

In the Matter of the Application of Island Waterworks, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. : Case No. 17-201-WS-ACE

STAFF EXHIBIT NO. _____

March 19, 2018

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is John L. Berringer. My address is 180 East Broad Street,
3 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
4

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

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist 2 in the Research and Policy Division of the Rates and
8 Analysis Department. My duties include conducting investigations of
9 assigned phases of rate case applications and other financial audits of
10 public utility companies subject to the jurisdiction of the PUCO.
11

12 3. Q. Would you briefly state your educational background?

13 A. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from The Ohio State University in
14 1991. In 2012, I earned a post-baccalaureate Certificate of Accounting
15 Concentration from Columbus State Community College.
16

17 4 Q. Please briefly outline your work experience.

18 A. I have been with the PUCO since July 2003 and in the Rates and Analysis
19 Department since April 2009. Prior to working at the PUCO, I held various
20 positions in the insurance, education and healthcare industries.
21
22

1 5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Commission?

2 A. Yes.

3

4 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

5 A. I am supporting the Stipulation and Recommendation (Stipulation) filed in
6 this proceeding on March 9, 2018.

7

8 7. Q. Were all of the parties (including Staff) to this proceeding present at negoti-
9 ations that resulted in the Stipulation?

10 A. Settlement meetings were noticed to all parties and all parties were present
11 either in person or by phone. Staff was present at all of the negotiations.

12

13 8. Q. Do you believe the Stipulation filed in this case is the product of serious
14 bargaining among knowledgeable parties?

15 A. Yes. This agreement is the product of an open process in which all parties
16 were represented by able counsel and technical experts and the decisions
17 made were based upon thorough analysis of complex issues. The Stipula-
18 tion represents a comprehensive compromise of issues raised by parties
19 with diverse interests. Overall, I believe that the Stipulation the parties are
20 recommending for Commission adoption presents a fair and reasonable
21 result.

22

1 9. Q. In your opinion, does the Settlement benefit ratepayers and promote the
2 public interest?

3 A. Yes. The Stipulation benefits customers and the public interest and repre-
4 sents a just and reasonable resolution of all issues in this proceeding. The
5 settlement is in the public interest for the following reasons:

- 6 • The total revenue requirement of \$83,343 for water and \$95,958 for
7 wastewater represents a compromise that benefits the ratepayers of
8 Island Waterworks. In its initial filing, the Applicant proposed a rev-
9 enue requirement of \$180,151 for water and \$162,585 for
10 wastewater.
- 11 • 9.3% is a reasonable rate of return on rate base given the uniqueness
12 and size of Island Waterworks. The rate of return recognizes the
13 added risks and costs associated with operating a small water and
14 sewer system on an island that is only accessible by ferry or airplane.

15
16 10. Q. Does the Stipulation violate any important regulatory principle?

17 A. No. The Stipulation complies with all relevant and important regulatory
18 principles and practices.

19
20 11. Q. Are you recommending its adoption by the Commission?

21 A. Yes. I believe the Stipulation represents a fair and reasonable compromise
22 of diverse interests and provides a fair result for all Ohio customers.

1 12. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

2 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testi-
3 mony as described herein, as new information subsequently becomes avail-
4 able or in response to positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of **John L. Berringer** submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio via electronic mail upon the following parties of record, this 19th day of March, 2018.

/s/ Thomas W. McNamee

Thomas W. McNamee

Assistant Attorney General

Parties of Record:

Kimberly W. Bojko
Carpenter Lipps & Leland
280 N. High Street, Suite 1300
Columbus, OH 43081
bojko@carpenterlipps.com

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

3/19/2018 4:01:01 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-0201-WS-ACE

Summary: Testimony of John L. Berringer submitted by Assistant Attorney General Thomas McNamee on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. electronically filed by Kimberly L Keeton on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio