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BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the Application
of Aqua Ohio, Inc. to Increase its
Rates and Charges in its Lake
Erie Division.

Case No. 09-1044-WW-AIR

Prepared Testimony
of
Marchia Rutherford
Utilities Department

Staff Exhibit _____

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2 1. Q. State your name and address.

3

4 A. My name is Marchia Rutherford. My business address is 180 E. Broad
5 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

6

7 2. Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

8

9 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio as a Utility
10 Specialist in the Utilities Department.

11

12 3. Q. Please outline your educational background.

13

14 A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from
15 Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio, and received a Master of Business
16 Administration Degree from Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio.

17

18 4. Q. Please outline your work experience.

19

20 A. I came to the Public Utilities Commission in February, 1989 as a Utility
21 Rate Analyst 2. I have been in my current position as a Utility Specialist 2
22 for seven years. For all 21 years that I have been with the Public Utilities
23 Commission of Ohio, I have been involved with utility rates and tariff issues
24 in water, gas and electric.

25

26 5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

27

28 A. I will be addressing issues pertaining to the Rates and Tariffs section of the
29 Staff Report of Investigation. I will specifically address the following
30 issues:

1 The Class Cost of Service Study, Revenue Distribution, Dishonored
2 Payment Charge, Account Activation Charge and Reconnection Charge.

3
4 6. Q. Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) objections 30 and 31 object to Staff not
5 having recalculated the impact of Staff's Recommended Revenue
6 Requirement and Rate of Return on the proposed rates for the residential
7 class. How do you wish to respond?

8
9 A. Generally, Staff reviewing Operating Income and Rate Base work
10 simultaneously with Staff working on the Rates and Tariffs matters. Time
11 constraints and independent review in these departments may not allow a
12 sufficient amount of time for Rates and Tariffs Staff to utilize Staff's
13 Recommended Revenue. As explained in prior cases, it is not uncommon
14 for Rates and Tariffs Staff to utilize the Company's total proposed revenue
15 to illustrate Staff's proposed revenue distribution and rate design. Staff
16 recognizes that at some point in the rate case process, adjustments are
17 necessary and final rates will reflect the final revenue outcome. Therefore,
18 Staff does not find using the Company's total revenue to be unreasonable.

19
20 7. Q. OCC objections 33, 34 and 35 object to Staff accepting the Company's
21 proposed miscellaneous charges. How do you wish to respond?


22
23 A. The Company provided documentation supporting the dishonored payment
24 charge, account activation charge and reconnection charge, delineating how
25 much time is required in each process and labor costs associated with
26 performing these tasks. Staff did not find these costs to be unreasonable in
27 its review and continues to support the original recommendation.

28
29
30 8. Q. Does that conclude your direct testimony?

31 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prepared Testimony of Marchia Rutherford** was served upon the following parties of record by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 20th day of July, 2010.



Sarah J. Parrot
Assistant Attorney General

John W. Bentine
Mark S. Yurick
Chester, Willcox & Saxbe LLP
65 East State Street, Suite 1000
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4213
jbentine@cwsllaw.com
myurick@cwsllaw.com

Gregory J. Poulos
Michael E. Idzkowski
Kyle Verrett
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
poulos@occ.state.oh.us
idzkowski@occ.state.oh.us
verrett@occ.state.oh.us