IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN)	
WATER COMPANY REGARDING)	
CHANGES TO THE QUALIFIED)	
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT)	Docket No. 20-00028
PROGRAM RIDER, THE ECONOMIC)	
DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT RIDER,)	
AND THE SAFETY AND)	
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE RIDER)	
AND IN SUPPORT OF THE CALCULATION)	
OF THE 2020 CAPITAL RECOVERY)	
RIDERS RECONCILIATION)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

DAVID N. DITTEMORE

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IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)
PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY REGARDING CHANGES TO THE QUALIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM RIDER, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT RIDER, AND THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE RIDER AND IN SUPPORT OF THE CALCULATION OF THE 2020 CAPITAL RECOVERY RIDERS RECONCILIATION))))) Docket No. 20-00028)))))))
AFFIDVAIT OF DAVI	D N. DITTEMORE
I, Dund N. D. HEmore on behalf of the General's Office hereby certify that the attached D above-referenced case and the opinion of the Const	
(5)	DAVID N. DITTEMORE
Sworn to and subscribed before me	
This, 2020	TIFFANY H BLACKMAN Tennessee Notary Public Online Notary Public
Thomy Whole I was a state of the state of th	Wilson County, State Of Tennessee My Commission Expires Mar 22, 2023
NOTARY PUBLIC	2
My Commission Expires: March 23, 2023	

- 1 Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, AND OCCUPATION
 2 FOR THE RECORD.
- 3 A1. My name is David N. Dittemore. My business address is Office of the Tennessee
- 4 Attorney General, War Memorial Building, 301 6th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37243.
- I am a Financial Analyst employed by the Consumer Advocate Unit of the Tennessee
- 6 Attorney General's Office ("Consumer Advocate").
- 7 Q2. PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND
 8 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.
- **A2.** I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University 9 of Central Missouri in 1982. I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the state of 10 Oklahoma (#7562). I was previously employed by the Kansas Corporation Commission 11 (KCC) in various capacities, including Managing Auditor, Chief Auditor, and Director 12 of the Utilities Division. For approximately four years, I was self-employed as a Utility 13 Regulatory Consultant representing primarily the KCC Staff in regulatory issues. I also 14 participated in proceedings in Georgia and Vermont, evaluating issues involving 15 electricity and telecommunications regulatory matters. Additionally, I performed a 16 consulting engagement for Kansas Gas Service (KGS), my subsequent employer during 17 this time frame. For eleven years I served as Manager and subsequently Director of 18 Regulatory Affairs for KGS, the largest natural gas utility in Kansas, serving 19 approximately 625,000 customers. KGS is a division of One Gas, a natural gas utility 20 serving approximately two million customers in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. I joined 21 the Tennessee Attorney General's Office in September 2017 as a Financial Analyst. 22

- Overall, I have thirty years' experience in the field of public utility regulation. I have
- presented testimony as an expert witness on many occasions. Attached as Exhibit
- 3 DND-1 is a detailed overview of my background.

4 Q3. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE

5 TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION (TPUC)?

- Yes. I have submitted testimony in a number of TPUC Dockets since joining the Attorney
 General's Office.
- 8 Q4. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?
- 9 A4. The purpose of my testimony is to present the position of the Consumer Advocate in the 10 present matter, Docket No. 20-00028, the Tennessee American Water Company ("TAWC" 11 or "Company") 2020 Capital Riders Reconciliation calculation.
- 12 Q5. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.
- A5. I recommend the total reconciliation factor be set at (5.53%) rather than the (3.69%) 13 proposed by the Company in its *Petition*. This reflects a proposed reconciliation amount 14 of (\$1.952.489) rather than the target reconciliation amount proposed by the Company of 15 (\$1,303,124), for a total adjustment to the proposed revenue requirement of (\$649,364). I 16 am supporting three adjustments which comprise the difference identified above, all of 17 which relate to the identification of TAWC's overearnings during 2019. These adjustments 18 include the elimination of Construction Work in Progress ("CWIP") and the related 19 Allowance for Funds Used During Construction ("AFUDC"), the elimination of lobbying 20 expenses, and the removal of all costs associated with the September 2019 Main break. All 21 such impacts of the items referenced above were removed from the Earnings Test 22

Adjustment, resulting in an increase in over-earnings constituting \$649,364, inclusive of interest on the reconciliation of \$15,766.

3 Q6. PLEASE IDENTIFY THE SCHEDULES YOU ARE SUPPORTING.

The calculations supporting my recommendations are contained in Exhibits DND 2 **A6.** 4 through 5. Exhibit DND-2 calculates the reconciliation factors for each of the individual 5 Capital Riders. As shown on line 14, the rider percentages are (3.20%), (.55%), and 6 (1.78%) respectfully for the OIIP, EDI, and SEC riders, for a total reconciliation factor of 7 (5.53%). Exhibit DND-3 sets out the Earnings Test calculation I am supporting in my 8 testimony, including the three adjustments identified above. Exhibit DND-4 sets out the 9 calculation of lobbying costs I am proposing to exclude from the Earnings Test, while 10 Exhibit DND-5 quantifies the costs of the September 2019 Main Break and excludes such 11 costs from the Earnings Test calculation. I am also sponsoring supporting Exhibits DND-12 6 through DND-8, which I will explain during the course of my testimony. 13

Q7. NOW TURN TO THE ISSUE OF CWIP AND AFUDC AND BEGIN BY DEFINING THESE ACCOUNTS.

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A7. CWIP refers to plant that is under construction (in fact, that phrase is the title used by the Company in its Earnings Test exhibit to describe these expenditures). CWIP represents the accumulation of costs during the construction of an asset at a given point in time. AFUDC is the application of carrying charges while construction expenditures are being incurred. These carrying charges terminate at such time as the asset is closed and deemed to be providing service to ratepayers.

- 1 Q8. EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE SUPPORTING AN ADJUSTMENT TO EXCLUDE
- 2 BOTH CWIP AS WELL AS AFUDC FROM THE EARNINGS TEST
- 3 CALCULATION.
- 4 A8. The Company's inclusion of both CWIP as a rate base component and AFUDC as income
- 5 negates the accounting requirement underlying how AFUDC is applied to CWIP.
- 6 Including these balances within the Earnings Test calculation ensures that the CWIP
- 7 portion earns the Company's overall rate of return. This is inconsistent with the appropriate
- 8 accounting for these funds, as explained in more detail below.
- 9 Q9. WHAT IS THE EXISTING BALANCE OF CWIP AND AFUDC INCLUDED BY
- 10 THE COMPANY WITHIN ITS EARNINGS TEST CALCULATION?
- 11 A9. The balance of plant under construction (CWIP) included by the Company is \$12,038,372,
- while the balance of AFUDC recorded as income is \$527,207.
- 13 Q10. WHAT IS THE EFFECTIVE RETURN GENERATED BY THE APPLICATION
- 14 OF AFUDC DURING 2019?
- 15 **A10.** The resulting return is 4.38%, (calculated as \$527,207 / \$12,038,372).
- 16 Q11. HOW DOES THAT RETURN COMPARE WITH THE AUTHORIZED RETURN
- 17 UPON WHICH THE EARNINGS TEST IS CALCULATED?
- 18 A11. The return on these funds is 4.38%, while the authorized return benchmark upon which
- excess earnings is calculated is 7.23%.
- 20 O12. GIVEN THAT THE AFUDC RETURN ON CWIP IS LESS THAN THE OVERALL
- 21 AUTHORIZED RATE OF RETURN, WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN?

1	A12.	This disparity in returns means that the Company's AFUDC calculation results in a
2		significant revenue deficiency on plant that is not providing service to ratepayers and thus
3		reduces excess earnings that otherwise should flow to ratepayers.
4	Q13.	IS THE ACCOUNTING UNDERLYING THE CALCULATION OF AFUDC SET
5		FORTH IN THE NARUC UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS (USoA) FOR
6		WATER UTILITIES?
7	A13.	Yes. NARUC's USoA contains the following reference to Allowance for Funds Used
8		During Construction:
9 10 11		"Allowance for funds used during construction includes the net cost for the period of construction of borrowed funds used for construction purposes and a reasonable rate on other funds when so used."
12		This same information is contained in Exhibit DND-6.
13		Thus, the AFUDC requirement calls for first attributing the cost of short-term debt with
14		any remaining financing to be determined from the composite return of the combination of
15		long-term debt and equity. This definition is also consistent with the definition of AFUDC
16		as set forth in the FERC USoA applicable for electric utilities. ¹
17		The complete instruction supporting the appropriate accounting for AFUDC for water
18		utilities is attached as Exhibit DND-6 and is consistent with the AFUDC accounting
19		instructions contained in the FERC USoA.

¹ See 18 CFR Part 101 Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Public Utilities and licensees subject to the provisions of the Federal Power Act; Electric Plant Instructions, Part 3 Components of Construction Costs, Item 17 (a) Formula for Allowance for Funds Used During Construction. See also Uniform System of Accounts, adopted by the Illinois Commerce Commission: https://www.icc.illinois.gov/programs/uniform-system-of-accounts, Item 17. An affiliate of TAWC, Illinois-American Water is subject to the Illinois Commerce Commission USoA.

1	Q14.	DOES THE COMPANY'S INCLUSION OF CWIP AND AFUDC WITHIN THE
2		EARNINGS TEST CALCULATION ESSENTIALLY REVERSE THE
3		ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE USOA?
4	A14.	Yes. The inclusion of these items essentially eliminates the underlying AFUDC accounting
5		results in favor of producing an after-tax return equal to the Commission-authorized return.
6		This regulatory treatment contradicts the accounting treatment otherwise required in the
7		USoA.
8	Q15.	DO YOU BELIEVE THAT UTILTY PLANT SHOULD BE PROVIDING SERVICE
9		TO CUSTOMERS PRIOR TO BEING INCLUDED AS A RATE BASE
10		COMPONENT FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF THE
11		EARNINGS TEST?
12	A15.	Yes. In general, ratepayers should not be required to compensate the utility at its overall
13		rate of return on an after-tax basis within a historic review of operating results associated
14		with plant that is not providing service to ratepayers. ² The Company's proposal to include
15		CWIP in an evaluation of historic operating results provides an excessive return on such
16		expenditures which have not provided value or service to ratepayers.
17	Q16.	HOW HAS CWIP TRADITIONALLY BEEN TREATED BY THIS COMMISSION
18		IN FORWARD-LOOKING BASE RATE CASES?

² This follows the well-known requirement in utility regulation that plant be used and useful prior to its incorporation into rates. In certain instances where a utility's financial health is at issue, or when an electric utility is constructing a large scale generating or transmission facility, the public interest may warrant the inclusion of CWIP in Rate Base in order to avoid rate shock. Neither of these situations are an issue in the present case.

- 1 A16. I understand that a projection of CWIP has normally been included by the Commission in
- 2 Rate Base in establishing a forward-looking test period.
- 3 Q17. DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ESTABLISHING
- 4 RATES IN A FORWARD-LOOKING TEST PERIOD AND EVALUATING
- 5 WHETHER A HISTORIC PERIOD HAS PRODUCED EXCESSIVE RETURNS?
- 6 A17. Yes. A historic review, the subject of this docket, should be based upon adherence to
- 7 established accounting principles.
- 8 Q18. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY COMMISSION PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH
- 9 OVERULE THE USOA REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOUNTING FOR AFUDC?
- 10 **A18.** No.
- 11 Q19. DO YOU BELIEVE THE EXCLUSION OF CWIP AND AFUDC INCOME FROM
- 12 THE CALCULATION OF THE EARNINGS TEST REFLECTS AN
- ADJUSTMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN
- 14 THE USOA AS WELL AS FUNDAMENTAL RATEMAKING PRINCIPLES?
- 15 A19. Yes. The inclusion of these items within the earnings test calculation is inconsistent with
- the NARUC USoA and not aligned with basic ratemaking principles, and thus should be
- excluded as illustrated in Exhibit DND-3.
- 18 Q20. TURN TO THE NEXT ADJUSTMENT TO THE EARNINGS TEST, THE
- 19 REMOVAL OF LOBBYING COSTS. HAS THE COMPANY EXCLUDED
- 20 CERTAIN LOBBYING COSTS WITHIN THE EARNINGS TEST?

- 1 A20. Yes. The Company has removed \$85,920 in lobbying costs, including which the
 2 Company has indicated were inadvertently charged to lobbying expense.³ Of this amount,
 3 costs totaling were incurred by third-party vendors, while was incurred by
 4 TAWC employees through travel costs and lobbyist registration fees, and represents
 5 an immaterial allocation of costs from a TAWC affiliate.
- 6 Q21. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED THAT YOU BELIEVED THE
 7 COMPANY HAS UNDERSTATED ITS LOBBYING COSTS AS EXCLUDED
 8 FROM THE EARNINGS TEST?
- 9 **A21.** Yes. In Docket No. 19-00031, I questioned whether the Company's identification of lobbying costs incurred in 2018 were accurately identified.⁴
- 11 Q22. HAS THE COMPANY REMOVED ANY INTERNAL LABOR ASSOCIATED

 12 WITH LOBBYING EFFORTS WITHIN ITS EARNINGS TEST CALCULATION

 13 IN THIS DOCKET?
- 14 **A22.** No.
- 15 Q23. DID THE COMPANY IDENTIFY ANY INTERNAL LABOR COSTS AS
 16 LOBBYING IN DOCKET NO. 19-00031?
- 17 **A23.** Yes. The Company identified \$16,090 of total internal labor costs as lobbying in Docket No. 19-00031.⁵

³ See TAWC Response to Consumer Advocate Discovery Response No. 1-2 (a).

⁴ See Testimony of David N. Dittemore, p. 6, TPUC Docket No. 19-00031, (September 26, 2019).

⁵ See TAWC Response to Consumer Advocate Discovery Response No. 2-8(a)

1 Q24. HOW SHOULD LOBBYING BE DEFINED FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING 2 THE EARNINGS TEST CALCULATION?

A24. Lobbying costs should be defined in this Docket and going forward as the costs associated with any work performed, whether directly or indirectly, related to legislation or any attempts to influence or sway public policy or achieve a particular outcome with elected or appointed officials, whether initiated by the Company or any third-party. These activities would include fully distributed costs associated with the following:

- 1. All executive and/or non-executive time, whether internal or third-party, spent formulating, discussing, proposing, or advocating for draft or proposed legislation;
- 2. Developing and approving messages, talking points, or similar documents to legislators and/or staff members;
- 3. Reporting on the status or progress of legislation and/or public policy initiatives; and
- 4. Managing the efforts of contracted lobbyists or attorneys tasked with assisting in legislation and/or public policy initiatives.

17 Q25. CAN YOU DEFINE THE PHRASE "FULLY DISTRIBUTED COSTS" AND 18 EXPLAIN HOW IT RELATES TO QUANFITYING LOBBYING COSTS?

A25. Yes. The term "fully distributed costs" in this context simply refers to assigning costs on a pro-rata basis based on a logical allocator, such as in this case the percentage of time spent on lobbying activities (direct or indirect). If an employee were to spend 20% of his or her total annual time on these activities, then 20% of the employees' total labor cost, including all benefits and taxes, should be charged to lobbying. This contrasts with an incremental cost approach where only those additional costs associated with a specific function are charged to lobbying.

- Q26. DID THE COMPANY HAVE AN EMPLOYEE WHO REGISTERED AS A LOBBYIST ON ITS BEHALF IN 2019 WITH THE TENNESSEE ETHICS
- 3 **COMMISSION?**
- 4 **A26.** Yes. The Tennessee Ethics Commission ("TEC") maintains a database of registered lobbyists and the firms which they are representing. Exhibit DND-7 includes the listing of 2019 TEC registered lobbyists associated with the Company and includes TAWC employee Daphne Kirksey.
- 8 Q27. HOW HAS THE COMPANY IDENTIFIED THE LOBBYING COSTS THAT
 9 SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EARNINGS TEST CALCULATION?
- 10 **A27.** The Company has adopted an incremental cost approach in this case, limiting the identification of such costs to third-party contract lobbyists, travel costs incurred to travel to Nashville, and lobbyists registration fees. This incremental cost approach ignores the pro-rata labor charges associated with the lobbying function. This method further contrasts with last year's earnings test results which included a modest assignment of labor costs to the lobbying function.
- Q28. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE A FULLY DISTRIBUTED COST METHOD IS
 APPROPRIATE RATHER THAN THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED
 INCREMENTAL COST APPROACH?
- 19 **A28.** The fully distributed cost methodology underlies the USoA's accounting methodology adopted by NARUC and FERC. Employee time charged to construction activities, which

⁶ See also TAWC Response to Consumer Advocate Discovery Request No. 2-10 (Confidential), TPUC Docket No. 20-00028 (June 9, 2020).

in turn results in plant in service, is premised upon this pro-rata approach based upon the time spent on specific work orders. Employee costs are charged to various Operating and Maintenance ("O&M") accounts based upon the relative time that employee spends between the differing O&M functions. I am recommending an identical process to identify both 2019 lobbying costs in this Docket as well as future lobbying charges.

6 Q29. CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE SPECIFIC 7 TIME ASSOCIATED WITH LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BE IDENTIFIED IN A 8 CONSISTENT MANNER WITH COSTING PRINCIPLES IDENTIFIED IN THE 9 NARUC USOA?

10 A29. Yes. NARUC'S USOA Accounting Instructions Nos. 10 and 11 contains the following:

10. General - Allocation of Salaries and Expenses of Employees

Charges to utility plant or to a salaries expense account shall be based upon the actual time engaged in either plant construction or providing operation services. In the event actual time spent in the various activities is not available or practicable, salaries should be allocated upon the basis of a study of the time engaged during a representative period. Charges should not be made to the accounts based upon estimates or in an arbitrary fashion.

11. General - Payroll Distribution

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Underlying accounting data shall be maintained so that the distribution of the costs of labor charged to the various accounts will be available. The utility may utilize clearing accounts in its accounting process; however, the use of clearing accounts does not relieve the utility from the responsibility of providing a distribution of the costs of labor or from being able to substantiate its labor charged with sufficient source documents.

1	Q30.	DOES THIS DEFINITION COUPLED WITH THE FACTS OF THIS CASE
2		DEMONSTRATE THAT THE COMPANY HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE
3		USOA?
4	A30.	Yes. The Company has devoted internal resources to the lobbyist function through its
5		employment of contract lobbyists, through its travel to Nashville to attend legislative
6		functions, and through the registration of an employee as a lobbyist.
7	Q31.	DO YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY'S FAILURE TO APPLY A FULLY
8		DISTRIBUTED COST METHODOLOGY TO DEFINING LOBBYING COSTS
9		REPRESENTS A LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE USOA?
10	A31.	Yes. My adjustment should be adopted to prevent the Company from benefiting from its
11		understatement of lobbying costs and non-compliance with the USoA.
12	Q32.	TO WHAT ACCOUNT SHOULD LOBBYING COSTS INSTEAD BE CHARGED?
13	A32.	Lobbying charges are properly recorded in Account 426, which is a non-operating expense
14		account. One of the elements of this account is referenced as "Expenses disallowed in a
15		proceeding before the Commission," which would certainly include Lobbying costs.
16	Q33.	HOW DID YOU QUANTIFY LOBBYING COSTS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
17		ADJUSTMENT?
18	A33.	I estimated the TAWC employee who was a registered lobbyist during 2019 to have spent
19		20% of her time associated with lobbying, while I estimated her supervisor spent 10% of

her time associated with this function. The application of these percentages results in an

adjustment to remove lobbying costs of _____ (net of tax) from Net Operating Income

as reflected in Exhibit DND-4. The after-tax impact on the revenue requirement resulting from this adjustment is ______.

Q34. HAS THE COMMISSION PREVIOUSLY RULED ON THE METHOD TO BE

USED TO IDENTIFY LOBBYING EFFORTS?

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5 **A34.** Yes. In an order dated April 27, 2012 the Commissions' findings concerning lobbying included the following:

The Authority agrees that the calculation of Salaries and Wages Expense appropriately begins with 110 employees, but deducts the portion of the current salary of the Government Affairs Specialist that correlates to time spent performing the job function of political lobbying or legislative/governmental actions advocacy. The Company's witness, Mr. Watson, TAWC President, testified that the Government Affairs Specialist position was a newly created position, which replaced a previously contracted service position, filled by the Company on August 30, 2010. The duties of the Government Affairs Specialist include working closely with municipal officials, customers, and constituents on local issues, building relationships with state officials concerning activities, plans, and projects of interest to the Company, improving the Company's management of local and state issue, and monitoring changes in municipal, county, state and federal laws and regulations. Mr. Watson estimated that 20% of the Government Affairs Specialist time would be spent lobbying on behalf of TAWC and its customers.

It is a well-established and long-standing policy of the TRA to disallow expenses related to lobbying when setting utility rates. Consistent with its own policy and precedent, and that of most other state regulatory commissions throughout this country, the majority finds that expense related to lobbying are expended for the benefit of the Company first and foremost, and are not necessary for the provision of safe and adequate service. Therefore, the majority concludes that insofar as 20% of the Government Affairs Specialist's time will be spent lobbying, it is reasonable for ratemaking purposes to deduct a proportional percentage of the current salary allocated to that position (20%).

Q35. IS YOUR ADJUSTMENT CONSISTENT WITH PRIOR COMMISSION DECISIONS REGARDING THE QUANTIFICATION OF LOBBYING COSTS?

- A35. My recommendation with respect to the direct lobbying efforts of the TAWC employee performing lobbying is consistent with the prior Commission decision cited above. In addition, I have allocated a portion of the TAWC supervisor's time to the lobbying function at the 10% rate in arriving at the total lobbying adjustment.
- Q36. DO YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE INDICATING THE PRIORITY THE COMPANY HAS PLACED ON LEGISLATION WITHIN ITS ORGANIZATION?
- **A36.** Yes. Exhibit DND-8 is an excerpt from a January 2019 American Water investor presentation. As reflected on slide 14, the passage of so-called "fair market value" legislation is identified as a growth opportunity for the Company. A closer review of this

- slide indicates that "fair market value" legislation has been a dominant theme in terms of
- legislative priority in 2019.
- 3 Q37. GIVEN THE EVIDENCE THAT THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WAS
- 4 TOUTED TO INVESTORS AS A COMPANY PRIORITY, DOES THIS LEAD YOU
- 5 TO BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST SOME FOCUS WAS PLACED ON THIS
- 6 EFFORT BY TAWC'S EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP?
- 7 A37. Yes. I have participated in the development of investor slides in my previous employment,
- 8 while also interacting with executive leadership of a utility. From my experience, goals
- 9 and strategies identified to the investment community are aligned with goals of upper
- management of the utility. It is reasonable to conclude that some portion of the time of the
- TAWC president and other Company officials was devoted to working on this legislative
- initiative as well as through the supervisory role of the registered TAWC lobbyist.
- 13 Q38. DO YOU BELIEVE THE ATTRIBUTION OF 10% OF THE REGISTERED
- 14 LOBBYIST'S SUPERVISOR'S TIME AND ASSOCIATED COSTS TO BE A
- 15 **CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE?**
- 16 **A38.** Yes.
- 17 O39. DO YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNTING RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
- 18 COMPANY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW REGARDING THE
- 19 IDENTIFICATION OF LOBBYING COSTS GOING FORWARD?
- 20 A39. Yes. I recommend that all employees working on lobbying tasks, as described above,
- accurately track such time spent on lobbying activities and that their loaded hourly rate
- 22 (including all benefits and taxes) be charged to Account 426, Miscellaneous Nonutility

Expenses and thus excluded from Net Operating Income. This accounting would then exclude such costs from the identification of excess earnings.⁷

Q40. NOW TURN TO THE ADJUSTMENT TO REMOVE COSTS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE SEPTEMBER 2019 MAIN BREAK. FIRST, EXPLAIN WHAT
OCCURRED.

A40.

The Company suffered a water main break, which resulted in a significant outage on its system, reportedly affecting 35,000 customers in September 2019. Regarding the event, the Company has simply indicated in a publicly available message crafted in September 2019 that "on the evening of September 12, TAWC and its contractors were working on a planned project to install a valve on a 36-inch transmission main, which is a large pipe for moving water. While the valve work was being performed, workers noticed a large amount of water beginning to surface from a meter vault that was located near but was not part of the planned project. We have not identified the cause of the main break and concluding this evaluation is a priority."

Despite our best efforts through discovery, the Company has provided little information regarding the cause of the outage. And despite its assurance that concluding the evaluation of the water main break was a priority, no further information has been provided by the Company concerning the nature or cause of the service interruption.

⁷ While the Consumer Advocate attempted to question the Company for information concerning an appropriate allocation of internal time spent on lobbying activities, TAWC was unable or unwilling to provide such an allocation. *See* TAWC Responses to Consumer Advocate Discovery Request Nos. 2-9 and 2-10.

⁸ See TAWC Response to Consumer Advocate Discovery Request No. 1-7.

- 1 Q41. HAS THE COMPANY PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT THIS EVENT WAS
- 2 EITHER OUTSIDE ITS CONTROL OR THAT IT ACTED PRUDENTLY
- 3 LEADING UP TO THE EVENT?
- 4 **Q41.** No.
- 5 Q42. IS THERE PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING THIS EVENT?
- 6 A42. It is the Consumer Advocate's understanding that there is pending litigation concerning
- 7 this event, but the Company has refused to inform the Consumer Advocate or the
- 8 Commission (to our knowledge) of the status of this litigation.
- 9 Q43. DOES THE FACT THAT THERE IS PENDING CIVIL LITIGATION
- 10 SURROUNDING THIS EVENT MEAN THAT REGULATORS SHOULD NOT
- 11 HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE
- 12 REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS OF THE EVENT?
- 13 A43. No. Sensitive information may be provided to regulators under seal for appropriate
- consideration in regulatory proceedings. Moreover, given this Commission's statutory
- duty to oversee public utilities in Tennessee, the utility should be forthcoming with this
- information and candid about the cause and status of events such as the water main break.
- 17 Q44. WHAT HAS BEEN THE COMPANY'S STANCE REGARDING PROVIDING
- 18 SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OUTAGE?
- 19 A44. The Company has objected to a request for information, indicating instead that such
- 20 information is not relevant and the analysis of the event is being conducted under
- 21 attorney/client privilege.

1 Q45. WHAT ARE THE REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS OF THE WATER MAIN

2 BREAK EVENT IN THE PRESENT DOCKET?

- A45. The information regarding the water main break is extremely relevant in this case as the

 Company, by its own admission, continues to be in an excess earning situation. Pursuant

 to the terms of its Capital Riders mechanism, excess earnings reduce the surcharges that

 would otherwise be imposed on ratepayers. The Company has incurred costs during 2019

 that otherwise reduce the excess earnings credited to ratepayers. Within the Company's

 filing, the ratepayers would reimburse the Company for the costs of the September water

 main break.
- 10 Q46. SHOULD RATEPAYERS BEAR THE COSTS OF THE WATER MAIN BREAK
 11 SIMPLY BECAUSE THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE OUTAGE IS
- 12 SENSITIVE INFORMATION?
- 13 **A46.** No. The Company has the burden to demonstrate that it was not at fault for the water main break, and it has simply failed to meet its burden in this regard.
- 15 Q47. HAS THE COMPANY IDENTIFIED THE SCOPE OF COSTS ASSOCIATED

 16 WITH THE MAIN BREAK?
- 17 A47. Yes. Exhibit 5 details the impacts on Rate Base, O&M costs, and Depreciation Expense
 18 associated with the September water main break. Most of the revenue requirement
 19 associated with this event is comprised of the provision of drinking water, through bottled
 20 water and water trucks. However, the capital expenditures incurred throughout the final
 21 quarter of the year will have future revenue requirement impacts as well.

1	Q48.	WHAT	HAS	BEEN	THE	COMPANY'S	MESSAGING	REGARDING	THE
ว		PPOVIS	SION (E DDIN	IKING	WATER DIEL	NG THE OUTA	CF?	

A48. Information provided by the Company (and available to the public) in response to

Consumer Advocate Request No. 1-7 contains the following information concerning

efforts of the Company:

WHAT DID TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER DO TO HELP CUSTOMERS DURING THE OUTAGES?

Tennessee American Water deployed multiple water tankers after the main break and provided the majority of the bottled water supplied to the distribution sites....

I suspect TAWC customers would be surprised to learn of the Company's underlying accounting in this case, which would have them, rather than the Company, incur the cost of the water provisions instigated by the water main break.

Q49. WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE REGULATORY TREATMENT OF THESE COSTS?

A49. I recommend that all costs associated with the September water main break be deferred as a regulatory asset. If in a later proceeding the Company sufficiently demonstrates it was not at fault for the event, it could then flow the associated costs appropriately through its Income Statement within the context of an Earnings Test or other revenue-requirement determination. Separate deferred assets should be established to account for the capital expenditures and O&M costs.

- 1 Q50. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?
- **A50.** Yes.

David Dittemore

Experience

Areas of Specialization

Approximately thirty-years experience in evaluating and preparing regulatory analysis, including revenue requirements, mergers and acquisitions, utility accounting and finance issues and public policy aspects of utility regulation. Presented testimony on behalf of my employers and clients in natural gas, electric, telecommunication and transportation matters covering a variety of issues.

Tennessee Attorney General's Office; Financial Analyst September, 2017 – Current Responsible for evaluation of utility proposals on behalf of the Attorney General's office including water, wastewater and natural gas utility filings. Prepare analysis and expert witness testimony documenting findings and recommendations.

Kansas Gas Service; Director Regulatory Affairs 2014 – 2017; Manager Regulatory Affairs, 2007 - 2014

Responsible for directing the regulatory activity of Kansas Gas Service (KGS), a division of ONE Gas, serving approximately 625,000 customers throughout central and eastern Kansas. In this capacity I have formulated strategic regulatory objectives for KGS, formulated strategic legislative options for KGS and led a Kansas inter-utility task force to discuss those options, participated in ONE Gas financial planning meetings, hired and trained new employees and provided recommendations on operational procedures designed to reduce regulatory risk. Responsible for the overall management and processing of base rate cases (2012 and 2016). I also played an active role, including leading negotiations on behalf of ONE Gas in its Separation application from its former parent, ONEOK, before the Kansas Corporation Commission. I have monitored regulatory earnings, and continually determine potential ratemaking outcomes in the event of a rate case filing. I ensure that all required regulatory filings, including surcharges are submitted on a timely and accurate basis. I also am responsible for monitoring all electric utility rate filings to evaluate competitive impacts from rate design proposals.

Strategic Regulatory Solutions; 2003 -2007

Principal; Serving clients regarding revenue requirement and regulatory policy issues in the natural gas, electric and telecommunication sectors

Williams Energy Marketing and Trading; 2000-2003

Manager Regulatory Affairs; Monitored and researched a variety of state and federal electric regulatory issues. Participated in due diligence efforts in targeting investor owned electric utilities for full requirement power contracts. Researched key state and federal rules to identify potential advantages/disadvantages of entering a given market.

MCI WorldCom; 1999 - 2000

Manager, Wholesale Billing Resolution; Manage a group of professionals responsible for resolving Wholesale Billing Disputes greater than \$50K. During my tenure, completed disputes increased by over 100%, rising to \$150M per year.

Kansas Corporation Commission; 1984- 1999

Utilities Division Director - 1997 - 1999; Responsible for managing employees with the goal of providing timely, quality recommendations to the Commission covering all aspects of natural gas, telecommunications and electric utility regulation; respond to legislative inquiries as requested; sponsor expert witness testimony before the Commission on selected key regulatory issues; provide testimony before the Kansas legislature on behalf of the KCC regarding proposed utility legislation; manage a budget in excess of \$2 Million; recruit professional staff; monitor trends, current issues and new legislation in all three major industries; address personnel issues as necessary to ensure that the goals of the agency are being met; negotiate and reach agreement where possible with utility personnel on major issues pending before the Commission including mergers and acquisitions; consult with attorneys on a daily basis to ensure that Utilities Division objectives are being met.

Asst. Division Director - 1996 - 1997; Perform duties as assigned by Division Director. Chief of Accounting 1990 - 1995; Responsible for the direct supervision of 9 employees within the accounting section; areas of responsibility included providing expert witness testimony on a variety of revenue requirement topics; hired and provided hands-on training for new employees; coordinated and managed consulting contracts on major staff projects such as merger requests and rate increase proposals;

Managing Regulatory Auditor, Senior Auditor, Regulatory Auditor 1984 - 1990; Performed audits and analysis as directed; provided expert witness testimony on numerous occasions before the KCC; trained and directed less experienced auditors onsite during regulatory reviews.

Amoco Production Company 1982 - 1984

Accountant Responsible for revenue reporting and royalty payments for natural gas liquids at several large processing plants.

Education

- B.S.B.A. (Accounting) Central Missouri State University
- Passed CPA exam; (Oklahoma certificate # 7562) Not a license to practice

Consumer Advocate Unit Docket 20-00028 Tennessee American Water Company 2019 Reconciliation of Capital Riders Earnings Test - As Adjusted

Exhibit DND-2

Amount per TAWC	QIIP	EDI	SEC	Total	
Actual Capital Riders Revenues Billed	\$4,953,694	\$224,334	\$2,942,001	\$8,120,029	A/
(Oyer)/Under Capital Riders Revenue Billings	529;217	82,214	294,635	906,066	A/
Budget to Actual Adjustment	(71,967)	(106,387)	101,484	(76,869)	A/
2018 Reconciliation Amount	(403,036)	(112,806)	(324,484)	(840,326)	A/
Earnings Test Adjustment	(769,750)	(34,859)	(457, 155)	(1,261,764)	A/
Interest (Prime - 4.75%)	(16,994)	(4,081)	(9,156)	(30,231)	Λ/
Reconciliation Amount	(\$732,529)	(\$175,919)	(\$394,676)	(\$1,303,124)	
Authorized Capital Riders Revenues (9/12th)	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	
Current Reconciliation Factor Percentage	-2,07%	-0.50%	-1.12%	-3.69%	
Adjustment Per Consumer Advocate					
Additional Revenue Requirement Excess	\$ (386,532)	\$ (17,505)	\$ (229,561)	(\$633,598)	B/
Additional Interest	\$ (9,584)	\$ (513)	\$ (5,670)	(\$15,766)	
Total Reconciliation Amount	(\$1,128,645)	(\$193,937)	(\$629,907)	(\$1,952,489)	
Authorized Capital Riders Revenues (9/12th)	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	\$35,305,293	
Reconciliation Factor Percentages per Consumer Advocate	-3.20%	-0,55%	-1.78%	-5.53%	

A/ TAW_2019_Capital_Rider_Recon.xlsx, tab Exhibit Reconciliation B/ Exhibit DND-3

Consumer Advocate Unit Docket 20-00028 Tennessee American Water Company 2019 Reconcillation of Capital Riders Earnings Test - As Adjusted Summary of Consumer Advocate Unit Adjustments

Exhibit DND-3

Sunim Line#	ary of Consumer Advocate Unit Adjustm	13Mth Average Per TAWC	To Remove CWIP and AFUDC	B/ To Remove Lobbying Costs		C/ Remove nin Brenk Costs	Total
	Additions:						
2	Plant in Service	\$334,700,027			\$	(17,948)	\$334,682,079
3	Plant Under Construction	12,038,372	(12,038,372)			(,)	\$0
4	Property Held For Puture Use	0	()				\$0
5	Materials and Supplies	848,996					\$848,996
6	Other Additions:						
7	Leased Utility Plant	0					2
8	Unnmortized Painting - net	0					\$0
9	Working Capital C/	3,409,884					\$3,409,884
10							
11	Total Additions	\$350,997,279					\$338,940,959
12							
13							
14	Deductions:						
1.5	Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization				\$	(34)	\$90,462,593
16	Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	48,210,242					\$48,210,242
17	Unamortized Investment Credit - Pre 1971	2,131					\$2,13
18	Customer Deposits	0					\$(
19	Other Deductions:	15040445					@17 P4P 94
20	Contributions in Aid of Construction	17,849,847					\$17,849,84
21	Customer Advances for Construction	3,882,604					\$3,882,604
22	All Other A/	(1,090,174)					(\$1,090,174
23 24	Total Deductions	\$159,317,278	(\$12,038,372)				\$159,317,244
25	Total Dedictions	41.19,717,4270	(312,030,372)				יידעורוכולכוש
26	Rate Base	\$191,680,001					\$179,623,715
27	TOTAL LINE	1112110001001					,,
28	Net Operating Income	\$13,288,428				81,543	\$13,411,648
29	Adjustments to NOI	0				5 7 7 7 7	41-1111-11
30	Allowance for funds used during constructi		(527,207)				\$0
31	Adjustment to reflect effective federal	0	()				\$0
32	Income tax rate (debt assigned to parent)	296,853					\$296,853
33	Interest on customer deposits	0					\$0
34	Incentive Compensation	592,058					\$592,058
35	Lobbying Expenses	85,920					\$85,920
	Depreciation Expense Main Break Plant						
36	(net of Tax)				S.	325	\$325
37	Adjusted Net Operating Income	\$14,790,466	(\$27,207)			81,868	\$14,386,804
38							
39							
40	Rule of return B/	7.72%					8.019
41	Rate of Return - 2019	7,72%					B 019
42	Authorized Rate of Return	7.23%					7.239
43	Authorized Adjusted Net Operating Income	e \$13,858,464					\$12,986,79
44	Actual 2019 Adjusted Net Operating Incom	ne \$14,790,466					\$14,386,804
45	Above of (Below) Earnings	\$932,002					\$1,400,009
46	Gross-up Income Tax Rate	1,3538212					1.3538213
47	Revenue Requirement Excess	\$1,261,764					\$1,895,362
48	Additional Revenue Requirement Excess						\$633,598

A/ TAWC Monthly Reports B/ DND-Exhibit 4 - After Tax C/ DND- Exhibit 5 - After Tax Consumer Advocate Unit
Docket 20-00028
Tennessee American Water Company
2019 Reconciliation of Capital Riders
Calculation of Lobbying Expenses

Exhibit DND-4

CONFIDENTIAL

Line No.	Item	Amount	Source
	Direct Lobbying	Amounts are Confidential	
1	Total Compensation of TAWC Registered Lobbyist		A/
2	Less: Portion of Incentive Compensation Removed		A/
3	Adjusted Compensation of TAWC Registered Lobbyist		
4	Imputed Lobbying Percentage	20%	B/
5	Direct Lobbying Costs - Internal TAWC Labor		
6	Indirect Lobbying		
7	Total Compensation of Supervisor TAWC Lobbyist		C/
8	Less: Portion of Incentive Compensation Removed		C/
9	Adjusted Compensation of Lobbyist Supervisor		
10	Imputed Lobbying Percentage	10%	
11	Indirect Lobbying		
12	Less: Inadvertent Legal costs TAWC recorded to Lobbying		D/
13	Total Lobbying Costs		
14	Lobbying Costs - Net of Tax		

A/ Confidential Response to CA Request 1-2 c

B/TPUC Order Docket 10-00189

C/ Confidential Response to CA Request 1-2 d

D/ Response to CA DR 1-4

Consumer Advocate Unit Docket 20-00028 Tennessee American Water Company 2019 Reconciliation of Capital Riders Impact of Main Break on Excess Earning Calculation

Exhibit DND-5

	Impact of Main Break on Plant in Service	A/				
				Depreciation		
			Gross Plant	Expense		
				(Assume December	r	
			Main Break	in Service Date)	1	Net Plant In Service
2018	December	\$		\$ -		\$ -
2019	January		0	()	(
	February		0	()	C
	March		0	()	C
	April		0	()	
	May		0	()	C
	June		0	()	0
	July		0	()	C
	August		0	()	C
	September		146,043	()	146,043
	October		30,544	()	30,544
	November		52,922	()	52,922
	December		3,813	\$ 440		3,373
	Total	\$	233,322	\$ 440		\$ 232,882
	13 Month Average	\$	17,948	\$ 34		\$ 17,914
				Accumulated		
				Depreciation		

Operating and Maintenance Costs A	Associated with Main	Break	
			Source:
Bottled Water	\$	41,605	B/
Drinking Water	\$	63,430	B/
Legal Services	\$	5,360	C/
Total	\$	110,395	

D/	Composite Depreciation Rate	
	Total QIIP Depreciation	1,075,715
	Total QIIP Plant	\$47,530,740
	Composite Depreciation Expense	2,26%

A/Response to CA DR 1-6

B/ Response to CA DR 1-8

C/ Response to CA DR 2-13(v)

D/ TAW_2019_Capital Rider_Recon.xlsx, tab Exhibit Reconciliation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS

FOR

CLASS A/B

WATER COMPANIES

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

The 1996 version of the NARUC USOA for Water Utilities was modified and adopted by the Kentucky Public Service Commission in 2002.

ACCOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS

includible in construction costs before the facilities become available for service.

(17) "Allowance for funds used during construction" includes the net cost for the period of construction of borrowed funds used for construction purposes and a reasonable rate on other funds when so used. No allowance for funds used during construction shall be included in these accounts upon expenditures for construction projects which have been abandoned.

Note:--When only a part of a plant or project is placed in operation or is completed and ready for service but the construction work as a whole is incomplete, that part of the cost of the property placed in operation, or ready for service, shall be treated as "Utility Plant in Service" and allowance for funds used during construction thereon as a charge to construction shall cease. Allowance for funds used during construction on that part of the cost of the plant which is incomplete may be continued as a charge to construction until such time as it is placed in operation or is ready for service, except as limited in item 17, above.

- (18) "Earnings and expenses during construction." The earnings and expenses during construction shall constitute a component of construction costs.
 - (a) The earnings shall include revenues received or earned for water produced by plants during the construction period and sold or used by the utility. Where such water is sold to an independent purchaser before intermingling with water from other plants, the credit shall consist of the selling price of the water. Where the water from a plant under construction is delivered to the utility's water system for distribution and sale, or is delivered to an associated company, or is delivered to and used by the utility for purposes other than distribution and sale (for manufacturing or industrial use, for example), the credit shall be the fair value of the water so delivered. The revenues shall also include rentals for lands, buildings, etc., and miscellaneous receipts not properly includible in other accounts.
 - (b) The expenses shall consist of the cost of operating the water plant, and other costs incident to the production and delivery of water for which construction is credited under paragraph (a), above, including the cost of repairs and other expenses of operating and maintaining lands, buildings, and other property, and other miscellaneous and like expenses not properly includible in other accounts.

Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance



Detail - Employer of Lobbyist(s)

Gennessee American 09 Wiehl Street Chattanooga , TN 37 23-771-4723		
athryn.robinson@am Registrations		Past Registrations
**************************************	2020	
Lobbyist	Address	Registrations
David Braam	109 Wiehl Street	2020-03-12
Clayton Byrd	424 Church St., Ste. 2700	<u>2020-01-07</u>
Brad Lampley	424 Church Street	2020-01-06
	2019	
Lobbyist	Address	Registrations
Clayton Byrd	424 Church St., Ste. 2700	<u>2018-12-21</u>
Daphne Kirksey	109 Wiehl Street	<u>2019-03-01</u>
Brad Lampley	424 Church Street	2018-12-14
obbying Expend	liture Reports (ss-8011)	
Current: <u>2020-02-04</u>		
rchived: Select	~	

HORE

Telp and FAQs Search Reports

Privacy Statement



AMERICAN WATER

Investor Presentation

January 2019

"We keep life flowing"

Water Quality Accountability Act Water & wastewater revenue requirement consolidation Fair market value & post Pennsylvania 2012 & 2016 Maryland 2018 acquisition deferral Fair market value Fair market value Water Commitment Act (SB 362) Fair market value expansion Wastewater rate consolidation 2015, 2016 & 2018 Water rate consolidation Indiana Fair market value Fair market value & post acquisition deferrals Fair market value Missouri 2013 Fair market value Fair market value California

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