FILE

34

OCC EXHIBIT NO.

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

)

)

)

In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase Its Rates and Charges in Its Masury Division.

Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR

## DIRECT TESTIMONY of AMR A. IBRAHIM

#### ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL 10 West Broad St., Suite 1800 Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 466-8574

February 22, 2010

AECEIVED-DOCKETING.DIV 2010 FEB 22 PM 4: 36 PUCO

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business. Technician \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed FEB 2 3 2010

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### 

#### EXHIBITS

i

AAI - 2

AAI – 3

#### Page

#### 1 I. INTRODUCTION

- 2
- 3

Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND

#### 4

## OCCUPATION FOR THE RECORD.

A1. My name is Amr A. Ibrahim. My business address is 10 West Broad Street, Suite
 1800, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. I am employed by the Office of the Ohio Consumers'
 Counsel ("OCC" or "Consumers' Counsel") as a Senior Regulatory Analyst.

8

# 9 Q2. PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND

## 10 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

11 A2. I received a PhD (Economics) from the University of Sussex, UK, in 1988, a M.A.

(Economics) from the American University in Cairo in 1981, and a B.A. (Accounting)
 from Cairo University in 1975. I am a member of the International Association of

14 Energy Economics ("IAEE"), and a member of the American Water Works

15 Association ("AWWA").

16

Prior to joining the OCC in October 2008, I worked as an independent Consultant with
several entities in the U.S. and the UK. Further, I worked for four years (2002 – 2006)
as a Senior Analyst, Market and Regulatory Practices, for the Independent System
Operator of New England ("ISO-NE"). Additionally, I was a Manager, then a Director,
Regulatory Affairs in Enron Corporation from 1997 to 2001. I was also a Senior Rate
Policy Analyst with BChydro (British Columbia, Canada) from 1990 to 1997 where I
performed cost of service studies and rate design.

1	Q3.	PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE RELATED TO COST OF
2		SERVICE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS.
3	<i>A3</i> .	I have worked for several years in rates and cost of service studies analysis where I
4		provided technical and analytical support regarding various rate and cost of service
5		filings. I performed similar work (e.g., conducting cost of service studies, rate design,
6		and regulatory/economic due diligence) for electricity, gas and water systems outside
7		United States and Canada while working for Enron Corporation.
8		
9		Additionally, since joining the OCC as a member of the Analytical Services
10		Department, I was an affiant in the FERC Docket Nos. ER09-134-000, et al. where I
11		provided an affidavit on the status of competitive electricity service and government
12		aggregation in the state of Ohio. <sup>1</sup> I also was responsible for providing technical support
13		to formulate OCC's position on Economic Development and Unique Arrangements
14		filed before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission" or "PUCO") <sup>2</sup> ,
15		and OCC's positions on rate design and cost of service related to water cases filed
16		before the PUCO. <sup>3</sup>
17		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> First Energy Solution Corp., et al., Docket Nos. ER-09-134-000, ER09-135-000, ER09-136-000, and ER09-137-000, Affidavit of Amr Ibrahim (November 14, 2008).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For example, The Application for Establishment of a Reasonable Arrangement Between The Ohio Edison Company and V&M Star (Case: 09-80-EL-AEC), and In the Matter of the Application of Ormet Primary Aluminum Corporation for Approval of a Unique Arrangement with Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power Company (Case: 09-119-EL-AEC).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For example In the Matter of the Application of Ohio American Water Company To Increase Its Rates in Its Entire Service Area for Water Service and Sewer Service, (Case No. 09-391-WS-AIR), May 7, 2009, and In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges in the Lake Erie Division (Case No, 09-1044-WW-AIR), November, 20, 2009.

1	Q4.	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC
2		UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO?
3	A4.	Yes. I have submitted written testimony before the PUCO in a Dayton Power
4		& Light proceeding in Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO, et al., in an Ormet
5		proceeding in Case No. 09-119-EL-AEC, and in an Eramet proceeding in
6		Case No. 09-516-EL-AEC. The testimony that I provided in those cases
7		addressed, among other topics, tariff related issues. <sup>4</sup>
8		
9	II.	PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
10		
11	Q5.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS
12		PROCEEDING?
1 <b>3</b>	<i>A5</i> .	I propose to the Commission for this case subsequent to the determination of the
14		appropriate level of revenue requirement to sponsor a process among the
15		different stakeholders in order to arrive at just, reasonable, and gradual rate
16		increases over a period of time in an attempt to avoid or lessen rate shock that
17		will be caused as the result of this case.
18		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In the Matter of the Application of the Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Its Electric Security Plan (*Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO, et. al.*), January 26, 2009, and In the Matter of the Application of Ormet Primary Aluminum Corporation for Approval of a Unique Arrangement with Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power Company (*Case No. No. 09-119-EL-AEC*), April 27, 2009.

1	Q6.	WHAT DOCUMENTS HAVE YOU REVIEWED IN PREPARATION OF
2		YOUR TESTIMONY?
3	A6.	I have reviewed the Aqua Ohio, Inc., August 7, 2009 Application requesting to
4		increase the rates charged in its Masury Division (Application) and the testimony
5		and exhibits presented with the filing. I also have analyzed various relevant
6		information and documents obtained through discovery as well as reviewing the PUCO
7		Staff Report submitted on January 21, 2010. <sup>5</sup>
8		
9	III.	AQUA OHIO COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND RATE DESIGN
1 <b>0</b>		
11	Q7.	PLEASE DESCRIBE AQUA OHIO'S AUGUST 7, 2009 APPLICATION.
12	A7.	On August 7, 2009, Aqua Ohio filed its Application to increase the rates charged in its
13		Masury Division. <sup>6</sup> Aqua Ohio purports that the "Masury Division urgently requires
14		additional revenues to enable that Division to continue to render reliable and efficient
15		utility service.""7 In support of the Application, Aqua Ohio submitted "Aqua Ohio,
16		Inc. Masury Division Cost of Service and Tariff Design Studies."8 That study was
17		undertaken for the purpose of determining the appropriate cost of supplying water
18		service to the various customer classes, and to design rates that may permit the

<sup>7</sup> Id. at 2.

;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Staff's Report of Investigation. In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR, January 21, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-0560-WW-AIR, at 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Id., Schedule E-3.2, Witness responsible David R. Monie PE.

1		Company to collect revenues equal to the cost of service.9 The total revenues that
2		Aqua Ohio is seeking to collect through the new proposed rates are \$872,432.10 If
3		compared to the present Pro Forma rates which collect \$482,460,11 the proposed rates
4		will result in an overall increase to Aqua's consumers of approximately eighty one
5		percent (80.83%, exactly). It is noteworthy the tariffs currently on file with the
6		Commission were established by a PUCO Entry in Case No. 00-713-WW-AIR, which
7		became effective in March 2001. <sup>12</sup>
8		
9	Q8.	PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND THE PROPOSED
10		TARIFFS AS FILED BY THE COMPANY
11	<b>A8.</b>	The filed Cost of Service Study ("COSS") was based on the operating and financial
12		information that were presented in the Application to constitute the cost of providing
13		service to all customer classes. The Company states that the study followed the base-
14		extra capacity method of allocating costs; this methodology is outlined in the American
15		Water Works Association ("AWWA") Manual of Water of Supply Practices. <sup>13</sup> The

<sup>10</sup> Id., at Table 14.

<sup>11</sup> Id. at Table 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The study took 2008 as a test year and used actual data for the 12 month period. See Id, at "Title Sheet".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Staff's Report of Investigation. In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR, January 21, 2010, at 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> American Water Works Association. Manual of Water Supply Practices--M1. Fifth Edition.. Principles of Water Rates, Fees and Charges. (See Chapter 7). Tables 1, 9 and 5 in Schedule E-3.2, depict the different allocations percentages used in the study.

1	with a 5/8 inch meter using the method that is recommended by the PUCO Staff, <sup>14</sup> and
2	then arrived at the Customer Charge for the other meter sizes proportional to the
3	AWWA meter capacities. The Company further indicates that once revenues from
4	customer charges (including revenues from private and public water protection) were
5	determined, the usage commodity charges were increased to produce revenues equal to
6	the Company's target revenue requirement of \$872,432.15
7	
8	The proposed rates would collect \$576,928 in revenues from the residential customer
9	class which is close to the cost of serving the class of \$549,181 (i.e., a revenue-to-cost
10	ratio of 1.05) based on the Company's COSS. At the proposed rates, residential
11	customers will experience an increase in their rates of 80.19%. The proposed rates for
12	the commercial customer class would collect revenues of \$136,771 which suggests a
13	revenue-to-cost ratio of 1.16 when compared to the cost of their service of \$117,911.
14	At the proposed rates, commercial customers will experience an increase in their rates
15	equal to 73.07%. Tariffs for fire protection (both private and public), however, do not
16	offer the opportunity to fully collect their allocated cost of service as their revenue-to-
17	cost ratios are less than one. Although the proposed tariffs increased their rates by
18	100%, the filed COSS indicates that other customer classes would provide a subsidy to
19	private fire protection of approximately \$24,000 and subsidy of around \$40,000 to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See Direct Testimony of David R. Monie on Behalf of Aqua Ohio, Inc. Masury Division at 5/6, August 20, 2009. Also see Staff's Report of Investigation. In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR. January 21, 2010, at 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See Direct Testimony of David R. Monie on Behalf of Aqua Ohio, Inc. Masury Division at 6.

public fire protection.<sup>16</sup> All residential customers pay for the public fire protection through a monthly fixed charge (currently \$3.065).<sup>17</sup> Table 1 depicts a summary of the revenues at present and proposed rates. It is noteworthy that proposed rates do not include the System Improvement Charge ("SIC") of 3% that is in the current tariff structure. The present and proposed rates are depicted in Exhibit AAI-1.

Table 1: Filed Summary of Revenues at Present and Proposed Rates by Aqua Ohio.

6

- 7 8
- ğ

	Cost of Service		Pro Forma Present		Pro Forma Proposed		Percent	
Customer Class	Amount	Percent	Amount	Amount Percent		Percent	Increase	
Metered Revenue:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	((5 -3 )/3	
Residential (1)	549,181	62.95%	320,181	67.8%	576,928	67.5%	80.19%	
Commercial (1)	117,911	13.52%	79,026	16.7%	136,771	16.0%	73.07%	
Total Metered	667,091	76.46%	399,207	84.6%	713,699	83.5%	78.78%	
Private Fire Protection (1)	54,470	6.24%	15,645	3.3%	30,379	3.6%	94.18%	
Public Fire Protection (1)	150,871	17.29%	57,190	12.1%	111,048	13.0%	94.17%	
SIC	0	0.00%	ncluded Abov	0.0%	0	0,0%	0,00%	
Other Service Revenues	0	0.00%	10,419	0.00%	17 <b>,292</b>	0.00%	65.97%	
Total Revenues	872.432	<u>100.00%</u>	482.460	100.0%	<u>872.417</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>80,83%</u>	

10

11 12

13

## 14

## 15 Q9. IS THE BASE-EXTRA CAPACITY AN APPROPRIATE METHOD TO USE

16 IN THIS CASE?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See Schedule E-3.2, Witness responsible David R. Monie PE, Table 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See Aqua Ohio answer to OCC Int-54 attached as AAI-2.

1	A9.	Yes. The Company's methodology is consistent with the AWWA guidelines
2		pertaining to allocating costs of service to the different cost components.
3		including the base costs, the extra capacity costs and customer costs.
4		
5	Q10.	IS THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED RATE DESIGN ACCEPTABLE IN
6		THIS CASE?
7	A10.	Yes. The Company's proposed rate design is a set of rates that applies to all
8		customer classes, not a complex structure with rates by different customer class.
9		As for the level of tariffs (i.e., the charges in the rate schedules), it shall be
10		determined once the Commission authorizes the appropriate revenue
11		requirement. When this level is determined, the resulting tariffs should provide
12		Aqua Ohio with the opportunity to recoup the approved revenues but it will
13		expose customers to rate shock because the rates proposed by the Company
14		reflect an increase, on average, of over 80%. Such a large increase goes against
15		the principle of gradualism, and as discussed further below, it shall cause a rate
16		shock to residential customers.
17		
18	Q11.	WERE THERE ANY DISTINGUISHING FACTORS THAT YOU TOOK
1 <b>9</b>		INTO CONSIDERATION IN YOUR EVALUATION OF BOTH THE
20		METHODOLOGY USED THROUGHOUT THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED
<b>2</b> 1		COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND PROPOSED RATE DESIGN IN THIS
22		CASE?

8

1	<i>A11</i> .	Yes
2		
3	Q12.	WHAT WERE THOSE CONSIDERATIONS?
4	A12.	It is important to highlight that in my evaluation of both the methodology used
5		throughout COSS and the structure of the proposed rate design I took into
6		consideration that the Masury Division is a small utility servicing only 1387
7		residential customers and 86 commercial customers (of whom three are actually
8		industrial). Further, the Company no longer serves a large customer that once
9		purchased 75% of all water sold by the Division (Trumbull County, 2004). <sup>18</sup>
10		Additionally, the Company's current rates were established by the PUCO in Case
11		No. 00-713-WW-AIR and became effective in March 2001, almost nine years ago.
12		
1 <b>3</b>		The very small size of the Company and the departure of a large customer make
14		alternative approaches to rate design (e.g., rates by customer class) impractical.
15		The small size also mandates that a more rigorous COSS with dedicated studies
16		to arrive at more accurate allocation factors be neither necessary nor cost-
17		effective. This size will also make the utility's customers susceptible to
18		relatively large fire protection charges. Fire protection requires a large volume of
1 <b>9</b>		water that bigger systems are in a more advantageous position to allocate the
20		associated costs to a larger pool of customers. These attributes make the Masury

2

ł

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See letter of J. Bentine, Counsel for Consumers Ohio Water Company to the PUCO on February 19, 2003.

1		Division a unique case in several ways and unlike other water cases currently
2		before the Commission such as the Ohio American Water Company (Case 09-
3		391-WS-AIR) and The Aqua Ohio, Inc, (Case 09-1044+WW-AIR). <sup>19</sup> .
4		
5	<b>Q</b> 13.	WHAT IS THE PUCO STAFF'S POSITION REGARDING THE
6		COMPANY'S COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND RATE DESIGN?
7	A13.	The PUCO Staff reviewed the Company's COSS and rate design in section
8		"Rates and Tariffs" of their Report. <sup>20</sup> The Staff found the results of the
9		methodology used and distribution of revenues among the different classes of
10		services reasonable. <sup>21</sup> The Staff also agreed with the calculation methodology
11		and results followed to arrive at the customer charge for 5/8" Meter (\$10.93 per
12		month). For this charge, the Staff suggested that "[s]hould the Commission
13		authorize a revenue different than that proposed by the Applicant, Staff
14		recommends Staff proposed customer charge be approved as present in this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> In the Matter of the Application of Ohio American Water Company To Increase Its Rates for in Its Entire Service Area for Water Service and Sewer Service, Case 09-391-WS-AIR, and In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges in the Lake Erie Division. Case 09-1044-WW-AIR.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Staff's Report of Investigation. In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to increase its Rates and Charges in its Masury Division, Case No. 09-560-WW-AIR. January 21, 2010, at 13 - 28.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Id. at 22.

1		chart." The presented chart is identical to the Company's proposed customer
2		charges." <sup>22</sup>
3		
4	IV.	INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS' BILLS ARE
5		SUBSTANTIAL AND WILL CAUSE RATE SHOCK
6		
7	Q14.	HOW MUCH WILL THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL WATER BILL
8		INCREASE UNDER THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED REVENUE
9		REQUIREMENT AND PROPOSED RATE DESIGN?
10	A14.	As highlighted earlier, the proposed rate design aims at collecting the revenue
11		requirement that Aqua Ohio estimated at \$872,432. If the PUCO authorizes the
12		Company's proposed revenue requirement then the average residential
1 <b>3</b>		consumer in Aqua Ohio Masury Division with a monthly consumption of 3,790
14		gallons shall see her/his bill increasing from \$18.82 to \$34.90 (i.e., by 85.5%).
15		Given that all residential customers in Masury Division also pay the public fire
16		protection charge, the monthly bill shall increase from \$21.88 to \$41.04; this is
17		a rate of increase of 87.6%. Table 2 below depicts the current and proposed
18		monthly bill for an average customer in the Aqua Ohio Masury Division.
19		
20	Q15.	DID THE PUCO STAFF AND OCC CALCULATE A REVENUE
21		REQUIREMENT?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> ld. p. 26. Also see E-3.2, Table 10 (Exhibit AAI-1)

1	A15.	Yes. The PUCO Staff recommends a reduction in the authorized revenues that
2		varies from \$813,452 as an upper bound to \$795,156 as a lower bound (mid-
3		point \$804,304). Although the PUCO Staff's proposed revenues are lower than
4		the Company's proposal, it still represents a substantial increase over the current
5		revenues of between 68.6% and 64.81%. <sup>23</sup> In this context, even using the
6		lower revenue requirement calculation by OCC of \$769,878, the percentage
7		increase (59.6%) is still very substantial, <sup>24</sup> and, as will be discussed below, is
8		contrary to the principle of gradualism.
9		
10	Q16.	HOW MUCH WILL THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL WATER BILL
11		INCREASE UNDER THE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS CALCULATED
12		BY THE PUCO STAFF AND OCC?
13	A16.	The increase will be slightly lower if the PUCO accepts the revenue
14		requirement as proposed by its Staff (i.e., \$804,304 as a mid-point value). In
15		such an eventuality, the monthly water bill for an average customer shall
16		increase from \$18.82 to \$32.18 (i.e., 71% increase). The same bill with Fire
17		Protection shall reach \$37.84 per month, which translates into an increase of
1 <b>8</b>		72.9%. Further reductions in the rate increase may take place upon the
19		Commission's acceptance of the disallowances suggested by OCC (i.e., revenue

<sup>23</sup> Id, at 33.

<sup>24</sup> See testimony of OCC witness S. Hines, at Exhibit SBH-11.

1								
		requireme	nt of \$769,878). If the Co	ommission a	ccepts C	)CC's a	djustmei	nts as
2		outlined i	in the testimony of OCC	witnesses Hi	nes and	Duann,	, in addit	tion to the
3		PUCO St	taff's revenue requiremen	it, then the lo	wer rev	enue re	quireme	nt shall
4		cause the	monthly bill for the same	e average cu	stomer t	io be \$3	0.80 exc	lusive of
5		Fire Prote	ection, and \$36.22 with F	ire Protectio	n. Thes	e month	ly bills t	ranslate
6		into incre	eases of 63.7% and 65.5%	6, respective	ly, over	the curr	ent rates	ł.
7								
8 9 10		Table 2: Cu Masury Div	arrent and Proposed Monthl vision.	y Bill for an A	verage (	Customer	'in Aqua	Ohio
10				Current	Pro	posed R	ates	
				Rates		ue Requi		
					Aqua	PUCO	occ	
					Ohio	Staff		
			Revenue Requirement	482,460	872,432	804,304	769,878	
			Monthly Bill Exclusive of Fire Protection	18.82	34.90	32.18	30.80	
			% increase		85.5%	71.0%	63.7%	
			Monthly Bill Inclusive of Fire Protection	21.88	41.04	3 <b>7.8</b> 4	36.22	
			% increase	J	0.00	<b>73 00</b> 7	65 50/	
			70 mercase		87.6%	72.9%	65.5%	
11			CPI 2001 = 100	100	87.6%	121.13	121.13	
11 12 13 14 15 16 17		proposed ra Requiremen	the second s	rom Table 9 of dule E-32. Mo apany and PUC	Schedule nthly bills O Staff a	121.13 E E-32. A s assumin nd as cale	qua Ohio g Revenu culated by	e
12 13 14 15 16		proposed ra Requiremen	CPI 2001 = 100 /erage user data is calculated fi tes are from Table 10 of Scheo at as recommended by the Corr	rom Table 9 of dule E-32. Mo apany and PUC	Schedule nthly bills O Staff a	121.13 E E-32. A s assumin nd as cale	qua Ohio g Revenu culated by	e
12 13 14 15 16 17	Q17.	proposed ra Requirement estimated in	CPI 2001 = 100 /erage user data is calculated fi tes are from Table 10 of Scheo at as recommended by the Corr	rom Table 9 of dule E-32. Mo npany and PUC pua Ohio. CPI:	121.13 Schedule nthly bills O Staff a See footn	121.13 e E-32. A s assumin nd as cald tote 25 be	121.13 aqua Ohio g Revenuc culated by low.	e OCC are
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q17. A17.	proposed ra Requirement estimated in	CPI 2001 = 100 verage user data is calculated fittes are from Table 10 of Scheo at as recommended by the Com a proportion to that filed by Aq	rom Table 9 of dule E-32. Mo npany and PUC jua Ohio. CPI:	121.13 Schedule nthly bills O Staff a See footn	121.13 E E-32. A s assumin nd as cald tote 25 be	121.13 aqua Ohio g Revenue culated by clow.	e OCC are

1	calculated by the OCC (i.e., \$769,878). Even then, the average residential
2	customer shall expect to see an increase in their monthly expenditure on water
3	(inclusive of fire protection service) to increase by 65.5%. The worst case
4	scenario is for the water bills of residential customers escalating to levels
5	corresponding to the requested revenue requirement requested by Aqua Ohio of
6	\$872, 432, as then the monthly bill shall increase by 87.6%.
7	
8	To put these increases into perspective, the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") is
9	used as measure for price increase over time. <sup>25</sup> As depicted in Table 2, CPI has
10	increased in the same period $(2001 - 2009)$ by only 21.1%. The best case
11	scenario (i.e., based on OCC's calculated revenue requirement) for the
12	residential customers is to manage an increase in expenditure for water service
13	that is 200% higher than average inflation rate in the same period. The worst
14	case scenario is to manage with the ramification of an increase in monthly water
15	cost of 314% higher than of the average inflation rate. <sup>26</sup>
16	

<sup>25</sup> See Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics See

ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiai.txt. CPI data are spliced from 1913 – 2009 data series setting year 2001 as base as follows:

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CPI	177.1	1 <b>79.1</b>	184.0	188.9	195.3	201.6	207.0	215.0	214.5
2001 = <u>100</u>	100	101.13	103.90	106.66	110.28	113.83	1 <b>16.88</b>	121.40	121.13

 $^{26}\,$  Calculated as [(65.5-21.1)/21.1)\* 100], and [(87.6-21.1)/21/1\*100], respectively.

į

1	It is important to highlight that AWWA recommends comparing the proposed
2	rate increase and the applicable inflation rate to determine the reasonableness of
3	the proposed rate increase. To quote (emphasis added):
4 5 6 7 8 9	"Typically, they [cross section of community stakeholders] want to know how the proposed rate adjustment will affect their particular account, homeowner's association, apartment complex, or business. When dealing these groups, it is often appropriate and meaningful to compare the proposed rate increase to the rate of inflation,". <sup>27</sup>
10	However, given that, in general, rates should provide the utility with the
11	opportunity to recover the PUCO approved revenue requirement, it is important
12	to remember that avoiding rate shock and ensuring gradualism are attributes of
13	sound rate design. The importance of ensuring gradualism and avoiding rate
14	shock in rate design are very well documented in the relevant utility regulation
15	literature. <sup>28</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> American Water Works Association. Manual of Water Supply Practices—M54. First Edition (2004). Developing Rates for Small Systems, at 41.

 $<sup>^{28}</sup>$  This concept is best left to J.C. Bonbright (et.al.) to explain further. To quote from his description of one of the main "Attributes of a Sound Rate Structure" (emphasis added):

<sup>&</sup>quot;Stability and predictability of the rates themselves, with a minimum of <u>unexpected changes seriously adverse to rate payers</u> and with a sense of historical continuity".

See Bonbright, J.C, Danielsen, A.L, and Kamerschen, D.R. "<u>Principles of Public Utility Rates</u>". Public Utilities Reports, Inc., 1988, at 383. Also see Philips, CF. "<u>The Regulation of Public Utilities</u>", Public Utilities Reports, Inc., 1988, a, at 390/391, and 409/411.

1	V.	A PHASE-IN APPROACH IS NECESSARY TO AVOID OR LESSEN
2		RATE SHOCK FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS.
3		
4	Q18.	WHAT RECOMMENDATION ARE YOU MAKING FOR THE
5		COMMISSION?
6	A18.	The proposal to the Commission subsequent to the determination of the
7		appropriate level of revenue requirement in this case, is to sponsor a process
8		among the different stakeholders to arrive at just, reasonable, and gradual rate
9		increases over a period of time in an attempt to avoid or lessen rate shock. The
10		same process will provide Aqua Ohio with the opportunity to recover the
11		authorized revenue in a just and reasonable manner. A phase-in process in
12		which the rate gradually increases over time will provide Aqua Ohio an
13		opportunity to collect the revenue shortfalls through carrying charges.
14		
15	Q19.	WHAT ARE THE MECHANICS OF THIS PROPOSAL?
16	A19.	The proposal is a phase-in process in which rates gradually increase over time
17		in an attempt to avoid or lessen rate shock, but Aqua Ohio will be allowed
18		carrying charges for any under recovery of revenue due to the phase-in
1 <b>9</b>		process. Overall, Aqua Ohio would be unaffected because any under recovery
20		will be subsequently recovered through carrying charges. These carrying
21		charges are based on the interest rate applicable on Aqua Ohio's own long-

16

1	term debt (i.e., 6.34%).29 Aqua Ohio's customers, including residential
2	customers, shall see a gradual and systematic increase in rates that, in the later
3	years of the phase-in period, will exceed the overall proposed rate increase.
4	The underpayment and the overpayment in present-value terms shall make
5	Aqua Ohio whole. By the end of the phase-in period, the rates would allow
6	the Company the opportunity to collect the revenue requirement as authorized
7	by the Commission.
8	
9	The calculation for phase-in process is conducted for the three possible levels
10	of revenue requirement, namely \$872,432 as proposed by Aqua Ohio, \$804,304
11	as the mid-point of the estimates provided by the PUCO Staff in their Report,
12	and \$769,878 per the OCC's calculation. Aqua's long-term debt is either 6.34%
13	or 6.33% (as they differed in the Staff Report and the Application) shall be used
14	as the carrying charge. These parameters are demonstrated in Table 3 below.
15	Four different scenarios for the tariffs have been calculated. The first is a "no
1 <b>6</b>	phase-in" in which the revenue requirement shall increase from its current level
17	(\$482,460) to the levels proposed by the Company, the PUCO Staff and the
18	amount calculated by OCC. The second, third and fourth scenarios are an
19	application of the phase-in proposal with each of the three different revenue

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> See the Application of Aqua Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase Its Rates and Charges in Its Masury Division, Schedule D-1, Page 1 of 1. In the Staff's Report of Investigation at 10, this long term debt is 6.33%. OCC witness D. Duann used 6.34% (Testimony at 6).

1	requirements. The later thr	ee scenarios	assume that	there are no	base rate	
2	increases during the phase	-in period, w	hich is expec	rted to last fo	or a six year	
3	period to ensure gradual ar	nd reasonabl	e increases ir	rates.		
4						
5	Table 3: Primary Inputs for th	he Scenarios f	or the Propose	d Phase-in Pro	cess.	
		Year 0	Reve	nue Requirem	ent	
			As filed	PUCO	OCC	
	Revenue Requirement	482,460	872,432	804,304	769,878	
6	Aqua's Long-term debt		6.34%	6.33%	6.34%	
7 8 9	Under Scenario 1 there is a exposed to rates that corre	•	-		-	
10	proposed by Aqua Ohio, th	he PUCO Sta	aff, and calcu	lated by OC	C, respectively	
11	(Table 4). The impact on the	ne residentia	l customers is	s identical to	what has been	
12	discussed above in Table 2	. The result	ing rate shocl	c of this scer	ario is exactly	
13	what the proposed phase-i	n process is	mitigating.			
14						
15 16	Table 4: Revenue Requiremen	nt under No P	hase-In in Plac	ê		

	Year							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Scenario 1 No Phase-in								
As filed	482,460	872,432	872,432	872,432	872,432	872,432	872,43	
PUCO	482,460	804,304	804,304	804,304	804,304	804,304	804,30	
OCC	482,460	769,878	769,878	769.878	769,878	769,878	769,87	

18

17

r.

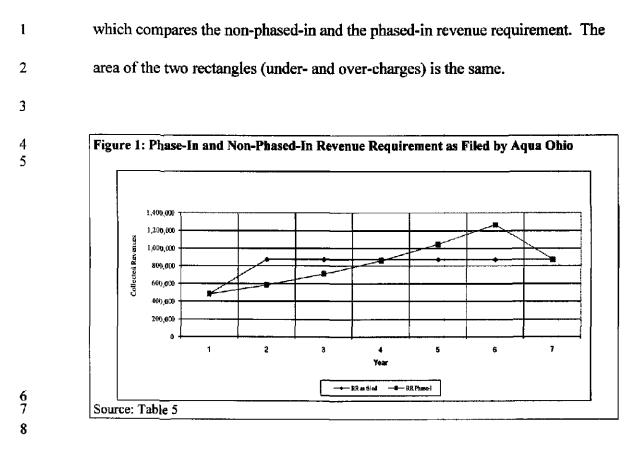
1	Under Scenario 2, which assumes that the PUCO authorized revenue requirement
2	is identical to what has been filed by Aqua Ohio, the different customer classes
3	shall see an annual rate increase of 21.33% for the first five years. In year 6,
4	Table 5 demonstrates that Aqua Ohio customers shall see a decrease by
5	approximately 31%, so that for the revenue requirement returns to its authorized
6	level of \$872,267. The resulting orderly and gradual increase in rates, even at
7	the estimated 21.33%, shall cause much less of a rate shock compared to the
8	currently proposed increase of more than 80%.

9

15

			•	Year			
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Senc:	urio 2 - As filed						
	Year Target Reve 482,460	585,354	710,193	861,656	1,045,421	1,268,378	872,26
	Shortage	287,078	467,518	507,935	367,149	-5,519	165
	Adjusted Shortage	305,278	497,158	540,138	390,426	-5,869	
	Percentage Change per annum	21.33%	21.33%	21.33%	21.33%	21.33%	-30.915

16 It is noteworthy that shortages in collected revenues in each year are adjusted by 17 the cost rate of Aqua Ohio's long-term debt which is the rate of carrying charges 18 discussed above. Accordingly, the initial under-charging of Aqua Ohio customers 19 is off-set by the over-charging in the subsequent years, and is intended so that in 20 present-value terms, Aqua Ohio is kept whole. This is demonstrated in Figure 1



Scenarios 3 and 4 differ from Scenario 2 in the level of authorized revenue
requirement and the interest level over the long-term debt. Scenario 3 is
conducted under the assumption that the authorized revenue requirement is the
mid-point proposed by the PUCO Staff, while Scenario 4 is based on the
revenue requirement calculated by OCC. The associated annual revenue
requirement for each year in both scenarios is depicted in Table 6.

20

I	
2	

3 4 5

	Year							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Scenario 3 - PUCO								
Year Target Revenue	482,460	569,930	673,258	795,320	939,512	1,109,845	804,16	
Shortage		234,374	380,256	413,310	304,265	17,984	141	
Adjusted Shortage		249,210	404,326	439,472	323,525	19,122		
Percentage Change per annum		18.13%	18.13%	18,13%	18.13%	18.13%	-28,779	
Scenario 4- OCC								
Year Target Revenue	482,460	562,741	656,382	765,603	893,000	1,041,595	771,24	
Shortage		207,137	333,766	359,201	258,853	3,547	-1,371	
Adjusted Shortage		220, <b>269</b>	354,926	<b>381,97</b> 4	275,264	3,772		
Percentage Change per annum		16.64%	16.64%	16.64%	16.64%	16.64%	-25.96%	

6	As both scenarios are based on lower revenue requirements, the annual rate
7	increases are also lower than those demonstrated in Scenario 2 above. For
8	example, under Scenario 4, rates shall increase by 16.64% per annum for the first
9	5 years and then are lower by approximately 26% in year 6. Again, this orderly
10	and gradual increase in rates will cause much less of a rate shock when compared
11	to the Company's proposed increase of over 80%.
12	
13	Q20. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICE OF A PHASE-IN TIME

14

## PERIOD OF SIX YEARS?

15 A20. The purpose of the proposal is to ensure gradual and reasonable increases in

- 16 rates over a reasonable period of time. A shorter than the proposed phase-in
- 17 period of six year is arithmetically possible, however, the percentage increase in
- 18 rates will be higher.

1	<i>Q21</i> .	HOW MUCH WILL THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL WATER BILL
2		CHANGE UNDER THE PROPOSED PHASE-IN APPROACH?
3	A21.	Just as the rates will increase in the first five years of the proposed phase-in,
4		then will be reduced in year 6, so will the water bill of the average residential
5		customer. The corresponding rates for each customer class for each year in the
6		phase-in period for scenarios 2, 3 and 4 are represented in Exhibit AAI-3. The
7		average residential consumer in Aqua Ohio Masury Division with a monthly
8		consumption of 3,790 gallons shall see her/his bill increase gradually over time
9		in a manner that will lessen rate shock. The estimated monthly bills are
10		represented in Table 7 for each of the three revenue requirements (Scenarios 2, 3
11		and 4) in comparison to the monthly bill of the average customer if there is no
12		phase-in using the Company's proposed revenue requirement.
	1	

#### 

 Table 7: Phased-In Monthly Bill for an Average Customer in Aqua Ohio Masury Division

 Under Different Revenue Requirements. (\$/Month)

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	<u>Year 6*</u>
Scenario 1							
Exclusive of Fire Protection	18.82	34.90	34.90	34.90	34.90	34.90	34.90
Inclusive of Fire Protection	21.88	41.04	41.04	41 <b>.04</b>	41.04	41.04	41.04
Scenario 2							
Exclusive of Fire Protection	18.82	23.53	28.55	34.63	42.02	50.98	35.22
Inclusive of Fire Protection	21.88	27.36	33.19	40.27	48.86	59.28	40. <b>96</b>
Scenario 3							
Exclusive of Fire Protection	18.82	22.91	27.06	31.97	37.76	44.61	31.78
Inclusive of Fire Protection	21.88	26.64	31.47	37.17	43.91	51.87	36.95
Scenario 4							
Exclusive of Fire Protection	18.82	22.62	26.38	30.77	35.89	41.87	31.00
Inclusive of Fire Protection	21.88	26.30	30.68	35.98	41.74	48.68	36.05
Source: Estimated. * In	clusive of	rounding	errors.			······································	

1	<i>Q22</i> .	UNDER YOUR PROPOSAL, WOULD AQUA OHIO HAVE THE
2		<b>OPPORTUNITY TO EARN THE SAME AMOUNT OF REVENUE</b>
3		AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE SIX YEARS OF
4		THE PHASE-IN?
5	A22.	Yes, it would. Aqua Ohio shall receive the same amount of revenue authorized
6		by the Commission during the six years of the proposed phase-in period. Aqua
7		Ohio would be unaffected because any under recovery during the period will be
8		subsequently recovered through carrying charges.
9		
10	Q23.	WOULD AQUA OHIO NEED TO FILE A NEW RATE CASE AFTER
11		YEAR SIX OF THE PHASE-IN?
12	A23.	No. Aqua Ohio would not need to file a new rate case for its Masury Division
13		after year six of the phase-in period. The revenue requirement recovered in year
14		six and thereafter would be exactly the revenue authorized by the PUCO in this
15		case.
16		
17	Q24.	DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?
18	A24.	Yes. However, I reserve the right to incorporate new information or supplement my
1 <b>9</b>		testimony with information that may subsequently be made available to the OCC
20		through discovery. I also reserve the right to supplement my testimony in response to
21		positions taken by the PUCO Staff and any other party to this proceeding

23

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Amr A. Ibrahim of the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has been served upon those persons listed below by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 22nd day of February, 2010.

Michael Idzkowski Assistant Consumers' Counsel

#### SERVICE LIST

John Jones Sarah Parrot Attorney General's Office Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 E. Broad St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl. Columbus, OH 43215

Mark S. Yurick, John Bentine Chester Willcox & Saxbe LLP 65 East State St., Suite 1000 Columbus, OH 43215-4213 Exhibit AAI-1

Comparison of Present and Proposed Tariffs.

## Comparison of Present and Proposed Tariffs.

Customer Charges - Monthly	
----------------------------	--

Castonici Charges - Wontiny	Current	Proposed	
5/8" or 5/8" x 3/4"	\$4,99	\$10.93	
3/4"	\$4. <del>55</del> 7.49	16.40	
1"	12.49	27.33	
1-1/2"	24.98	54.65	
2"	39.97	87.44	
3"	74.95	1 <b>63.95</b>	
4"	124.92	273.25	
6"	249.85	546.50	

Current

Proposed

Usage Charges:	Rate per 100 GAL.	Rate per 10 CF	Rate per 100 GAL.	Rate per 10 CF
First 18,700 gallons Monthly	\$0.3651	\$0,2731	\$0.6330	\$0.4735
Over 18,700 Gallons Monthly	0.2707	0,2025	0.4656	0.3483
Other Utilities: (All Consumption)	0.3053	0.2284	0.5251	0.3928
Private Fire Protection: (Annual) "Dry" Sprinkter System				
4 " Service		\$1,189.91		\$2,379.82
6 " Service		1,804.07		3,608.14
8 " Service		3,603.33		7,206.66
Wet System				
2 " Service		580.56		1,161.12
4 "Service		2,096.74		4,193.48
6 " Service		3,915.20		7,830.40
8 " Service		5,728.85		11,457.70
Private Fire Hydrants: ( Annual )		321.28		642.56
Public Fire Protection: (Monthly)				
Residential Customers		3.065		6.140
Non - Residential Customers				
2000 sq ft. or less		3.065		6.140
each additional 500 sq. ft.		0.573		1.1 <b>40</b>
SIC		3.00%		0.00%

Source: Table 10 in Schedule E-3.2

Exhibit AAI-2

Aqua Ohio, Inc. Answer to OCC Int-54

INT-54. Referring to the current Schedule "C" - Public Fire Protection tariff, how many residential customers currently pay the \$3.065 per month for this service?

RESPONSE: All residential customers are charged this amount.

Stephen J. Saluga

29

**Exhibit AAI-3** 

.

ŗ

1

.

## Estimates of Tariffs and Charges in the Phase-in Period

