the pro forma adjustments to consolidated rate base as notated on
20 Schedule 3 and all of the associated attachment and exhibit schedules. It also includes the pro
21 forma adjustments to adjusted operating net income as notated on Schedule 1, as it relates to
22 the CBFRR revenue requirement discussed earlier in this testimony, and the notated
23 adjustments to operating expenses as described in detail in the attachments to Schedule 1.

1 Certain elements of the notated adjustments included in Schedule 1 and Schedule 3 will be
2 discussed further in this testimony, or in the testimony of Mr. Ware. As an exhibit to Mr.
3 Patenaude's testimony he provides information which shows the impact on required revenues
4 had the merger transaction with the City not occurred, and the savings related to the publicly-
5 traded company discussed above, not been realized.

6 **Q. Please discuss the nature and impact of certain adjustments notated on Schedule 1,**
7 **please.**

8 A. Yes. The adjustment of \$146,559 denoted on Attachment A as the Water Sales Pro Forma,
9 relates to the CBFRR revenues discussed in detail earlier in this testimony. The pro forma for
10 Insurance costs notated on Attachment C, page 1, and Exhibit 1, reflects the estimated cost
11 increase for this expense for the twelve month period following the test year based on the
12 current level of premiums for the 2013 policy year. Similarly, the pro forma for Pension
13 Expense notated on Attachment C, page 2, relates to the anticipated increase in this expense
14 for the twelve-month period following the test year, based upon actuarially derived estimates,
15 and impacted by the current discount rates discussed earlier in this testimony. The pro forma
16 for Property Taxes notated on Attachment D is an estimate of the increase in state and local
17 property taxes for the twelve month period following the test year; the actual costs related to
18 these taxes will be known and measurable in the November/December timeframe of 2013.
19 The pro forma for the amortization of the MARA on Attachment F relates to the elimination
20 of the amortization of that underlying asset over the 30-year life of the asset, in compliance
21 with the Settlement Agreement; as the asset has been pro formed out of the rate base (as
22 notated on Schedule 3), and therefore the associated amortization needs to be eliminated for
23 rate making purposes. Attachment G pro forms the tax impact of all of the other pro forma

1 adjustments notated on Attachments A thru F, such that the net impact of the aggregated pro
2 forma adjustments, on net operating income, is properly reflected on an after-tax basis. All
3 other pro forma adjustments (as they pertain to Schedule-1) are not specifically discussed in
4 this testimony, or that of Mr. Ware, as they are self-explanatory in their disclosure and
5 description, as included on the Attachment schedules.

6 **Q. Please discuss the nature and impact of certain adjustments notated on Schedule 3.**

7 **A.** The adjustment of \$1,063,241 on Attachment A relates to the elimination of the equity related
8 assets that pertain to the CBFRR revenues, in compliance with the Settlement Agreement.
9 Accordingly, a fixed component of the revenues is allowed for in the allowed revenues, and as
10 such, the rate base that is associated with that portion of the revenues needs to be eliminated
11 before the revenue requirement can be calculated on the remainder of the rate base versus the
12 adjusted net operating income, in determining the new revenue requirement. Also, in
13 compliance with the Settlement Agreement, the MARA is eliminated from the deferred assets
14 of the company, as notated on Attachment B, as the related equity has been eliminated on
15 Schedule 2, and the CBFRR includes the revenue related to the funding of the MARA. All
16 other pro forma adjustments (as they pertain to Schedule 3) are not specifically discussed in
17 this testimony, or that of Mr. Ware, as they are self-explanatory in their disclosure and
18 description, as included on the Attachment schedules.

19
20 **Q. Does this complete your direct testimony?**

21 **A.** Yes.
22