

**BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

IN RE:

**PETITION OF TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER COMPANY TO CHANGE AND
INCREASE CERTAIN RATES AND CHARGES SO AS TO PERMIT IT TO EARN
A FAIR AND ADEQUATE RATE OF RETURN ON ITS PROPERTY USED AND
USEFUL IN FURNISHING WATER SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS**

Docket No. 08-00039

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
TERRY BUCKNER**

July 18, 2008

BEFORE THE
TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

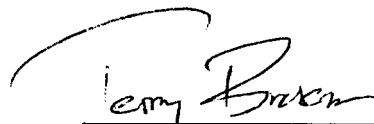
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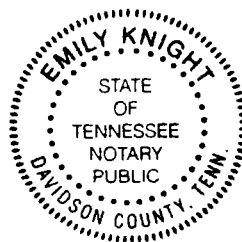
AFFIDAVIT

I, Terry Buckner, Regulatory Analyst, for the Consumer Advocate Division of the Attorney General's Office, hereby certify that the attached Direct Testimony represents my opinion in the above-referenced case and the opinion of the Consumer Advocate Division.


TERRY BUCKNER

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 18th day of July, 2008.


NOTARY PUBLIC



My Commission Expires AUG. 23, 2011

My commission expires: Aug. 23, 2011

INTRODUCTION

1
2 **Q. Please state your name for the record.**

3 A. My name is Terry Buckner.

4
5 **Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?**

6 A. I am employed by the Consumer Advocate and Protec-
7 tion Division ("CAPD") in the Office of the Attorney General
8 for the state of Tennessee ("Office") as a Regulatory Analyst.

9
10 **Q. How long have you been employed in conjunction with the**
11 **public utility industry?**

12 A. Approximately thirty years. Before my current
13 employment with the Office, I was employed by the
14 Comptroller of the Treasury for the state of Tennessee for
15 nearly two years as the Assistant Director responsible for public
16 utility audits. Prior to that I was employed for approximately
17 eight years with the Office. Formerly, I was employed with the
18 Tennessee Public Service Commission ("Commission") in the
19 Utility Rates Division as a financial analyst for approximately
20 six years. My responsibilities included testifying before the
21 Commission as to the appropriate cost of service for public

1 utilities operating in Tennessee. Prior to my employment with
2 the Commission, I was employed by TDS Telecom for eight
3 years and the First Utility District of Knox County for three
4 years.

5
6 **Q. What is your educational background and what degrees do**
7 **you hold?**

8 A. I have a Bachelors degree in Business Administration
9 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a major in
10 Accounting. I am also a Tennessee Certified Public Accountant
11 ("CPA") and a member of the American Institute of Certified
12 Public Accountants.

13
14 **Q. Would you briefly describe your responsibilities as a**
15 **Regulatory Analyst with the CAPD?**

16 A. I prepare testimony and financial exhibits in rate
17 proceedings as an employee with the CAPD. Additionally, I
18 review tariff filings by Tennessee public utilities, which are
19 subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory
20 Authority ("TRA").

21

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

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to represent the
3 forecasted financial exhibits prepared by the CAPD ("Exhibits
4 of CAPD") and provide my exhibit of work papers ("work
5 papers of CAPD") for forecasted Operating Revenues,
6 Operation and Maintenance expenses, Depreciation Expense,
7 Taxes Other Than Income, Income Taxes, and Rate Base for
8 Tennessee American Water Company ("TAWC") for the
9 attrition year ending August 31, 2009.

10

11 **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

12 **Q. Please summarize the results of the CAPD forecast of**
13 **TAWC's earnings for the attrition year.**

14 A. The attrition year in this case is the twelve months ending
15 August 31, 2009. For the attrition year, TAWC asked for a
16 \$7.645 million rate increase whereas the CAPD's forecasted
17 results show that customer rates should actually be reduced by
18 \$1.641 million instead, which is a difference of \$9.286 million
19 between TAWC's forecast and CAPD's forecast. The \$9.286
20 million difference is due to the following areas of disagreement
21 between TAWC and the CAPD: (1) The CAPD believes that

1 TAWC will collect about \$2.4 million more in operating
2 revenue than the revenue estimates included in TAWC's rate
3 increase petition; (2) The CAPD is projecting about \$1.3 million
4 less in operation and maintenance expenses than the amount
5 projected by TAWC; (3) The CAPD's calculation of depreciation
6 expense is approximately \$400,000 less than the depreciation
7 expense projected by TAWC; (4) The CAPD forecasts
8 approximately \$100,000 less in "taxes other than income taxes"
9 than the taxes projected by TAWC; (5) The CAPD computes
10 about \$1 million less in income taxes than TAWC's income tax
11 computations; (6) The amount of revenue required for TAWC
12 to have an opportunity to earn a fair profit is about \$3.7 million
13 less in the CAPD's forecast due to the CAPD's computation of a
14 lower cost of capital; and (7) The amount of revenue required
15 for TAWC to have an opportunity to earn a fair profit is about
16 \$400,000 less in the CAPD's forecast due to the CAPD's
17 computation of a lower gross revenue conversion factor.

18 Accordingly, the CAPD's position is that TAWC has
19 requested over \$9.3 million more in customer rates than the
20 company actually needs to meet their expenses and provide a
21 fair return to their shareholders while providing quality water

1 services to TAWC's customers. Although there are many
2 underlying details supporting the CAPD's position, all of which
3 are discussed below and shown in the testimony, work papers,
4 and exhibits of the CAPD's witnesses, the seven areas discussed
5 above serve as an overview of the primary areas of dispute
6 between TAWC and the CAPD in this case.

7
8 **Q. Please summarize the reasons why the CAPD is projecting**
9 **\$2.4 million more in operating revenues than TAWC.**

10 A. TAWC projects total operating revenues of \$37.1 million
11 for the year ending August 31, 2009 (which is the attrition year
12 in this case), but the CAPD projects \$39.5 million for this same
13 period of time. The CAPD disagrees with TAWC's revenue
14 projection in three major areas.

15 First, TAWC reduces its revenue forecast by \$1.3 million
16 due to a "Weather Normalization Adjustment" ("WNA") that
17 the CAPD believes should be disregarded. As explained by
18 CAPD witness Charles W. King, the WNA model used by
19 TAWC -- a model that relies primarily on temperature to
20 predict water usage -- does not stand the test of reasonableness,
21 a conclusion that is supported by actual events. In particular,

1 the WNA reduction in revenues projected by TAWC in last
2 year's rate case (TRA Docket #06-00290) did not occur.

3 Second, the CAPD included about \$500,000 in operating
4 revenue from the Walden's Ridge Utility District that TAWC
5 excluded from their forecast. (In addition to the operating
6 revenue, the CAPD also included associated expenses and rate
7 base used to serve Walden's Ridge.) TAWC provides
8 wholesale water services to four major water utilities: Walden's
9 Ridge, Signal Mountain, Fort Oglethorpe, and Catoosa.
10 Although TAWC includes three of the four in their forecast, the
11 company excludes Walden's Ridge. On the other hand, the
12 CAPD treats Walden's Ridge the same as the other three water
13 utilities because, like the others, the service provided to
14 Walden's Ridge by TAWC is a regulated operation that is
15 subject to the Authority's jurisdiction, supervision, and control.

16 Third, the CAPD's revenue forecast includes about
17 \$600,000 in growth due to increased meters and volumes
18 anticipated during the year ending August 31, 2009 (the
19 attrition year). The CAPD's growth forecast is supported by
20 historical trends and a later test period, neither of which is
21 considered in TAWC's forecast.

1 Q. Please summarize why the CAPD is projecting about \$1.3
2 million less in operation and maintenance expenses than
3 TAWC.

4 A. The \$1.3 million difference in operation and maintenance
5 expenses between the CAPD and TAWC is due to the CAPD's
6 projecting: (1) about \$200,000 in lower salaries and wages
7 expense; (2) about \$900,000 less in management fees; (3) and
8 approximately \$200,000 less in regulatory expense.

9 The salaries and wages difference of \$200,000 is primarily
10 due to the CAPD's rejection of TAWC's forecasted employee
11 levels for the attrition year. The CAPD rejects this projection
12 because in case after case, TAWC has overstated the number of
13 employees that they actually keep on the payroll. As a result,
14 TAWC's customers have actually been charged for an employee
15 level that TAWC never achieved. Customers' water rates
16 should not be set on employee levels that never materialize. In
17 addition, the CAPD rejects TAWC's plan to charge customers
18 for bonuses paid to salaried employees for increasing the
19 regulated earnings of the company, an activity that benefits
20 TAWC's shareholders by moving money to their pockets from
21 the pockets of TAWC's customers. Since customers are

1 provided no benefit from this activity, they should not have to
2 pay any costs associated with it.

3 The difference in TAWC's and the CAPD's management
4 fee forecast is about \$900,000. TAWC's growth in management
5 fees exceeds any economic or cost-savings justification, and has
6 far out-stripped inflation. Furthermore, the types of expenses
7 charged to TAWC's customers through management fees --
8 expenses such as alcoholic beverages, limousines, professional
9 sporting events, and contributions -- indicate that the American
10 Water Service Company personnel incurring these charges are
11 not good stewards of the customers' financial interests.

12 Finally, the \$200,000 difference in regulatory expense
13 stems from the CAPD's disagreement with the reasonableness
14 of these charges. In particular, the actual regulatory expense
15 that TAWC wants to charge customers far exceeds the amount
16 projected by TAWC in last year's rate case (TRA Docket #06-
17 00290). Also, the CAPD does not believe that customers should
18 be called upon to pay TAWC's legal bills for pursuing a rate
19 increase which, as demonstrated by the testimony and exhibits
20 of the CAPD's witnesses, is without merit.

21

1 **Q. Please summarize why the CAPD is projecting about \$400,000**
2 **less in depreciation expenses than the amount projected by**
3 **TAWC.**

4 A. This difference in depreciation expense is primarily
5 attributable to two reasons. First, based on the depreciation
6 study conducted by CAPD witness Charles W. King, the CAPD
7 used lower depreciation rates to compute depreciation expense
8 for certain plant accounts than the depreciation rates used by
9 TAWC. The testimony of CAPD witness King sets forth the
10 details of the CAPD's position on the depreciation study and
11 associated depreciation rates. Second, the CAPD did not
12 compute any depreciation expense for plant accounts that were
13 fully depreciated -- that is, the plant accounts had a net book
14 value of zero dollars (\$0.00). Once a capitalized item has been
15 depreciated completely, depreciation expense related to that
16 item should not be recognized any more.

17
18
19
20 **Q. Please explain why the CAPD's forecast of taxes other than**
21 **income taxes is about \$100,000 lower than TAWC's other tax**

1 **calculations.**

2 A. This difference is primarily due to the CAPD's
3 computation of lower gross receipts taxes. In computing its
4 gross receipts tax forecast, the CAPD matched more correct
5 franchise and excise tax credits based on TAWC's accounting
6 records to the gross receipts tax returns. These credits offset the
7 amount of gross receipts taxes due.

8

9 **Q. Please explain why the CAPD's forecast of income taxes is**
10 **about \$1 million lower than TAWC's income tax calculation.**

11 A. This \$1 million difference in income taxes is due mainly
12 to the CAPD's application of different income tax rates. The
13 CAPD computed state and federal income taxes using the
14 statutory tax rates found in the applicable tax codes.
15 Accordingly, the CAPD multiplied forecasted taxable income
16 by the 6.5% state statutory income tax rate to arrive at state
17 income taxes and by the 35% federal statutory income tax rate
18 to arrive at federal income taxes. On the other hand, TAWC
19 used rates much higher than the statutory tax rates -- a 12% tax
20 rate to compute state income taxes and a 48% tax rate to
21 compute federal income taxes. However, both financial and

1 regulatory accounting principles support the CAPD's use of the
2 statutory income tax rates; furthermore, the TRA also uses the
3 statutory income tax rates for establishing customer utility rates
4 and, in fact, used the statutory income tax rates to set TAWC's
5 customer rates in last year's rate case (TRA Docket #06-00290).

6

7 **Q. Please summarize the \$3.7 million difference in revenue**
8 **requirements attributable to the CAPD's computation of a**
9 **lower cost of capital for TAWC.**

10 A. Based on the cost of capital testimony of CAPD witness
11 Dr. Stephen N. Brown, the CAPD incorporated a lower overall
12 rate of return on rate base than TAWC requested in its rate
13 increase petition. This lower return decreases the revenue
14 requirements of TAWC by \$3.7 million. The testimony of
15 CAPD witness Brown sets forth the details of the CAPD's
16 position on cost of capital in this case.

17

18

19

20 **Q. Please explain the \$400,000 difference in revenue**
21 **requirements attributable to the gross revenue conversion**

1 **factor issue.**

2 A. The gross revenue conversion factor is a calculation that
3 shows how much gross operating revenue should be adjusted
4 to compensate for any projected surplus or deficiency in net
5 operating profits earned by the company. The CAPD calculates
6 about \$400,000 less in gross operating revenue requirements
7 through application of its gross revenue conversion factor
8 rather than the factor used by TAWC. TAWC's gross revenue
9 conversion factor is incorrect because it inappropriately
10 includes the gross receipts tax and inappropriately excludes
11 forfeited discounts for converting profits to revenue. Inclusion
12 of the gross receipts tax is not valid because this tax is not paid
13 in the period the associated revenue is collected, and exclusion
14 of the forfeited discounts is not valid because these amounts are
15 received in the period the associated revenue is collected. The
16 gross revenue conversion factor difference was also an issue in
17 last year's rate case (TRA Docket #06-00290) and the Authority
18 properly adopted the CAPD's calculation in that case.

19
20 **Q. Please summarize the comparison of capital structures and**
21 **cost of capital in this docket using the CAPD's forecast.**

1 A. As previously stated, the CAPD's cost of capital results in
2 a rate decrease of \$1.6 million. For comparison purposes, the
3 CAPD has also applied the various cost of capital
4 recommendations to the CAPD's financial forecast to determine
5 their effect on the need for new rates. First, the CAPD
6 considers the cost of capital recommendation of the
7 Chattanooga Manufacturers Association ("CMA"). Application
8 of CMA's proposed cost of capital to the CAPD's financial
9 forecast shows that customer rates should still be decreased by
10 \$1 million.

11 Next, the CAPD considers the currently-authorized cost
12 of capital that was ordered by the TRA in last year's rate case
13 (Docket #06-00290). This analysis shows that if TAWC's cost of
14 capital remains the same as the TRA ordered just last year,
15 customer rates should be increased only slightly --
16 approximately \$600,000.

17 Finally, even under TAWC's proposed cost of capital -- a
18 proposal that the CAPD believes is unreasonable -- customer
19 rates should be increased by only \$2.3 million rather than the
20 \$7.6 million requested by the company.

21 Accordingly, while there are different opinions with

1 respect to the appropriate cost of capital that should be
2 awarded in this case, the accounting and regulatory forecasting
3 issues alone demonstrate that TAWC's rate increase request is
4 unwarranted and, therefore, should be denied by the TRA.

5

6 **RATEMAKING THEORY AND PRACTICE**

7 **Q. What is a public utility?**

8 A. In the context of this case, a public utility is a business
9 formed as a shareholder-owned corporation. Even though the
10 public utility in this case is a for profit corporation, it is also
11 important to note that this public utility is:

12 an organization that has been designated by law as
13 a business affected with a significant public interest,
14 and that also possesses all of the following
15 characteristics: (1) The business is essentially free
16 from direct competition, i.e., it operates in a
17 monopolistic environment; (2) The business is
18 required by law to charge rates for its services that
19 are reasonable and not unjustly discriminatory; (3)
20 The business is allowed to earn (but not
21 guaranteed) a "reasonable" profit; and (4) The
22 business is obligated to provide adequate service to
23 its customers, on demand.¹

24

25

26 **Q. Does TAWC possess these public utility characteristics?**

¹*Accounting for Public Utilities*, Hahne and Aliff §1.01.

1 A. Yes. TAWC is a shareholder-owned public utility² that
2 has been granted the advantage of operating in a monopolistic
3 environment in exchange for special obligations, namely, the
4 requirement to provide adequate service to all customers at
5 rates that are just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory.

6

7 **Q. From a regulated ratemaking perspective, what is the TRA**
8 **called upon to do in this proceeding?**

9 A. In a rate case such as this one, the TRA is asked to
10 establish the amount of revenues that the utility should collect
11 in order to cover its reasonable and necessary expenses and to
12 reasonably compensate the utility's investors for their
13 investment in the plant and equipment necessary to provide
14 utility service to the public. The following ratemaking formula
15 can be used to express this concept:

16 **Revenue Requirement = (Rate Base X**
17 **Rate of Return) + Operations and**
18 **Maintenance Expense + Depreciation**
19 **Expense + Taxes.**

20

21 In this equation, "Rate Base" is essentially the plant and
22 equipment paid for by the investors in the utility. The "Rate of

²TAWC is a subsidiary of American Water Works Company, Inc. ("AWWC").

1 Return” is comprised of two major components: (1) the “Cost of
2 Debt,” which constitutes the interest rate on borrowed money
3 and (2) the “Return on Shareholders’ Equity” (“ROE”), which is
4 the rate of compensation that flows to the owners of the utility
5 for their investment. “Operations and Maintenance Expense” is
6 the costs of operating the utility day-to-day, such as payroll,
7 employee benefits, fuel and power to pump the water,
8 chemicals to treat the water supply, rents, office supplies,
9 postage and billing costs, etc. “Depreciation Expense” is the
10 systematic recovery of the cost of the plant and equipment over
11 their useful lives. And “Taxes” are the business taxes owed by
12 the utility to federal, state, and municipal governments, such as
13 income taxes, payroll taxes, property taxes, and franchise taxes.

14 In order to arrive at the appropriate amounts for each
15 component of the ratemaking formula, the TRA should
16 consider the expert witness testimony of economists,
17 accountants, and other subject matter experts. These experts
18 usually calculate the amount of each component of the
19 ratemaking formula for the “Attrition Year.” In making their
20 “Attrition Year” forecast, ratemaking experts often consider
21 “Test Year” data.

1

2 **Q. Please explain the difference between a “Test Year” and an**
3 **“Attrition Year.”**

4 A. A “test year” is a measure of a utility’s financial
5 operations and investment over a specific twelve month period.
6 It is the “raw material” for developing an attrition year
7 measure of the utility’s financial operations and investment
8 (that is, the utility’s Rate Base, Operations and Maintenance
9 Expense, Depreciation Expense, and Taxes). Therefore, the
10 selection of the test year is quite important:

11 The selection of the timing of the test year may be
12 the most significant single factor in the rate-making
13 process. The more outdated the test year levels of
14 operations, the more critical is the need for
15 significant restatement to produce representative
16 levels of future conditions.³

17
18 An “attrition year,” also known as a forecast period, is the
19 “finished product” and is to be representative of the period for
20 any rate adjustment. The attrition year can also be viewed as
21 the first year during which the TRA’s rate order will be applied.

22 In this docket, TAWC’s filing used a test year ended
23 November 2007 and an attrition year ending August 2009. In

³*Accounting for Public Utilities*, Hahne and Aliff §7.03.

1 an effort to eliminate outdated financial information and to
2 shorten the forecast window, the CAPD has adopted the test
3 year ended March 2008 in its forecast for the attrition year
4 ending August 2009.

5

6 **Q. Please explain how the TRA should calculate any adjustment**
7 **in customer rates to be applied during the attrition year.**

8 A. Once the TRA arrives at the appropriate Revenue
9 Requirement for the attrition year (as described above), it must
10 then determine whether a rate adjustment is needed. If the
11 Revenue Requirement is greater than the amount of operating
12 revenue forecasted for the attrition year at present customer
13 rates, then a rate increase is required. However, if the Revenue
14 Requirement is less than the amount of operation revenue
15 forecasted for the attrition year at present customer rates, then a
16 rate decrease is required.

17 In determining whether a rate increase or rate decrease is
18 warranted, the TRA should again consider the testimony of the
19 parties' expert witnesses. In addition to forecasting the
20 Revenue Requirement for the attrition year, these experts also
21 forecast the amount of operating revenue that the utility is

1 expected to collect during the attrition year at the current
2 customer rates set forth in the utility's tariff.

3

4

OPERATING REVENUES

5 **Q. Please describe the components of your forecast for**
6 **Operating Revenues.**

7 A. The components for forecasting Operating Revenues are
8 monthly rates or prices multiplied by annualized volumes. The
9 monthly rates are established by the TRA and are set forth in
10 TAWC's current tariff; and the volumes consist of two
11 components: the number of meters and the volume of water
12 usage. The monthly meter rate is dependent upon the size of
13 the meter and the monthly rates for water usage differ
14 according to the billed volume of cubic feet. There are several
15 usage rates, which are applied to volumetric blocks. These are
16 the billing determinants generating most of TAWC's operating
17 revenue.

18 Additionally, these billing determinants are used by
19 TAWC in six classes of service, which are: (1) residential; (2)
20 commercial; (3) industrial; (4) other public authority; (5) other
21 water utility; and (6) private fire service. Within five of the six

1 classes of service there are different locations. Distinguishing
2 the location is important because the meter and volumetric
3 rates vary by location. TAWC's residential and commercial
4 classes include the locations of: Chattanooga, Lookout
5 Mountain, Lakeview, Suck Creek; and Lone Oak Utility District
6 ("Lone Oak"). The industrial class is confined to Chattanooga.
7 The other public authority class includes the same locations as
8 the residential and commercial classes except for Lone Oak.
9 The "other water utility" class of service is the resale of water to
10 Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia ("Ft. Oglethorpe"); Catoosa Utility
11 District, Georgia ("Catoosa"); Signal Mountain; and Walden's
12 Ridge Utility District ("Walden's Ridge"). TAWC's private fire
13 service tariff does not distinguish locations.

14 Other Operating Revenues are not dependent upon the
15 normal billing determinants and include: new service fees; late
16 payment penalties; rent; sewer billing revenues; re-connection
17 fees; and other miscellaneous revenues.

18
19
20 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the**
21 **Residential Operating Revenues.**

1 A. The CAPD adopted the test period ended March 2008 for
2 its forecast of Residential Operating Revenues. Billing
3 determinants for all the locations and classes were compiled by
4 month from August 2003 through March 2008.⁴ The residential
5 billing determinants were calculated by trending the meters
6 and usage history from the twelve month period ended July
7 2004 through the twelve months ended March 2008 for the
8 locations of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Lakeview.
9 The billing determinants for only the twelve months ended
10 March 2008 were adopted for Suck Creek and Lone Oak due to
11 a lack of historical data available at these locations for trending
12 purposes. The blended billing determinants of actual amounts
13 for the twelve months ended March 2008 and trended amounts
14 for the attrition year were applied to present rates, which
15 resulted in \$16,353,100⁵ in Residential Operating Revenues.

16 TAWC adopted the test period ended November 2007 in
17 forecasting their Residential Operating Revenues. TAWC grew
18 their normalized 5/8" meters from the test period by .69% for
19 Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Lakeview. TAWC

⁴CAPD work papers, Index of work papers, pages 13-38.

⁵CAPD work paper R-RES SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 2.

1 adopted the normalized test period amounts from all other
2 meter sizes and other locations for the attrition year.

3 For the volumetric usage, TAWC grew the normalized
4 volumetric usage from the test period by .75% for Chattanooga,
5 Lookout Mountain, and Lakeview. TAWC adopted the
6 normalized test period amounts from all volumetric usage and
7 other locations for the attrition year.

8 As a result, TAWC is forecasting Residential Operating
9 Revenues of \$14,994,956 at present rates for the attrition year,
10 which is a .66% increase over the test period. The test period
11 Residential Operating Revenues are stunted mainly due to
12 TAWC's weather normalization adjustment ("WNA"). TAWC
13 uses the WNA to decrease its test period residential revenues
14 by \$1,059,075.⁶ This WNA is netted against an increase in test
15 period revenues of \$851,516⁷ to reflect the annualized rate
16 increase effective May 22, 2007 in TRA Docket #06-00290. As
17 explained by CAPD witness, Mr. Charles W. King, the CAPD
18 concludes that TAWC's WNA is improper and should be
19 disallowed.

⁶TAWC response to TRA Data Request #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-REVENUES, page 18 of 99.

⁷Ibid.

1 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the**
2 **Commercial Operating Revenues.**

3 A. The CAPD adopted the test period ended March 2008 for
4 its forecast of Commercial Operating Revenues. The billing
5 determinants were calculated by trending the meters and usage
6 from the twelve month period ended July 2004 through the
7 twelve months ended March 2008 for only Chattanooga. For
8 the remaining locations, the billing determinants for the twelve
9 months ended March 2008 were adopted. The blended billing
10 determinants of actual amounts for the twelve months ended
11 March 2008 and trended amounts for the attrition year were
12 applied to present rates, which resulted in \$11,947,283⁸ in
13 Commercial Operating Revenues.

14 TAWC adopted the test period ended November 2007 in
15 forecasting their Commercial Operating Revenues. Although
16 there are nine sizes of meters currently being billed, TAWC
17 grew only their normalized 1" meters from the test period by
18 5.47% for Chattanooga, 4.29% for Lookout Mountain, and
19 11.24% for Lakeview. TAWC adopted the normalized test
20 period amounts from all other meter sizes and other locations

⁸CAPD work paper R-COMM SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 51.

1 for the attrition year, which has the effect of projecting no
2 growth in these meter sizes for the attrition period.

3 For the volumetric usage, TAWC grew the normalized
4 volumetric usage from the test period by .88% for Chattanooga;
5 .91% for Lookout Mountain; and .97% for Lakeview. Once
6 more, TAWC adopted the normalized test period amounts from
7 all volumetric usage and other locations for the attrition year,
8 which results in no growth in volumes for the attrition period.

9 In summary, TAWC is forecasting Commercial Operating
10 Revenues of \$11,460,266 at present rates for the attrition year,
11 which is a 1.14% increase over the test period. Again, the test
12 period Commercial Operating Revenues are stunted mainly
13 due to TAWC's weather normalization adjustment ("WNA")
14 amounting to a decrease in the test period amount of \$296,569⁹
15 and an increase to the test period amount of \$628,983¹⁰ to reflect
16 the annualized rate increase effective May 22, 2007 in TRA
17 Docket #06-00290. As CAPD witness King testifies, TAWC's
18 WNA should be disallowed.

19

⁹TAWC response to TRA Data Request #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-REVENUES, page 18 of 99.

¹⁰Ibid.

1 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the**
2 **Industrial Operating Revenues.**

3 A. The CAPD adopted the test period ended March 2008 for
4 its forecast of Industrial Operating Revenues. Due to the
5 volatility of this revenue class, the billing determinants for the
6 twelve months ended March 2008 were adopted for the attrition
7 year, and were applied to present rates results in \$3,876,587¹¹ of
8 Industrial Operating Revenues. The CAPD adopted usage of
9 3,091,849 hundred cubic feet ("CCF") for the attrition year. The
10 CAPD's test period billing determinants were adjusted for the
11 closing of the Velsicol Chemical Corporation. However, it is
12 important to note that other industrial customers may be added
13 to the system. For instance, on July 15, 2008, Volkswagen
14 Group of America announced that it will build a plant in
15 Chattanooga where it will produce a car designed specifically
16 for the North American Consumer¹². In TRA Docket #06-
17 00290, TAWC reported normalized usage of 3,103,166¹³ CCF for
18 the test period ended June 2006 and adopted the same volume

¹¹CAPD work paper R-IND SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 100.

¹²www.reuters.com/article/rbssautotruckmanufactured/idUSL1570839420080715.

¹³TRA Docket #06-00290, Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 9 of 13, Line 26.

1 usage for the attrition year ended February 2008. In this docket
2 TAWC reports normalized usage of 3,144,865 CCF for the test
3 period ended November 2007. TAWC does cite the closing of
4 the Velsicol Chemical Corporation in calculating its normalized
5 usage.¹⁴ Also, the meter billing determinants declined from
6 2,135 in the previous docket to 1,939 in this docket. Yet, 94% of
7 the annual Industrial Operating Revenues is derived from
8 volumetric usage.

9 TAWC adopted the same number of meters and
10 volumetric usage for its forecast as the normalized test period
11 usage ended November 2007. Consequently, TAWC's
12 forecasted Industrial Operating Revenues are identical to the
13 normalized test period amount of \$3,914,733 at present rates.

14

15

16 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the Other**
17 **Public Authority Operating Revenues.**

18 A. The CAPD adopted the test period and the billing
19 determinants for the twelve months ended March 2008 for its
20 forecast of Other Public Authority Operating Revenues. When

¹⁴Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Page 6, Question 13, Lines 5-7.

1 applied to present rates, the CAPD's forecast of Other Public
2 Authority Operating Revenues results in \$2,583,294¹⁵ for the
3 attrition year.

4 In TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC reported normalized
5 usage of 1,184,442¹⁶ CCF for the test period ended June 2006.
6 TAWC adopted the same volume usage for the attrition year
7 ended February 2008. In this docket TAWC reports normalized
8 usage of 1,104,514 CCF for the test period ended November
9 2007. Yet, the meter billing determinants increased from 8,635
10 in the previous docket to 8,829 in this docket. However, 83% of
11 the annual Other Public Authority Operating Revenues is
12 derived from volumetric usage.

13 TAWC adopted the same volume usage for its forecast as
14 the normalized test period usage ended November 2007. So,
15 TAWC's forecasted Other Public Authority Operating
16 Revenues of \$2,603,078 are the same as the test period.

17

18 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for Other**
19 **Water Utility Operating Revenues.**

¹⁵CAPD work paper R-OPA SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 111.

¹⁶TRA Docket #06-00290, Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 10 of 13, Line 26.

1 A. The CAPD adopted the test period ended March 2008 for
2 its forecast of Operating Revenues from Sales for Resale. As
3 previously mentioned, there are four major customers under
4 contract in this revenue category: Fort Oglethorpe, Catoosa,
5 Signal Mountain, and Walden's Ridge.

6 As in TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC has elected to
7 exclude the revenues from one customer, Walden's Ridge.¹⁷
8 Given the historical growth in revenues, the CAPD has elected
9 to include the revenues, expenses, and rate base from Walden's
10 Ridge in this docket. The service that TAWC provides to
11 Walden's Ridge is a regulated service, just like the regulated
12 services provided to Fort Oglethorpe, Catoosa, and Signal
13 Mountain. Walden's Ridge revenues grew from \$162,979¹⁸ for
14 the twelve months ended June 2006 to \$434,810¹⁹ for the twelve
15 months ended November 2007. The usage grew from 173,844²⁰
16 CCF for the twelve months ended June 30, 2006 to 463,797²¹

¹⁷TAWC Direct Testimony, J. Watson, Page 20, lines 18-22.

¹⁸TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 27.

¹⁹TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 27.

²⁰TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 27.

²¹TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 27.

1 CCF for the twelve months ended November 2007. As a
2 consequence, the CAPD has contacted the four customers²² to
3 discuss both historical usage and forecasted usage. Walden's
4 Ridge had budgeted \$465,000 in water purchases for the fiscal
5 year ended August 2008. As of this date, their next fiscal year's
6 budget had not been completed.

7 Therefore, the CAPD has adopted \$470,549 in revenues at
8 present rates for Walden's Ridge in its forecast.

9 TAWC's revenues from Catoosa also grew significantly.
10 In TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC forecasted \$155,023²³ for the
11 attrition year. Yet, TAWC has reported revenue from Catoosa
12 for the twelve months ended November 2007 of \$449,620²⁴.
13 Catoosa's usage grew from 162,740²⁵ CCF for the twelve months
14 ended June 2006 to 501,752²⁶ for the twelve months ended
15 November 2007. While TAWC has included no growth in its
16 forecast, Catoosa reported annual customer growth of

and ²²Walden's Ridge, T. Davies; Catoosa, R. Gondy, J. Lee; Ft. Oglethorpe, M. Housely;
Signal Mountain, W. Sanders.

²³TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 25.

²⁴TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 13, Line 25.

²⁵TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page No. 11 of 13, Line 25.

²⁶TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 13, Line 25.

1 approximately 5%. Consistent with that growth, the CAPD has
2 included \$474,205 in its forecast for the attrition year at present
3 rates.

4 Conversely, Ft. Oglethorpe's usage for the twelve months
5 ended November 2007 was 489,860²⁷ CCF instead of TAWC's
6 forecasted usage of 799,363²⁸ CCF. The CAPD has forecasted
7 volumes of 494,558, which amounts to \$443,173 at present rates.

8 TAWC forecasted 304,001²⁹ CCF for Signal Mountain
9 during the attrition year in TRA Docket #06-00290. Signal
10 Mountain's actual usage for the test period ended November
11 2007 was 515,804³⁰ CCF. Given that the CAPD's test period is
12 the latest known and measurable amount, the CAPD has
13 adopted \$448,872 for its Signal Mountain forecast, which is
14 based on CAPD's test period volumes.

15 In total, TAWC has forecasted \$1,310,628 for Other Water
16 Utility Revenue for the attrition year at present rates, which is
17 based on the normalized test period ended November 2007.

²⁷TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 13, Line 24.

²⁸TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 13, Line 24.

²⁹TRA Docket #06-00290, Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 13, Line 26.

³⁰TAWC Exhibit No. 4, Schedule 2, Page 11 of 14, Line 26.

1 The CAPD's total Other Water Utility Revenue for the attrition
2 year is \$1,847,352³¹, which is a difference of \$537,619. Most of
3 this difference is the inclusion of \$470,549 in Walden's Ridge
4 revenues in the CAPD forecast.

5
6 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the Private**
7 **Fire Service Operating Revenues.**

8 A. The CAPD adopted the test period ended March 2008 for
9 its forecast of Private Fire Service Operating Revenues, which
10 amounts to \$1,518,135.³²

11 TAWC adopted the test period ended November 2007
12 amount of \$1,489,608 for its forecasted Private Fire Service
13 Operating Revenues.

14
15 **Q. Please describe the forecasting methodologies for the Other**
16 **Operating Revenues.**

17 A. Given that Other Operating Revenues are not dependent
18 upon the normal billing determinants, the CAPD adopted the
19 March 2008 test period amount of \$1,393,048. TAWC's forecast

³¹CAPD work paper R-OTHER UTIL SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 138.

³²CAPD work paper R-REVENUE SUMMARY COMPARATIVE, Index of work papers, page 1, line 6.

1 of Other Operating Revenues is \$1,369,193 using their test
2 period ended November 2007.

3

4 **Q. Please summarize the comparative forecasts of Operating**
5 **Revenues.**

6 A. The CAPD's forecast of Operating Revenues totals
7 \$39,518,799, which is \$2,376,337 greater than the forecast of
8 TAWC.

9 The direct testimony of TAWC's revenue forecast
10 methodology lacks specific details in supporting the calculation
11 of their Operating Revenue forecast. In fact, it is confined in
12 only two questions or paragraphs.³³ However, based on what is
13 reported in their exhibits, there are three major forecast
14 differences: (1) TAWC's residential and commercial meter
15 growth is confined to one meter size per revenue class, which is
16 simple, but not reflective of what has historically occurred; (2)
17 TAWC's WNA adjustment of \$1.3 million suppresses their
18 forecasted Operating Revenues; and (3) the CAPD's inclusion
19 of the Walden's Ridge revenues of approximately \$.5 million.

20 Regarding the growth rates and WNA amounts, it is

³³TAWC Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Pages 5-6, Questions 12-13.

1 helpful to examine what actually occurred in the last forecast
2 period ended February 2008. The TRA ordered rate increases
3 of \$4.1 million in Docket #06-00290.³⁴ The new rates became
4 effective May 22, 2007. The TRA adopted the forecast of
5 TAWC's Operating Revenues in that docket.³⁵ The February
6 2008 TRA surveillance report shows an increase of \$4.3 million³⁶
7 in twelve months to date total Operating Revenues over the
8 same period last year. Yet, the new rates have not been in effect
9 for an entire year. Further, the WNA amount in the last docket
10 reduced TAWC's forecasted revenues by \$.2 million.³⁷ In fact,
11 the WNA amount did not occur.³⁸ In this docket, the TRA is
12 being asked to accept a WNA, which is six times the amount
13 from last year. Since last year's WNA did not happen as
14 projected by TAWC, the CAPD finds that TAWC's WNA
15 proposal in this docket is not credible. This conclusion is
16 buttressed by the testimony of CAPD witness King. TAWC

³⁴TRA Docket #06-00290 Order dated June 10, 2008, page 51.

³⁵TRA Docket #06-00290 Order dated June 10, 2008, page 22.

³⁶TRA February 2008 3.06 surveillance report, line 5.

³⁷TAWC response in docket #06-00290 to TRA #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-REVENUES, Page 35 of 133.

³⁸CAPD work paper R-REV COMP #06-00290, Index of work papers, page 155.

1 cites a decline in volumetric usage amounting to \$.370 million³⁹
2 as one of the financial reasons for their petition for increased
3 rates. Yet, recent history indicates that is not the case.⁴⁰ The
4 inclusion of revenues received from Walden's Ridge is
5 appropriate. TAWC contends that Walden's Ridge is under
6 contract and not subject to increased rates in this proceeding⁴¹,
7 but in fact all of the four major resale customers are under
8 contract.⁴²

9 Therefore, TAWC's forecast of Operating Revenues
10 should be rejected by the TRA.

11
12
13
14 **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES**

15 **Q. Please describe the components of Operation and**
16 **Maintenance Expenses ("O&M").**

17 **A.** There are 17 O&M Expense categories subject to forecast

³⁹TAWC Exhibit MAM-2, Page 1 of 1.

⁴⁰CAPD work paper R-VOLUMETRIC HISTORY, Index of work papers, page 152.

⁴¹TAWC response to TRA #2, Section 2E.

⁴²TAWC response to CAPD Part IV, #6.

1 in this docket. The first category is forecasted O&M Labor.
2 This category was projected based on a payroll price-out.

3 In two categories, Fuel & Power and Chemicals, there is a
4 direct correlation between TAWC's forecasted revenues and the
5 volume of water filtration expenses accounted for in these two
6 O&M Expense categories. Thus, these two categories were
7 projected based on the volume of water filtration built into the
8 revenue forecast.

9 For the categories of Management Fees, Pension Expense,
10 and Regulatory Expense, the CAPD has forecasted these
11 amounts based on TRA precedent and the history of O&M
12 Expenses for TAWC.

13 For the other eleven categories, the CAPD primarily
14 adopted the amounts per account for the twelve months ended
15 March 31, 2008 and grew each amount by half of the customer
16 growth of 1.18%⁴³ plus the GDP Chained Price Deflator growth
17 rate of 2.46%.⁴⁴ The combined growth rate from March 31, 2008
18 through August 31, 2009 is approximately 3.7%. This
19 methodology is the standard procedure that the CAPD uses to

⁴³CAPD work paper, R-CUSTOMER GROWTH, Index of work papers, page 167.

⁴⁴CAPD work paper, E-GDP, Index of work papers, page 290.

1 forecast non-salary and wage O&M Expenses in rate
2 proceedings before the TRA. Due to the large number of
3 differences between the CAPD and TAWC in the amounts
4 within O&M expense categories, as well as the amounts within
5 expense accounts within each category, the CAPD will address
6 only the significant net differences in its O&M expense forecast
7 and the O&M expense forecast of TAWC. The details of the
8 forecast, however, are presented in the CAPD's work papers,
9 which are referenced in the following discussion of each O&M
10 category.

11

12 **Q. What are the significant differences between TAWC and the**
13 **CAPD in O&M Expenses for the forecasted attrition year?**

14 A. CAPD work paper E-REC-1⁴⁵ provides a reconciliation of
15 the differences in the calculation of O&M Expenses.

16 The significant differences in O&M Expense for the
17 attrition year are: (1) \$181,390 in lower labor costs for the CAPD
18 forecast; (2) \$881,967 in lower Management Fees for the CAPD
19 forecast; and (3) \$201,516 in lower Regulatory Expense;
20 Accordingly, the CAPD's total O&M Expense forecast is

⁴⁵CAPD work papers, Index of work papers, page 168.

1 \$1,296,473 lower than TAWC's forecast.

2

3 **Q. Please describe your forecast methodology for O&M Labor.**

4 A. Total O&M Labor was calculated using actual employee
5 levels, actual wage rates per employee, actual overtime hours
6 as of March 2008, and prospective pay raises at April 1 of each
7 year per TAWC's policy for salary and non-union employees.
8 The union employees receive an annual pay raise at November
9 1 of each year per their contract.⁴⁶ The O&M Labor amount was
10 derived from the calculated total salary and wage dollars minus
11 salary and wage dollars charged to capitalization. The
12 capitalized salaries and wages were calculated using TAWC's
13 actual average capitalization rate for the twelve months ended
14 March 31, 2008. The capitalized salaries and wages removed
15 from the total calculated salaries and wages forecast is
16 accounted for in the rate base. Forecasting O&M salaries and
17 wages through this price-out methodology is the standard
18 procedure that the CAPD uses to forecast salaries and wages in
19 rate proceedings before the TRA.

20

⁴⁶TAWC response to TRA request #33, TN-TRA-Q033-ATTACHMENT, Page 9 of 31.

1 **Q. Please explain the differences in the calculation of O&M**
2 **Labor.**

3 A. CAPD work paper, E-PAY-6⁴⁷ provides a reconciliation of
4 the differences in the calculation of O&M Labor. In summary,
5 O&M Labor as forecasted by TAWC for the attrition year is
6 overstated by \$182,631.

7 The significant differences between TAWC and the CAPD
8 in the calculation of O&M Labor are attributable to the
9 following:

10 (1) According to TAWC's testimony, the forecast of O&M
11 Labor includes 114 employees for the attrition year;⁴⁸ TAWC
12 adopted the overtime hours and the capitalization rate of
13 20.28%⁴⁹ for the test period ended November 2007; TAWC's
14 O&M Labor is \$5,058,987⁵⁰.

15 (2) CAPD work papers E-PAY-1, E-PAY-2, and E-PAY-3⁵¹
16 provide a price out of all employees for the attrition period.

17 The CAPD adopted the actual employee level of 109 as of

⁴⁷CAPD work paper, E-PAY-6, Index of work papers, page 174.

⁴⁸Direct Testimony, J. Watson, Page 15, Question 17, Line 10.

⁴⁹Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Page 7, Line 6.

⁵⁰TAWC Exhibit No. 2, Schedule 3, Page 1 of 1, Line No. 1.

⁵¹CAPD work papers, Index of work papers, pages 169-171.

1 March 31, 2008⁵². The CAPD used the actual capitalization rate
2 for the twelve months ended March 31, 2008 of 20.60% and the
3 CAPD excluded 30% of TAWC's Annual Incentive Plan
4 ("AIP").

5
6 **Q. Why did the CAPD use current employee levels in its forecast**
7 **rather than TAWC's projection of future employee levels?**

8 A. The CAPD used current employee levels because TAWC
9 has a known and measurable history of inflating its
10 employment levels. Historically, TAWC does not achieve or
11 maintain their forecasted employment levels. TAWC's
12 continued request to set rates on an inflated employee level
13 instead of a realized employee level should be denied.

14 In TRA Docket #03-00118, TAWC included in its forecast
15 119 employees.⁵³ Subsequent to the TRA Order, TAWC cut the
16 number of employees to 108 at the end of July 2003. The actual
17 average employee level for the attrition year in TRA Docket
18 #03-00118 was 113⁵⁴ rather than the 119 TAWC had forecasted.

⁵²TAWC response to CAPD Part IV, #13, TN-CAPD-01-PART IV-Q013-
ATTACHMENT, Page 56 of 56.

⁵³TRA Docket #04-00288, Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 14, Lines 17-18.

⁵⁴CAPD work paper, E-PAY-5, Index of work papers, page 173.

1 As a result, the actual O&M Labor expense for TRA Docket
2 #03-00118 was \$4,631,351⁵⁵ instead of TAWC's forecast of
3 \$5,066,066⁵⁶.

4 In TRA Docket #04-00288, TAWC included in its forecast
5 106⁵⁷ employees for the attrition year ended December 2005.
6 Yet, the average employee level for that period was only 99.⁵⁸
7 TAWC forecasted O&M Labor expense of \$4,383,883⁵⁹ for the
8 attrition year. Again, TAWC's forecasted O&M Labor expense
9 was significantly overstated for the TRA Docket #04-00288
10 attrition year. The actual O&M Labor expense for the same
11 period was \$3,765,383⁶⁰.

12 In TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC contended that it
13 would need 111 employee positions.⁶¹ Yet, TAWC averaged
14 only 108 employees since last year's rate case. At one point,
15 TAWC stated in the proceeding it would have 110 employees

⁵⁵TRA Docket #04-00288, TAWC Exhibit No.2, Schedule 3, Page 1 of 1, Line 1.

⁵⁶TRA Docket #03-00118, S. Valentine Exhibit No. 2, Schedule 3, Page 1 of 1, Line 1.

⁵⁷TRA Docket #04-00288, Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 14, Lines 16-17.

⁵⁸CAPD Work Paper, E-PAY-5, Index of work papers, page 173.

⁵⁹TRA Docket #04-00288, Exhibit No. 2, Schedule 3, Line 1.

⁶⁰TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC Rebuttal Exhibit MAM-15, Page 2 of 2.

⁶¹TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Testimony, J. Watson, Page 6.

1 by the following Monday in April of 2007.⁶² Yet, based on
2 TAWC's response, that employment level either did not occur
3 or was quite brief. CAPD work paper E-PAY-5⁶³ compares the
4 actual employee levels of TAWC with the forecasted employees
5 levels by TAWC. A CAPD chart⁶⁴ from this data demonstrates
6 that TAWC has repeatedly maintained employee levels below
7 their forecasted employee levels included in their rate filings
8 before the TRA.

9 As previously mentioned, TAWC has included 114
10 employees in this docket, which is an additional three new
11 positions according to TAWC's testimony. The three new
12 positions are: Operations Specialist; Manager-Engineering
13 Service, and Non-Revenue Water Supervisor.⁶⁵ However,
14 according to TAWC's organizational charts, TAWC has had the
15 current Non-Revenue Water Supervisor, Ronald C. Schleifer⁶⁶,
16 since TRA Docket #04-00288. According to the chart, there

⁶²TRA Docket #06-00290, Transcript dated 4/18/07, afternoon session, Page 272, J. Watson.

⁶³CAPD work paper, Index of work papers, page 173.

⁶⁴CAPD work paper, Index of work papers, page 177.

⁶⁵Direct Testimony, J. Watson, Question 18, Pages 17-18.

⁶⁶TAWC response to TRA Data Request #3, Page 12 of 27.

1 were three TAWC employees, one of which was Mr. Schleifer,
2 performing services “to other American Water companies.”
3 Yet, the full salaries of at least two of those employees were
4 charged solely to TAWC and were included in TAWC’s forecast
5 of labor for the attrition year ended December 2005 in TRA
6 Docket #04-00288.⁶⁷ However, none of Mr. Schleifer’s salary
7 was recorded during the test year ended June 30, 2006, in TRA
8 Docket #06-00290.⁶⁸ The reason for the discrepancy was due to
9 Mr. Schleifer being an employee of American Water Works
10 Company, but located in Chattanooga.⁶⁹

11 In TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC requested four
12 additional positions: Production Superintendent; Loss Control
13 Specialist; an additional lab analyst; and an additional Truck
14 Driver/Utility Worker. Again, according to TAWC’s
15 organizational chart, the Production Superintendent is Mark J.
16 Zinnanti, who has been on the payroll since 2002. The Loss
17 Control Specialist is Kevin B. Highsmith, who also has been on
18 the payroll since 2002. The salaries of both men were already

⁶⁷TAWC Working Papers, TRA Docket 04-00288.

⁶⁸TAWC response to TRA Data Request #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-LABOR, page 5 of 68.

⁶⁹TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC response to CAPD request Part II, #4.

1 included in TAWC's forecast of salaries and wages in TRA
2 Docket #06-00290. Additionally, two lab analysts⁷⁰ were given
3 severance payments totaling \$30,617 in TRA Docket #04-00288.

4 Given the history of TAWC's employment
5 representations and management practices, the CAPD
6 recommends to the TRA that only known and measurable
7 salaries and wages be included in the attrition year. Ratepayers
8 should not have to continue to pay for salaries and wages on
9 employee levels that are never achieved.

10 Accordingly, the TRA should reject the O&M Labor
11 Expense forecast of TAWC and set rates on actual employee
12 levels, not on speculative employment positions that never
13 materialize. Indeed, the employment history clearly
14 demonstrates that such speculative levels are not achieved and
15 therefore are not proper for rate making purposes. TAWC's
16 employment history also demonstrates that the current
17 employee level is sufficient for operation of the company.
18 According to TAWC's testimony, 99.55% of their service
19 requests were completed on time in 2005, 99.77% in 2006, and

⁷⁰TRA Docket #03-00118, TAWC working papers, K. Durham and B. Ortega; TRA Docket #04-00288 TAWC response to TRA Request #9.

1 99.64% in 2007.⁷¹

2

3 **Q. Are there any other differences in O&M Labor that you wish**
4 **to discuss?**

5 A. Yes. The CAPD also has disallowed thirty percent or
6 \$33,246 of O&M Labor for “incentive payroll.” The incentive
7 payroll known as AIP is based on three performance goals: (1)
8 Financial; (2) Operational; and (3) Individual.⁷² Thirty percent
9 of the AIP is based on the financial operating results of
10 TAWC.⁷³ Under the incentive plan, TAWC increases the
11 compensation to its employees for increasing TAWC’s
12 regulated earnings. Because there is no mechanism under the
13 incentive plan for TAWC’s ratepayers to share in these
14 increased earnings, TAWC’s employees and shareholders will
15 reap all of the financial rewards of these higher earnings.
16 Additionally, ratepayers are the sole source of TAWC’s
17 regulated earnings; therefore, the incentive plan is a circular
18 one whose success is built into this docket, rewarding TAWC’s

⁷¹TAWC Direct Testimony, J. Watson, Page 9, Lines 2-11.

⁷²TAWC response to TRA Data Request #37.

⁷³TAWC response to TRA Data Request #37, Page 4 of 16.

1 employees and shareholders for merely increasing water rates
2 charged to ratepayers. This is illustrated by the following: If
3 TAWC's employees are successful in increasing the company's
4 earnings, even to the point of earning above the authorized rate
5 of return set by the TRA, TAWC will reward its employees for
6 this effort through the AIP. In such a case, ratepayers would
7 not only be unreasonably burdened by the over-earnings, but
8 under TAWC's proposal, they also would have to pay an "over
9 earnings surcharge" in the form of the AIP. The CAPD does
10 not object if the company wants to reward its employees for
11 increasing its earnings from regulated operations; however, the
12 cost of these rewards should be charged to those that benefit
13 from the AIP — the company's shareholders — not the
14 ratepayers. For these reasons, there is no reasonable basis to
15 charge this portion of the cost of the incentive plan to
16 ratepayers, as these plan benefits will inure entirely to TAWC's
17 employees and shareholders whereas the incentive plan's
18 associated burdens will fall directly on ratepayers. In fact,
19 TAWC paid out financial rewards to its salary employees in
20 2007 following the rate increase awarded to it in May 2007.

21 As a result, thirty percent of the incentive amount has

1 been excluded and should be borne solely by TAWC's
2 shareholders. The CAPD's treatment of incentive payroll is in
3 accord with established TRA precedent.⁷⁴

4

5 **Q. Please explain the difference in the calculation of forecasted**
6 **Management Fees.**

7 A. In TRA Docket #04-00288, as a result of reorganization,
8 TAWC included a 22% increase of \$555,664 in Management
9 Fees which brought the total forecasted 2005 Management Fees
10 to \$3,062,940. TAWC represented that this increase would
11 "enable the Company to operate more efficiently and cost
12 effectively while at the same time improving and enhancing the
13 service that the Company provides."⁷⁵ However, TAWC has
14 booked \$4,258,346 in 2005, \$4,793,908 in 2006, and \$4,734,416 in
15 2007 for Management Fees.⁷⁶ In this docket, TAWC is
16 forecasting \$4,335,190 in Management Fees. Subsequently, in
17 TRA Docket #06-00290, TAWC forecasted \$4,064,421 for the

⁷⁴TRA Docket #06-00290, Order dated June 10, 2008, Page 24.

⁷⁵TRA Docket #04-00288, Direct Testimony of M. Miller, Pages 14-15, Lines 15-16 and Lines 2-4.

⁷⁶CAPD work paper E-MANAGEMENT FEES SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 189.

1 attrition year ended February 2008, a 33% increase over the
2 2005 forecast amount. In support for this level of increase,
3 TAWC claimed that full time employees (“FTEs”) had been
4 shifted to the Regional Service Company.⁷⁷ Further, TAWC
5 claimed that it was not appropriate to use the 2005 forecasted
6 amount because it was a settlement amount.⁷⁸ In support of
7 their forecasted Management Fees, TAWC filed an exhibit
8 using a starting point of March 31, 2004 per TRA Docket #03-
9 00118 to compare an inflated fully loaded company labor to
10 their forecasted management fees and forecasted labor.⁷⁹

11 Despite the claims of TAWC, rates were set in TRA
12 Docket #04-00288 for the forecast period ended December 31,
13 2005 based on Management Fees of approximately \$3 million.
14 This Management Fees amount was not the result of settlement,
15 but was actually TAWC’s forecasted Management Fees amount
16 included in its filing in that case. So, in forecasting a just and
17 reasonable Management Fees amount, it is still appropriate to
18 use the 2005 amount as a starting point. The CAPD’s work

⁷⁷TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Testimony, M. Miller, Page 53, lines 29-30.

⁷⁸TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Testimony, M. Miller, Page 54, lines 7-10.

⁷⁹TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Exhibit MAM-15, Page 1 of 2.

1 paper calculates a forecasted Management Fees amount of
2 \$3,453,223.⁸⁰ An analysis⁸¹ of the history of TAWC's
3 Management Fees growth demonstrates that it is out of step
4 with current economic conditions. While TAWC's other
5 expenses continue to rise, there is no offset anywhere in
6 TAWC's forecast to account for the dramatic rise in
7 Management Fees. Contrary to TAWC's position, their
8 forecasted Management Fees did not provide a more cost
9 efficient operation. Even TAWC concedes this.⁸² Additionally,
10 the Independent Cost Assessment Report ("I.C.A.R.")
11 concluded that the growth from 2005 to 2006 was "Above the
12 average cost change"⁸³ of the peer group. In 2007, TAWC was
13 charged \$4,996,171 in Management Fees, but the plan amount
14 was \$3,435,976⁸⁴. Both amounts included O&M and capital
15 expenditures. Further, an examination of employee expenses
16 within Management Fees include contributions, professional

⁸⁰CAPD work papers, E-MANAGEMENT FEES SUMMARY, Index of work papers, page 189.

⁸¹CAPD work papers, E-MANAGEMENT FEES ANALYSIS, Index of work papers, pages 191-192.

⁸²TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Testimony, M. Miller, Page 54, Lines 10-13.

⁸³TAWC Direct Testimony, J. Van Den Berg, Page 12.

⁸⁴TAWC response to City of Chattanooga #24.

1 sporting events, alcoholic beverages, and the frequent use of
2 limousines.⁸⁵ None of these costs are necessary or prudent for
3 providing water service. The CAPD believes that TAWC has a
4 responsibility to its ratepayers for public utility service--one of
5 the basic needs of society. This responsibility exceeds that of a
6 private sector company. Water service can be provided to
7 ratepayers only by TAWC. This monopoly service must be met
8 not at a premium, but at a "just and reasonable cost." TAWC
9 should be more circumspect in their expenditures for its cost of
10 service. The spending behavior of the management service
11 company fails the responsibility of stewardship owed by
12 TAWC to its ratepayers. Moreover, given the magnitude and
13 timing of the rate increase requested by TAWC, consideration
14 for what is to be properly included in rates and the amounts to
15 be included in its cost of service, must be heavily weighed by
16 the TRA.

17 Therefore, TAWC's level of Management Fees is simply
18 **not** just and reasonable for the ratepayers. TAWC's forecasted
19 Management Fees do not represent cost efficiency to the
20 ratepayers and should be rejected by the TRA.

⁸⁵TAWC response to CAPD Part IV, #43.

1

2 **Q. Please explain the difference in the calculation of Regulatory**
3 **Expense.**

4 A. In its calculation of Regulatory Expense for the attrition
5 year, the CAPD has included the amortization of the cost of
6 service studies performed in TRA Docket #04-00288⁸⁶ at \$8,000
7 per year; in TRA Docket #06-00290⁸⁷ at \$8,000 per year; and in
8 this docket at \$3,200⁸⁸ per year. Additionally, the CAPD has
9 included the amortization of the depreciation study in this
10 docket at \$6,000⁸⁹ per year. Finally, the CAPD has included the
11 amortization of rate case costs sought by TAWC in TRA Docket
12 #06-00290⁹⁰ at \$133,333 per year; and \$183,336⁹¹ per year in this
13 docket. The total of all the amortization amounts to \$341,868 in
14 Regulatory Expense for the attrition year.

15 Yet, TAWC now seeks to set rates on Regulatory Expense

⁸⁶TRA Docket #04-00288, Direct Testimony, P. Diskin, Page 13, Lines 12-16.

⁸⁷TRA Docket #06-00290, Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Page 12, Lines 1-3.

⁸⁸Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 20, Lines 21-22.

⁸⁹Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 20, Lines 23-24.

⁹⁰TRA Docket #06-00290, Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Page 11, Lines 26-29.

⁹¹Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 20, Lines 16-17.

1 amounting to \$543,384⁹² per year, which is an additional
2 \$200,00 per year prospectively. According to TAWC, the rate
3 case costs in this docket are \$550,000 compared to the \$400,000
4 sought in TRA Docket #06-00290. TAWC cites the same
5 intervenors from the last docket as in this case. Moreover, the
6 same intervenors were in TRA Docket #03-00118, when the
7 TAWC sought rate case costs of \$225,000.⁹³ Much of the rate
8 case costs incurred by TAWC's is for the protection of its
9 shareholders' interests and to the detriment of the ratepayers.

10 Therefore, the TRA should reject TAWC's Regulatory
11 Expense amount of \$543,384 as unduly unjust and
12 unreasonable to ratepayers for setting prospective rates.

13

14 **Q. Please summarize the forecast differences in O&M expense.**

15 A. TAWC attributes 38%⁹⁴ of their requested increase to
16 O&M expense. TAWC's forecasted O&M of \$21 million is
17 26%⁹⁵ higher than their forecasted amount of \$16.7 million for

⁹²Direct Testimony, M. Miller, Page 20, Line 13.

⁹³TRA Docket #03-00118, Direct Testimony, S. Valentine, Page 6, Line 13.

⁹⁴TAWC Exhibit MAM2.

⁹⁵CAPD work paper, E-REC-1, Line 20, Index of work papers, page 168 .

1 the year ending 2005. The GDP growth rate over the same
2 period is less than half TAWC's O&M growth rate. Also,
3 TAWC's actual O&M expense was 15% higher than the O&M
4 expense amount approved by the TRA in Docket #06-00290 for
5 the attrition year ended February 2008. Excluding, TAWC's
6 pension expense, the O&M expense was 10% higher than the
7 O&M expense amount approved just last year by the TRA.

8 The CAPD's forecast of O&M recognizes an 18% growth
9 rate over the forecasted \$16.7 million for the year ending 2005.
10 This growth rate is not draconian, but requires TAWC to
11 operate efficiently within a just and reasonable budget.
12 Furthermore, the CAPD's growth rate exceeds inflation. Some
13 of this increase is related to the forecasted volumetric usage,
14 which incurs more fuel & power and chemical costs. While the
15 CAPD's forecasted fuel and power and chemical costs are
16 higher than the forecasted amounts of TAWC. The CAPD
17 capped these costs, which allowed the lost and unaccounted for
18 water percentage not to exceed 15%. This is consistent with the
19 industry average⁹⁶ as noted by TAWC.

⁹⁶TRA Docket #06-00290, Transcript dated 4/18/07, afternoon session, Page 277, J. Watson.

1 Since TAWC's actual O&M growth rate exceeds any just
2 and reasonable economic basis, the TRA should reject their
3 O&M expense forecast.

4

5 **DEPRECIATION EXPENSE**

6 **Q. Please explain the calculation of CAPD Depreciation and**
7 **Amortization Expense.**

8 A. TAWC has forecasted Depreciation and Amortization
9 Expense of \$4,730,347⁹⁷ for the attrition year. TAWC's
10 Depreciation Expense is based on a depreciation study
11 performed for property as of November 30, 2007. In their
12 forecast, TAWC has included depreciation expense on assets
13 with a book value of near zero or less⁹⁸. These assets include
14 computer equipment and software such as the Enterprise
15 Customer Information System ("ECIS"). A CAPD work paper⁹⁹
16 demonstrates that TAWC has practiced including depreciation
17 expense on assets with a book value of zero or less in this
18 docket and in TRA Docket #06-00290.

⁹⁷TAWC Exhibit No. 2, Schedule 4, Page 1 of 2, Line 13.

⁹⁸CAPD work paper, E-DEP, Index of work papers, Accounts #340200, 340210, 340300, 340310, 340320, and 340330, page 298.

⁹⁹CAPD work paper, E-BOOK VALUE COMP, Index of work papers, page 300.

1 A depreciation study has been performed on behalf of the
2 CAPD using the average life group ("ALG") procedure. The
3 CAPD's depreciation rate study is presented by CAPD witness,
4 Mr. Charles W. King. The CAPD did not calculate depreciation
5 expense on plant accounts having a book value of zero or less.
6 Specifically, accounting for depreciation expense is "no more
7 nor no less than the cost of the asset"¹⁰⁰. Based on the
8 depreciation rates developed in the CAPD's study, the CAPD
9 calculated Depreciation Expense of \$4,366,120¹⁰¹, which is
10 \$364,227¹⁰² less than the projected depreciation expense of
11 TAWC. The CAPD applied the CAPD's depreciation rates¹⁰³ to
12 the actual March 31, 2008 Plant in Service balances and the net
13 monthly plant additions and retirements¹⁰⁴ through August 31,
14 2009.

15 **TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME TAXES**

16 **Q. What are the significant differences from TAWC in Taxes**

¹⁰⁰*Public Utility Accounting: Theory and Application*, James E. Suelflow, Michigan State University Public Utilities Studies, P. 102.

¹⁰¹CAPD work paper, E-DEP, Index of work papers, page 298.

¹⁰²CAPD work paper, E-DEP COMP, Index of work papers, page 297.

¹⁰³Exhibit of Charles W. King.

¹⁰⁴TAWC response to TRA #13, TN-TRA-Q013-RATE BASE BACK UP, Pages 31-38 of 52.

1 **Other Than Income for the forecasted attrition year?**

2 A. The significant differences in Taxes Other Than Income
3 for the attrition year are: (1) lower Gross Receipts Tax and State
4 Franchise Tax for the CAPD forecast; and (2) lower Payroll
5 Taxes for the CAPD forecast. The total difference in all Taxes
6 Other Than Income amounts to \$71,649.

7
8 **Q. Please explain the CAPD's calculation of Gross Receipts Tax**
9 **and State Franchise Tax.**

10 A. In August of each tax year, TAWC pays a tax to the State
11 of Tennessee on gross receipts for the tax year ending the
12 following June 30, which is based on the gross receipts from
13 TAWC's prior year ending December 31. Therefore, state gross
14 receipts tax paid in August of 2008 will be based on gross
15 receipts for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007. This tax
16 will be amortized from the period July 1, 2008 through June 30,
17 2009. The two remaining months of the attrition year are based
18 on forecasted gross receipts for the year ending December 31,
19 2008.

20 The State Franchise Tax was calculated using actual plant
21 in service and accumulated depreciation net of forecasted plant

1 additions and retirements. The State Franchise and Excise Taxes
2 are deducted from the calculated Gross Receipts Tax using
3 identical reporting periods. This forecasting method
4 appropriately matches the Gross Receipts Tax and State
5 Franchise Tax years with the attrition period in this docket.

6
7 **Q. Please explain the CAPD's calculation of Payroll Taxes.**

8 A. CAPD work paper T-OTAX3 provides a comparative
9 summary of the differences in the calculation of Payroll Taxes.

10 The work paper indicates lower payroll taxes of \$12,385.
11 In part, this variance is due to the differing capitalization rates
12 as previously alluded to in the discussion of the O&M salaries
13 and wages. The CAPD has performed empirical calculations on
14 forecasted Tennessee employees as of March 2008, which
15 totaled 109 employees for the attrition year. However, TAWC
16 has 114¹⁰⁵ employees for their payroll tax calculation.

17 Therefore, the payroll tax calculation for TAWC is too
18 high because of the differing employee levels, supporting
19 documentation, and the capitalization rates.

20

¹⁰⁵TAWC Direct Testimony of John Watson, Page 15, Line 10..

1

2

INCOME TAXES

3 **Q. Please describe your issue with TAWC's calculation of**
4 **Income Taxes for the forecasted attrition year?**

5 A. Accounting for the interest synchronization, weighted
6 debt costs differences, and taxable income differences results in
7 the CAPD's state and federal income tax projection being
8 \$880,611¹⁰⁶ more than the income taxes projected by TAWC.
9 However, TAWC's forecast includes an effective state income
10 tax rate of 12% and an effective federal income tax rate of 48%¹⁰⁷
11 based on a financial taxable income of \$3,610,924.¹⁰⁸ Both tax
12 rates erroneously exceed the statutory tax rates of 6.5% for state
13 and 35% for federal. The TRA recognized the statutory tax
14 rates in TRA Docket #06-00290¹⁰⁹ and should do so again in this
15 case. Also, FAS 109 is clear that deferred tax assets and
16 deferred tax liabilities are measured "using the applicable tax
17 rate" and "the enacted tax rate(s)."

¹⁰⁶CAPD Exhibit, Schedule 3, Lines 5 and 6.

¹⁰⁷TAWC response to CAPD Part IV, #60.

¹⁰⁸TAWC Exhibit No. 2, Schedule 7, Line 28.

¹⁰⁹TRA Docket #06-00290, Order dated June 10, 2008, Page 38.

1

2

3

RATE BASE

4 **Q. Please explain the difference in forecasted Plant in Service.**

5 A. The CAPD forecasted Plant in Service by using actual
6 plant balances as of March 31, 2008. Forecasted plant additions
7 and retirements, which were provided by TAWC itself, were
8 then added to actual balances at March 31, 2008 to arrive at
9 monthly Plant in Service amounts through August 31, 2009. A
10 thirteen month Plant in Service average was calculated in the
11 amount of \$209,341,111.¹¹⁰

12 TAWC has forecasted \$203,998,392¹¹¹ for Plant in Service.

13 The CAPD's attrition year forecast of Plant in Service is
14 \$5,342,719¹¹² higher than the TAWC's forecasted amount due to
15 the inclusion of the Walden's Ridge Plant in Service and a more
16 recent test period balance.

17

18 **Q. Please explain the difference in Construction Work in**

¹¹⁰CAPD work papers, RB-PLANTSUM, Index of work papers, page 314.

¹¹¹TAWC Exhibit No. 1, Schedule 2, Page 3 of 3, Line 62.

¹¹²CAPD Exhibit, Schedule 2, Line 1.

1 **Progress.**

2 A. The CAPD forecasted Construction Work in Progress
3 ("CWIP") using a thirteen month CWIP average based on the
4 balance of \$1,798,540 at March 31, 2008 and the budgeted
5 additions for the Citico Phase 1.¹¹³

6 TAWC, however, has erred in its forecasted \$9,083,000¹¹⁴
7 for CWIP at August 31, 2009. This amount is not a thirteen
8 month average, which "is the correct method to calculate rate
9 base" according to TAWC¹¹⁵ and TRA precedent.

10 As a result, the CAPD's attrition year forecast of CWIP is
11 \$3,324,318¹¹⁶ lower than the TAWC erroneously forecasted
12 amount.

13

14 **Q. Please explain the difference in Working Capital**
15 **Requirement.**

16 A. TAWC has included the following items in their
17 calculation of Working Capital Requirement: Average Cash;

¹¹³CAPD work paper, RB-CWIP, Index of work papers, page 335.

¹¹⁴TAWC response to TRA Discovery #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-RATE BASE BACK-UP, Page 4 of 52.

¹¹⁵TRA Docket #06-00290, Rebuttal Testimony, M. Miller, Page 34, Lines 2-3.

¹¹⁶CAPD Exhibit, Schedule 2, Line 2..

1 Prepaid Insurance; Prepaid Taxes; Materials & Supplies;
2 Deferred Regulatory Expenses; Unamortized Debt Expense;
3 Other Deferred Debits; Lead - Lag Study; and less Incidental
4 Collections. TAWC used a thirteen month average for the test
5 year ended November 2007 to calculate Average Cash, Prepaid
6 Insurance, Prepaid Taxes, and Materials and Supplies for the
7 attrition year ending August 2009. The CAPD included
8 thirteen month averages for each using the test period ended
9 March 2008.

10 Regarding the Deferred Regulatory Expenses, the CAPD
11 has forecasted \$650,928,¹¹⁷ while TAWC has forecasted
12 \$1,020,269¹¹⁸ for a difference of \$369,341. The difference is
13 primarily due to the level of rate case costs submitted by TAWC
14 in previous TRA docket, which were approved, and the actual
15 costs TAWC claims it incurred for the rate cases.

16 Again, the TRA should reject TAWC's Deferred
17 Regulatory Expense amount of \$369,341 as unduly unjust and
18 unreasonable to ratepayers for setting prospective rates.

¹¹⁷CAPD work paper, RB-DEFERRED REGULATORY EXPENSE, Index of work papers, page 341.

¹¹⁸TAWC response to TRA Discovery Request #13, TN-TRA-01-DEFERRED RATE CASE EXPENSE. Page 1 of 2.

1 TAWC should not profit from the inclusion in rate base of their
2 excessive regulatory expenses.

3 On Unamortized Debt Expense, TAWC erred by not
4 computing a thirteen month average for the attrition period.
5 Correcting for TAWC's error, the appropriate amount of
6 unamortized debt expense is \$232,405¹¹⁹, which is \$58,154 lower
7 than TAWC's forecasted amount of \$290,559.¹²⁰ TAWC's
8 forecasted Unamortized Debt Expense is wrong and should be
9 not adopted in this docket.

10 TAWC has included three items in its forecast of Other
11 Deferred Debits amounting to \$852,184.¹²¹ The three items are:
12 Customer Service Survey; Financial Services Survey; and
13 Management Audit. The Management Audit is also known as
14 the I.C.A.R.¹²². The CAPD does not take issue with two of the
15 three forecast amounts. However, on the Management Audit,
16 the CAPD has not included any amounts in expense or rate

¹¹⁹CAPD work paper, RB-UNAMORTIZED DEBT EXPENSE, Index of work papers, page 345.

¹²⁰TAWC response to TRA Discovery Request #13, TN-TRA-01-DEBT EXPENSE, Page 1 of 16.

¹²¹TAWC Exhibit No. 1, Schedule 3, Page 1 of 6, Line 19.

¹²²TAWC Direct Testimony, J. Van Den Berg, Appendix 1.

1 base for the \$285,000 forecasted expenditure. Some general
2 observations are warranted on the “Management Audit.” First
3 of all, it is not a Management Audit even by the author’s own
4 definition. Secondly, Management Audits are typically
5 contracted independently by a regulatory agency. Thirdly, the
6 motivations of a Management Auditor and the preparer of the
7 Independent Cost Assessment Report in this docket are starkly
8 different. Fourthly, the peer comparison of TAWC with solely
9 electric utility service companies is without merit. Finally, and
10 perhaps most importantly, there is no verification that the costs
11 are necessary to provide water service to the customers.

12 As a result, the CAPD’s forecast of Other Deferred Debits
13 is \$595,689, which is \$256,495 lower than TAWC’s forecasted
14 amount.

15 Finally, TAWC adopted the Lead/Lag days as a result of
16 “a Lead/Lag Study that was performed on historical data for
17 the twelve months ended July 31, 2002.”¹²³ TAWC is unable to
18 locate the work papers from the 2002 Study supporting the
19 Lead/Lag days.¹²⁴ However, the CAPD believes that a

¹²³TAWC Direct Testimony, S. Miller, Page 15, Lines 21-23.

¹²⁴TAWC response to CAPD Part IV, #68.

1 payment lag for the current portions of state excise tax and
2 federal income tax should be calculated on the basis of the
3 statutory payment requirements of a calendar year's liability
4 paid in four equal installments on April 15, June 15, September
5 15, and December 15. On this basis, a lag of approximately 37
6 days is calculated.¹²⁵

7 Using the CAPD's forecasted revenue, expenses, and
8 lead/lag changes, the Lead/Lag Study amount is \$835,058.¹²⁶

9 TAWC elected to depart from their Lead/Lag days as
10 calculated in their July 2002 Lead/Lag Study¹²⁷ for their
11 calculation of Incidental Collections. Instead, TAWC used the
12 test period ended November 2007 for this amount. The TRA
13 has been clear in rejecting multiple test periods and accepting a
14 uniform test period in forecasting.¹²⁸ Therefore, the CAPD has
15 utilized the same Lead/Lag days from TAWC's July 2002
16 Lead/Lag Study in calculating Incidental Collections. As a
17 result, the CAPD's calculation of Incidental Collections is

¹²⁵*Accounting for Public Utilities*, Hahne & Aliff § 5.04[4], Page 5-25.

¹²⁶CAPD work paper, RB-CWC, Index of work papers, page 347.

¹²⁷CAPD work paper, RB-INCIDENTAL COLLECTIONS, Index of work papers, page 348.

¹²⁸TRA Director Miller's motion dated May 14, 2007.

1 \$2,352,991, which is \$891,892 larger than TAWC's forecasted
2 amount. This correction is consistent with TRA test period
3 policy and makes consistent application of the July 2002
4 Lead/Lag Study days.

5 The CAPD's forecasted Working Capital Requirement is
6 \$1,080,128 lower than the forecasted TAWC amount. The TRA
7 should not adopt the forecasted TAWC amount due to errors,
8 the use of multiple test periods, and unjust expenditures, all of
9 which are discussed above.

10

11 **Q. Please explain the difference in forecasted Accumulated**
12 **Depreciation.**

13 A. The CAPD forecasted Accumulated Depreciation by
14 using actual balances as of March 31, 2008. Forecasted monthly
15 depreciation expense and retirements were then added to
16 actual balances at March 31, 2008 to arrive at monthly
17 Accumulated Depreciation amounts through August 31, 2009.
18 A thirteen month Accumulated Depreciation average was
19 calculated for the attrition year Accumulated Depreciation in

1 the amount of \$62,426,348,¹²⁹ which is \$1,136,857¹³⁰ lower than
2 TAWC.

3
4
5
6 **Q. Please explain the difference in Accumulated Deferred**
7 **Income Tax.**

8 A. The CAPD forecasted Accumulated Deferred Income Tax
9 by using actual balances as of March 31, 2008 and their
10 projected balances through August 31, 2009. The incremental
11 change for the attrition year resulted from the projected tax
12 depreciation less the book depreciation times the statutory state
13 and federal tax rates. Forecasted timing differences were
14 spread evenly from the starting point to the end of the attrition
15 year. A thirteen month average was then calculated for the
16 attrition year, which is consistent with the methodology used
17 for all primary rate base categories. Tax depreciation in excess
18 of book depreciation is the primary component of Accumulated
19 Deferred Income Taxes that generates deferred tax differences.

¹²⁹CAPD work paper, RB-ACC DEP, Index of work papers, page 349.

¹³⁰CAPD Exhibit, Schedule 2, Line 8.

1 As a result, the CAPD forecasts Accumulated Deferred Income
2 Tax in the amount of \$17,533,305,¹³¹ which is \$601,534¹³² higher
3 than the forecasted amount of TAWC.

4
5
6 **Q. Please summarize the calculation of Rate Base amounts for**
7 **the attrition year.**

8 A. With the inclusion of Walden's Ridge net plant in service,
9 recognition of TAWC's forecasting errors, the use of a more
10 recent test period, and differing depreciation rates, the
11 forecasted net rate base of the CAPD is roughly equivalent to
12 the rate base amount submitted by TAWC for the period ended
13 August 31, 2009.

14

15 **GROSS REVENUE CONVERSION FACTOR**

16 **Q. Please explain the difference in the determination of the**
17 **Gross Revenue Conversion Factor.**

18 A. TAWC has included an Uncollectible Expense percentage
19 of 1.489%. The CAPD calculated a percentage of 1.11% using

¹³¹CAPD work paper, RB-ADIT, Index of work papers, page 351.

¹³²CAPD Exhibit, Schedule 2, Line 10.

1 the test period ended March 2008. TAWC neglects to include
2 the forfeited discounts percentage of .86%. Also, TAWC has
3 included a Gross Receipts Tax percentage of 2.876%. As
4 previously discussed, the Gross Receipts Tax is paid by August
5 1 of the current year on revenues from the year and recorded
6 over a future twelve month period ending June 30 of the
7 following year. So, it would be an inappropriate matching of
8 revenues and taxes for the attrition year to include a Gross
9 Receipts percentage in the Gross Revenue Conversion Factor.
10 Moreover, TAWC's latest Gross Receipts Tax return reports a
11 Gross Receipts Tax percentage of 1.80%¹³³ The TRA adopted
12 the CAPD's Gross Revenue Conversion Factor in Docket #06-
13 00290¹³⁴ and should do so again in this case.

14 Therefore, the Gross Conversion Factor of TAWC should
15 be rejected by the TRA for its omissions and overstatements.

16

17 **CONCLUSIONS REGARDING REVENUE REQUIREMENTS**

18 **Q. Please summarize the comparison of the forecasts of TAWC**
19 **and CAPD.**

¹³³TAWC response TRA #47, TN-TRA-01-Q047a-ATTACHMENT, Page 4 of 7.

¹³⁴TRA Docket #06-00290, Order dated June 10. 2008, Page 43.

1 A. TAWC is asking the TRA for a 21%¹³⁵ increase in their
2 tariffed rates. According to TAWC, the primary reasons for the
3 increase are: (1) Increased Rate Base; (2) Increased Operation
4 and Maintenance Expenses; (3) Increased Cost of Capital and
5 (4) Declining growth in Revenues.¹³⁶ As previously discussed,
6 the CAPD forecast takes issue with TAWC's forecast of
7 Revenues, Operation and Maintenance Expenses, Rate Base,
8 and TAWC's Cost of Capital (See Dr. Steve Brown's direct
9 testimony). Therefore, the CAPD asks the TRA to adopt its
10 forecast and deny TAWC's forecast as unjust and unreasonable
11 for the ratepayers.

12
13 **Q. What is TAWC currently earning?**

14 A. The May 2008 TRA 3.06 surveillance report for TAWC
15 indicates a 5.84%¹³⁷ rate of return for the twelve months ended
16 May 2008. It is the CAPD's contention that TAWC's reported
17 return is prospectively understated due to non-recurring
18 Operations and Maintenance Expenses and excessive

¹³⁵M. Miller, direct testimony, Page 2, Lines 12-13.

¹³⁶M. Miller direct testimony, Exhibit MAM-2.

¹³⁷Page 2, Line 42.

1 Management Fees.

2

3 **Q. What is the history of rate increases for TAWC?**

4 A. In TRA Docket #03-00118, the 2003 rate filing of TAWC,
5 the TRA authorized a revenue increase of \$2,745,274. This
6 increase resulted in an average rate increase of 9.48% for water
7 service. In TRA Docket #04-00288, the TRA authorized a .93%
8 increase in tariffed rates amounting to \$297,005. In TRA Docket
9 #06-00290, the TRA authorized a revenue increase of
10 \$4,079,865¹³⁸, which resulted in a 13% increase. In this docket,
11 TAWC requests an additional revenue increase of \$7,644,859,
12 which, if granted, would cause an average rate increase of
13 21.2%. Based on the total increases granted in the past three
14 dockets plus the amount in TAWC's current petition,
15 Chattanooga ratepayers would see a cumulative increase in
16 water rates of nearly 45% since August 2003, which would
17 equate to an annual increase in customer rates of about 7.5% for
18 six years in a row.

19

20 **Q. Please summarize TAWC's petition for a rate increase in this**

¹³⁸TRA Docket #06-00290, Order dated June 10, 2008, Page 51.

1 **docket.**

2 A. TAWC's petition for a rate increase would be onerous on
3 Chattanoogans; it would outstrip inflation and it is not
4 supported by the cost structure of TAWC or the economic
5 environment in which the company operates. TAWC claims
6 that its "customers are receiving water at a great value." This
7 claim echoes the statement of American Water's president and
8 CEO, "We need to educate the public to appreciate the value of
9 water, so they are willing to spend more....Once you educate
10 the customer, there is a willingness to pay more."¹³⁹ But, as
11 shown in the Rate Design testimony below, TAWC's customers
12 are already paying more than water customers in other major
13 Tennessee cities.

14 However, it is the CAPD's contention in this docket that
15 the customers should not have to pay more, because recent
16 history indicates that TAWC is unable to operate within their
17 own budgets. TAWC's current earnings are not due to a lack of
18 revenues, but are due to excessive and unwarranted spending.

19
20 **RATE DESIGN**

¹³⁹CAPD Exhibit, *The Future of American Water*, pages 11-12.

1 **Q. Please discuss TAWC's proposed rate design.**

2 A. TAWC is proposing the following percent increases and
3 decreases for residential customers: Chattanooga, 22.05%;
4 Lookout Mountain, 13.60%; Lakeview, 28.26%; Lone Oak, -
5 8.21%; and Suck Creek, -16.34%¹⁴⁰. TAWC's proposed changes
6 in commercial rates are identical to their proposed residential
7 rate changes. Their proposed commercial rates would generate
8 a 21.51% in total commercial revenues. Industrial revenues
9 would increase by 21.67%; Other Public Authority revenues
10 would increase by 21.56%; Rates for Ft. Oglethorpe and Catoosa
11 would increase by 21.64%; and a 21.54% increase in Private Fire
12 Service revenues.

13 The CAPD proposes that any change in revenue
14 requirements ordered by the TRA in this docket be spread
15 uniformly to all customer classes and all customer locations.
16 This approach would assure that the benefits or burdens
17 created by any rate adjustment in this case are shared
18 proportionately by all customers. This rate design is a long-
19 standing recommendation of the CAPD in rate cases such as
20 this one.

¹⁴⁰TAWC response to TRA #13, TN-TRA-01-Q013-REVENUES, Page 15 of 99.

1 Additionally, the TRA should be mindful of the current
2 residential rates in comparison to the residential rates in five
3 other major cities in Tennessee. TAWC cited the 2007 water
4 rate survey of Allen and Hoshall in their direct testimony¹⁴¹
5 showing that their customers currently pay \$19.39 per month
6 for 5,000 gallons of water service. However, when compared to
7 the monthly billing for the same amount of water service for
8 five other major Tennessee cities, Chattanooga's residential
9 rates are the highest¹⁴². Included in the CAPD's exhibits is the
10 2008 water rate survey of Allen and Hoshall, and this edition
11 includes the following rankings: the city of Memphis has the
12 14th lowest rate for 5,000 gallons of water service at \$12.47
13 among all the utilities included in the study; Nashville has the
14 11th lowest rate at \$12.12; Jackson has the 18th lowest rate at
15 \$12.85; Knoxville has the 68th lowest rate at \$18.22; and
16 Murfreesboro has the 70th lowest rate at \$18.32. This survey
17 clearly demonstrates that TAWC has the highest customer
18 water rates among Tennessee's major cities.

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¹⁴¹TAWC Direct Testimony, J. Watson, Page 23, Question 23, Lines 9-26.

¹⁴²CAPD Exhibit, Comparison of Tennessee Cities Water Cost.

1 **Q.** Does this conclude your testimony?

2 **A.** Yes, it does.

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