

**BEFORE THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

In the Matter of:

**THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC.
FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED TARIFF
RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND
SEWER SERVICE; CHANGE IN
DEPRECIATION RATES; AND OTHER
TARIFF MODIFICATIONS**

**BPU Docket No.
WR11070460**

**OAL Docket No.
PUC09799-2011N**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ANDREA C. CRANE

**ON BEHALF OF THE
NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL**

*****REDACTED VERSION*****

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Filed: January 13, 2012

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Appendix A - List of Prior Testimonies

Appendix B - Supporting Schedule

1 **I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Andrea C. Crane and my business address is 90 Grove Street, Suite 211,
4 Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877. (Mailing address: PO Box 810, Georgetown,
5 Connecticut 06829)

6

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

8 A. I am President of The Columbia Group, Inc., a financial consulting firm that specializes
9 in utility regulation. In this capacity, I analyze rate filings, prepare expert testimony, and
10 undertake various studies relating to utility rates and regulatory policy. I have held
11 several positions of increasing responsibility since I joined The Columbia Group, Inc. in
12 January 1989. I became President of the firm in 2008.

13

14 **Q. Please summarize your professional experience in the utility industry.**

15 A. Prior to my association with The Columbia Group, Inc., I held the position of Economic
16 Policy and Analysis Staff Manager for GTE Service Corporation, from December 1987
17 to January 1989. From June 1982 to September 1987, I was employed by various Bell
18 Atlantic (now Verizon) subsidiaries. While at Bell Atlantic, I held assignments in the
19 Product Management, Treasury, and Regulatory Departments.

20

21 **Q. Have you previously testified in regulatory proceedings?**

1 A. Yes, since joining The Columbia Group, Inc., I have testified in over 350
2 regulatory proceedings in the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware,
3 Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,
4 Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington,
5 West Virginia and the District of Columbia. These proceedings involved water,
6 wastewater, gas, electric, telephone, solid waste, cable television, and navigation
7 utilities. A list of dockets in which I have filed testimony since January 2008 is
8 included in Appendix A.

9

10 **Q. What is your educational background?**

11 A. I received a Master of Business Administration degree, with a concentration in
12 Finance, from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My
13 undergraduate degree is a B.A. in Chemistry from Temple University.

14

15 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

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

17 A. On or about July 29, 2011, the New Jersey American Water Company, Inc.
18 (“NJAWC” or “Company”) filed a Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public
19 Utilities (“BPU” or “Board”) requesting an increase in its rates for water and
20 sewer service. The Company filed for a revenue increase of \$95.5 million or
21 approximately 15.5% over pro forma revenues at present rates. On November 11,
22 2011, the Company filed supplemental testimony which purports to demonstrate a
23 revenue deficiency of \$99.3 million.

1 The Columbia Group, Inc. was engaged by The State of New Jersey,
2 Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”) to review NJAWC’s filing and to
3 provide recommendations to the BPU with regard to the issues of consolidated
4 income taxes and cash working capital.

5
6 **III. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

7 **Q. Please summarize your conclusions and recommendations.**

8 A. Based on my analysis of the Company’s filing and other documentation in this
9 case, my conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

- 10 1. The members of the consolidated income tax group, including NJAWC,
11 benefit from the filing of a consolidated income tax return.
- 12 2. The Board should continue to recognize the benefits accruing to the group
13 members as a result of the filing of a consolidated income tax return.
- 14 3. The benefits of filing a consolidated income tax return should be
15 appropriately allocated to the member companies.
- 16 4. NJAWC’s share should be reflected as a consolidated income tax
17 adjustment to its revenue requirement.
- 18 5. Based on the methodology previously approved by the Board, the Board
19 should adopt a rate base reduction of \$197,578,040 for NJAWC,
20 representing accumulated consolidated income tax savings through
21 December 31, 2010, the most recent period for which actual tax data is
22 available (see Schedule ACC-1).
- 23 6. The consolidated income tax adjustment should be updated with 2011 tax

1 information if such information becomes available during the litigation
2 phase of this case.

3 7. NJAWC has overstated the cash working capital requirement included in
4 its rate base claim.

5 8. The Board should make adjustments to the Company's cash working
6 capital claim to eliminate uncollectible costs, depreciation expense,
7 deferred tax expense, and return on equity. In addition, the Board should
8 revise the expense lag days for payments to the Management Service
9 Company, to reflect the lag for NJAWC's internal labor costs. The Board
10 should also make adjustments to include the impact of cash working
11 capital provided by the lag on the payment of interest expense and
12 preferred stock dividends.

13 9. Based on the Company's update of November 11, 2011, the Company has
14 a cash working capital requirement of \$14,500,000 (see Schedule ACC-2,
15 page 1). The actual cash working capital requirement should be updated
16 at the end of this case to reflect the level of costs found reasonable by the
17 Board.

18

1 **IV. DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES**

2 **A. Consolidated Income Taxes**

3 **Q. How did the Company calculate its income tax expense claim in this case?**

4 A. NJAWC calculated its pro forma income tax expense on a “stand-alone” basis.
5 The Company’s filing ignores the fact that NJAWC does not file its federal
6 income taxes on a stand-alone basis, but rather files as part of a consolidated
7 income tax group. By filing as part of a consolidated return, NJAWC can take
8 advantage of tax losses experienced by other member companies. The tax loss
9 benefits generated by one group member can be shared by the other consolidated
10 group members, resulting in a reduction in the effective federal income tax rate.
11 These tax savings should be flowed through to the benefit of New Jersey
12 ratepayers. According to the response to RCR-CIT-17, NJAWC has been a
13 member of a consolidated income tax group for at least 20 years. Over this
14 period, the specific members in the consolidated income tax group have varied
15 due to “acquisitions, dispositions, mergers, liquidations, and various other
16 restructuring transactions” as noted on page 4, lines 24-27 of Mr. Warren’s
17 testimony.

18

19 **Q. Why should consolidated income tax benefits be flowed through to NJAWC**
20 **ratepayers?**

21 A. These tax benefits should be flowed through to ratepayers because these benefits
22 reflect the actual taxes paid. Establishing a revenue requirement based on a stand-
23 alone federal income tax methodology would overstate the Company’s expense,

1 result in a windfall to shareholders, and result in rates that are higher than
2 necessary.

3
4 **Q. Has this issue been addressed previously by the BPU?**

5 A. Yes, the issue of consolidated income tax adjustments has been thoroughly
6 reviewed by both the Board and the New Jersey courts, both of which have found
7 that a consolidated income tax adjustment is appropriate.¹ In its Decision in the
8 1991 Jersey Central Power and Light Company ("JCP&L") base rate case (BPU
9 Docket No. ER91121820J), dated February 25, 1993, at pages 7-8, the BPU held
10 that:

11 The Board believes that it is appropriate to reflect a consolidated
12 tax savings adjustment where, as here, there has been a tax savings
13 as a result of filing a consolidated tax return. Income from utility
14 operations provides the ability to produce tax savings for the entire
15 GPU system because utility income is offset by the annual losses
16 of the other subsidiaries. Therefore, the ratepayers who produce
17 the income that provides the tax benefits should share in those
18 benefits. The Appellate Division has repeatedly affirmed the
19 Board's policy of requiring utility rates to reflect consolidated tax
20 savings and the IRS has acknowledged that consolidated tax
21 adjustments can be made and there are no regulations which
22 prohibit such an adjustment.
23

24 In the Board's Final Order, dated July 25, 2003, in the 2002 JCP&L base rate
25 case, Docket No. ER02080506, page 45, it stated:

26
27 As a result of making a consolidated tax filing during the years
28 1991-1999, GPU, JCP&L's parent company during that time
29 period, as a whole paid less federal income taxes than it would
30 have if each subsidiary filed separately, thus producing a tax

1 I am not an attorney and therefore my comments are limited to the ratemaking implications of these findings. I am not testifying on any underlying legal issues associated with consolidated income tax adjustments.

1 savings. The law and Board policy are well-settled that
2 consolidated tax savings are to be shared with customers.
3

4 Unregulated subsidiaries are free to manage their activities as they see fit. The
5 reality is that American Water Works Company, Inc. ("AWW"), NJAWC's
6 parent company, has elected to file a consolidated income tax return for its
7 subsidiaries, including NJAWC. Moreover, NJAWC has been a member of a
8 consolidated income tax group since the Board first adopted consolidated income
9 tax adjustments. Apparently the filing of a consolidated tax return still offers
10 advantages to NJAWC and members of the consolidated income tax group.
11 Because AWW has elected to file a consolidated tax return for its member
12 companies, including NJAWC, I believe it is a settled matter that the tax savings
13 should be shared with utility ratepayers.
14

15 **Q. Does the Company's filing reflect the established BPU policy requiring a rate**
16 **base deduction for tax savings arising from the utility's participation in a**
17 **consolidated income tax filing?**

18 A. No, NJAWC has not complied with accepted BPU policy and has instead
19 requested rate recognition for federal income tax expense on a stand-alone basis.
20

21 **Q. Do you believe the Company has provided any new or compelling reason to**
22 **justify a change in Board policy on the issue of consolidated tax savings?**

23 A. No, I do not. The Company's position is described in the testimony of James I.
24 Warren. Mr. Warren discusses why he believes consolidated income tax

1 adjustments are inappropriate. I understand that NJAWC would prefer not to
2 share tax benefits with its customers but the Company has not introduced any
3 compelling new argument to support a departure from Board policy.

4

5 **Q. Is there anything in Mr. Warren's testimony that would distinguish NJAWC**
6 **from the other utilities for which the BPU has adopted consolidated income**
7 **tax adjustments?**

8 A. No, there is not. There is nothing in Mr. Warren's testimony to distinguish
9 NJAWC from the other companies for which the BPU has ordered consolidated
10 income tax adjustments. The arguments raised by Mr. Warren in his testimony
11 are not new or unique to NJAWC. Accordingly, Mr. Warren has not justified any
12 change from well-established BPU policy on this issue.

13

14 **Q. How does AWW determine the actual amount of taxes paid by NJAWC to its**
15 **parent each year?**

16 A. The payment of taxes is governed by a Tax Sharing Agreement among the
17 members of the consolidated income tax group. Pursuant to the agreement,
18 NJAWC, and other subsidiaries with positive taxable income, pay the amount of
19 their stand-alone tax liability to AWW. The parent company then pays the
20 amount of taxes due by the consolidated group to the IRS. Any excess funds are
21 then allocated by AWW to the members of the consolidated income tax group
22 with tax losses, resulting in a contractual means to have the regulated and
23 profitable subsidiaries subsidize unregulated and unprofitable ventures. These

1 procedures transfer the excess amounts collected from ratepayers for income tax
2 expense from the utility to the affiliates that generated the income tax losses,
3 effectively resulting in a subsidization of the unregulated affiliates by New Jersey
4 ratepayers. In contrast, the consolidated income tax adjustment adopted by the
5 BPU partially compensates ratepayers for this subsidization, by crediting
6 ratepayers with carrying costs on these funds.

7 The existence of a Tax Sharing Agreement does not negate the validity of
8 a consolidated income tax adjustment. The Tax Sharing Agreement was not
9 approved by the BPU and is nothing more than a contractual means to have the
10 regulated and profitable subsidiaries subsidize unregulated ventures with
11 ratepayer funds. According to the responses to RCR-CIT-14 and RCR-CIT-15,
12 from 1991 to 2010, NJAWC paid almost *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]
13 **END CONFIDENTIAL***** of the total taxes that its parent paid to the Internal
14 Revenue Service (“IRS”). However, even more compelling is the fact that from
15 2002 to 2010 (the last year for which data was provided in these responses),
16 NJAWC paid *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED] **END**
17 **CONFIDENTIAL***** to its parent, even though AWW paid no taxes to the IRS
18 over this period. In addition, during this period, AWW collected additional
19 amounts from other companies with positive taxable income that were also
20 reallocated by the parent to subsidiaries with tax losses.

21 Moreover, given the significant net operating tax loss carry-forwards of
22 AWW, it may be quite some time before any taxes will actually be paid to the
23 IRS. At December 31, 2010, the parent company reported federal net operating

1 tax loss carry-forwards of \$1.185 billion and these carry-forwards do not begin to
2 expire until 2024.²

3
4 **Q. How did you quantify your adjustment?**

5 A. There are two principal methods of calculating consolidated income tax
6 adjustments, the operating income method and the rate base method. With the
7 rate base method, a utility's rate base is reduced by the accumulated tax benefits
8 allocated to each entity that has positive taxable income. This method does not
9 directly reduce the income tax expense included in a utility's revenue
10 requirement, but rather provides for the treatment of these accumulated benefits as
11 cost-free capital. This is the method adopted by the BPU.

12 The second method, the operating income or actual taxes paid method,
13 provides for a direct reduction to pro forma income taxes to reflect the utility's
14 allocable share of tax benefits resulting from tax losses of affiliates.

15 In RCR-CIT-21, I asked the Company to quantify the consolidated income
16 tax benefit, based on the methodology approved by the Board in its Order in the
17 base rate case proceeding involving Rockland Electric Company, BPU Docket
18 No. ER02100724. It is my understanding that this is the last litigated case where
19 the BPU addressed the methodology to be used for consolidated income tax
20

² American Water Works Company 10-K Filing, filed February 28, 2011, page 31. In addition, the Company reported state net operating tax loss carry-forwards of \$714.7 million expiring between 2011 and 2030.

1 adjustments. It is also the method that I used in testimony filed in the most recent
2 base rate proceedings involving Atlantic City Electric Company, Public Service
3 Electric and Gas Company, New Jersey Natural Gas Company, and the New
4 Jersey-American Water Company. Unfortunately, the Company responded that
5 “The Company does not possess such information. It has not prepared, nor
6 attempted to prepare, such a calculation because it has no need for one in the
7 normal course of its business.” NJAWC went on to state in that response that it
8 did not find the BPU’s order in that case “...sufficiently specific to enable it to
9 replicate whatever the methodology was without significant speculation.”
10 However, NJAWC did provide underlying tax data in response to RCR-CIT-11
11 and I utilized that data to quantify my consolidated income tax adjustment.
12

13 **Q. How were consolidated income taxes calculated in the referenced proceeding**
14 **involving Rockland Electric Company?**

15 A. In that proceeding, the BPU ordered that the taxable income or loss for each
16 company be aggregated from 1991 to the most recent data available. For each
17 year, the taxable income or loss for each company that had an aggregated (1991-
18 present) taxable loss was then multiplied by that year’s annual federal income tax
19 rate, in order to determine the annual income or loss for the year. Adjustments
20 were then made for any alternative minimum tax (“AMT”) payments made by the
21 group. The annual tax loss benefit for those companies that had aggregated net
22 losses was then itself aggregated from 1991 to the present. The resulting
23 aggregated tax benefit, net of AMT, was then allocated among all the companies

1 that had cumulative positive taxable income for the period from 1991-present,
2 based on each entity's share of the aggregated positive taxable income. This is
3 the methodology that I have used to calculate my consolidated income tax
4 adjustment.

5
6 **Q. What is the result of your adjustment?**

7 A. Based on the rate base methodology that has been adopted by the BPU, I am
8 recommending a rate base reduction of \$197,578,040.

9
10 **Q. Do you have any comment regarding the magnitude of this consolidated
11 income tax adjustment?**

12 A. While this adjustment is quite large, the magnitude is not unexpected, given the
13 cumulative rate base methodology that has been adopted by the BPU and the
14 magnitude of the tax losses incurred by the consolidated group. I note that the
15 consolidated income tax adjustment results in a revenue requirement adjustment
16 of approximately \$24.37 million, assuming the cost of capital being recommended
17 by Rate Counsel in this case. This adjustment is less than 36.5% of the total
18 amount of federal income taxes included in NJAWC's revenue requirement. The
19 Company's 9+3 Update includes a federal income tax claim of \$66.82 million,
20 even though the consolidated income tax group has not paid any federal income
21 taxes since 2001 and is unlikely to pay any federal income taxes in the foreseeable
22 future.

23

1 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's contention on page 8 of his testimony that**
2 **most regulatory jurisdictions do not impose a consolidated income tax**
3 **adjustment.**

4 A. I agree with Mr. Warren that the majority of state regulatory commissions do not
5 currently impose a CIT. However, in spite of this fact, the New Jersey BPU does
6 impose a consolidated income tax adjustment and has done so for at least twenty
7 years. Moreover, consolidated income tax adjustments are also well-established
8 regulatory policy in the neighboring state of Pennsylvania, where the largest
9 regulated AWW subsidiary is located. In fact, four of the five states that have
10 adopted consolidated income tax adjustments, as mentioned on page 8, line 18 of
11 Mr. Warren's testimony, have AWW operations and in many cases those
12 operations are substantial. If customers in other states are getting the benefit of a
13 consolidated income tax adjustment, there is no reason to deny that benefit to the
14 ratepayers of New Jersey.

15

16 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's recommendation on page 14, lines 19-20 of**
17 **his testimony that the Board should reconsider its policy on consolidated tax**
18 **adjustments.**

19 A. I find it ironic that Mr. Warren is seeking a change in the BPU's long-standing
20 policy in this case, given the fact that the consolidated income tax group has not
21 paid any federal income taxes since 2001 and is not expected to pay any federal
22 income taxes in the foreseeable future. While Mr. Warren argues that a
23 consolidated income tax adjustment should not apply in this case, I believe that

1 the current case is exactly the type of situation where a consolidated tax
2 adjustment is most necessary, i.e., a case where ratepayers are being asked to pay
3 \$66.82 million in federal income taxes that in fact will never actually be paid to
4 the IRS.

5

6 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's contention on page 15 of his testimony that**
7 **a consolidated income tax adjustment is analogous to having a home**
8 **mortgage deduction "assigned to some third party who bore no part of the**
9 **underlying expenditures nor any risk associated with ownership of the**
10 **property."**

11 **A.** Mr. Warren is incorrect. In the case of consolidated income tax adjustments, it is
12 not an underlying expense that is being assigned to the regulated entity. Instead,
13 the tax savings enjoyed by the consolidated group, including the regulated entity,
14 is being allocated among the companies with positive taxable income. Mr.
15 Warren ignores the fact that the net operating losses have value only because they
16 can be used to offset positive taxable income of other group members. Thus, it is
17 the positive taxable income of NJAWC, and other consolidated group members,
18 that give the net operating losses their value and result in the consolidated income
19 tax savings. The consolidated income tax adjustment does not attempt to transfer
20 to ratepayers the tax benefit of any unregulated entity; it simply recognizes that
21 the filing of a consolidated tax return results in a collective benefit to all members

22

1 of the consolidated income tax group, and that a portion of that benefit should be
2 allocated to NJAWC and its ratepayers.

3 Once the parent company decided that a consolidated income tax return
4 would be filed, all members of the consolidated group became individually
5 responsible for the entire annual tax liability. Therefore, it is entirely reasonable
6 for the Board to recognize that the consolidated group results in a lower effective
7 tax rate for NJAWC.

8 If, on the other hand, the parent company wanted to retain the
9 independence of each entity for income tax purposes, it should not have elected to
10 file a consolidated income tax return. In that case, each entity would individually
11 retain the benefit of any tax losses. Moreover, in that case, each entity would only
12 be responsible to the IRS for the taxes resulting from its own individual financial
13 results.

14

15 **Q. Do consolidated income tax adjustments violate the principle of cost**
16 **responsibility, as alleged at pages 15-20 of Mr. Warren's testimony?**

17 A. No, they do not. Mr. Warren states that such adjustments violate the principle of
18 cost responsibility because they attempt to incorporate transactions that would not
19 otherwise be reflected in the ratemaking process. I disagree. Consolidated tax
20 adjustments do not attempt to impute non-regulated transactions or disallowed
21 utility transactions to a utility's revenue requirement. Such adjustments simply
22 recognize the benefits accruing to each group member as a result of participating
23 in a consolidated return. Moreover, it is abundantly clear from the Board Orders

1 that consolidated income tax adjustments do not distinguish between losses
2 generated by regulated or unregulated entities. The overriding fact is that the net
3 operating losses of members of a consolidated tax group are of little value without
4 the income generated by the positive taxable income of other group members. In
5 the case of NJAWC, that taxable income is provided by ratepayers and it is well
6 accepted that New Jersey ratepayers will share in any benefits generated by a
7 consolidated tax filing. NJAWC's parent company could have chosen to file
8 stand-alone returns, thereby retaining any benefits associated with net operating
9 losses for the companies giving rise to those losses. It chose not to do so.
10 Therefore it is appropriate to continue to calculate the consolidated income tax
11 adjustment in accordance with Board precedent.

12 There is no benefit to allocate to shareholders that does not arise, at least
13 in part, from ratepayer-supplied utility income. There is no tax benefit without
14 income to offset losses and that income is provided primarily by regulated utility
15 income. Moreover, the methodology adopted in New Jersey, i.e., calculating a
16 rate base offset for the cost-free capital provided by the consolidated income tax
17 filing, means that ratepayers are only benefiting by earning a carrying charge on
18 the excess taxes reflected in rates. Even under the BPU-approved methodology,
19 ratepayers are not compensated for the actual excess of income taxes that they pay
20 in rates relative to the Company's allocated share of the actual taxes paid.
21 Moreover, New Jersey ratepayers do not benefit from costs incurred by the parent
22 company or unregulated affiliates that would otherwise have been disallowed if
23 incurred by the utility. Instead, New Jersey ratepayers are benefiting only from

1 the recognition that the Company's allocated share of the federal income liability
2 is less than the amount collected in rates. Hence a rate base adjustment can be
3 viewed as the ratepayers "loaning" the Company a sum equal to the difference
4 between the statutory tax expense and the lower taxes actually paid by NJAWC in
5 its consolidated tax return. The interest rate applied to this loan is the Company's
6 allowed return on rate base. It really does not matter what the nature or source of
7 the net operating losses are, only what the impact is on the effective tax rate. In
8 this case, the Company simply does not have the tax expense that they have
9 included in rates and ratepayers are entitled to a rate base credit to reflect that fact.
10 Likewise it is not material to the consolidated income tax adjustment whether or
11 not the tax benefit arose from a disallowed cost or was simply incurred by a non-
12 regulated entity pursuing any other line of business. In New Jersey, it is well-
13 established policy that a tax benefit arising from the filing of a consolidated
14 income tax filing is to be shared with ratepayers.

15

16 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's discussion at page 21, lines 3-16 of his**
17 **testimony that the consolidated income tax adjustment depends on a**
18 **completely fallacious premise – the "but for" premise.**

19 **A.** Mr. Warren's argument ignores two important points. First, the CTA does not
20 presume, as suggested by Mr. Warren, that a company would not have been able
21 to use their tax losses but for consolidation. In fact, the methodology adopted by
22 the BPU for consolidated income tax adjustments only utilizes tax losses from
23 companies that have cumulative tax losses since 1991. Therefore, if a company

1 has tax losses in several years, but has sufficient income to offset these losses in
2 other years, that company's tax losses are not allocated to other members of the
3 group. Therefore, the first step in the Board's methodology is to ensure that a
4 company with tax losses could not have utilized those losses over the period in
5 question.

6 Second, the "but for" argument ignores the economic reality that the utility
7 does file a consolidated return and that companies with positive taxable income
8 do take advantage of tax losses generated by other members of the group. A
9 better analogy would be to argue that the tax losses could not be utilized at all
10 "but for" the filing of a consolidated return that includes companies with positive
11 taxable income.

12 Mr. Warren goes on to present a hypothetical of a married couple that
13 would make different financial decisions if they filed separate tax returns. That
14 may be, but the fact is the couple in his example do file a consolidated return and
15 make their financial decisions accordingly. In this case, NJAWC and its other
16 member companies also filed a consolidated return and make their financial
17 decisions accordingly. Moreover, the BPU has a long history of consolidated
18 income tax adjustments, as does the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,
19 which regulates AWW's largest subsidiary, Pennsylvania American Water
20 Company. Therefore, the imposition of a consolidated income tax adjustment
21 should not come as a surprise to NJAWC.

22

1 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's contention on page 22, lines 4-19 of his**
2 **testimony that companies would have structured differently if they knew that**
3 **a consolidated income tax adjustment would be proposed.**

4 A. The BPU approved a consolidated income tax adjustment approximately 20 years
5 ago. Since a consolidated income tax adjustment was first approved, AWW has
6 gone through several corporate restructurings. During this time, it knew, or
7 should have known, that the BPU would be likely to impose a consolidated
8 income tax adjustment. Nevertheless, AWW has continued to file a consolidated
9 income tax return for the group. Moreover, AWW has also been aware that a
10 consolidated income tax adjustment is standard ratemaking policy in
11 Pennsylvania, yet it has continued to include Pennsylvania American Water
12 Company in its consolidated income tax group along with NJAWC. Thus, Mr.
13 Warren's argument that AWW would have structured differently if it had known
14 that NJAWC would be subject to a consolidated income tax adjustment is without
15 merit.

16
17 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's testimony on page 23, line 14-21, where he**
18 **discusses the ability of a company to manage its own tax losses.**

19 A. Mr. Warren ignores the fact that the methodology imposed by the BPU with
20 regard to consolidated income tax adjustments only utilizes losses from
21 companies that had aggregated losses over the period in question. Thus, if over
22 time, a company had utilized its own taxable losses to offset taxable income, then
23 those losses are not included in the consolidated income tax adjustment.

1

2 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's statement that consolidated income tax**
3 **adjustments are based on the assumption of a fictional loan, as discussed on**
4 **page 24, lines 10-23 of his testimony.**

5 A. Under the Company's tax sharing agreement, NJAWC pays taxes to its parent
6 company that are never paid to the IRS. In fact, from 2002-2010, the parent
7 company collected *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED] END**
8 **CONFIDENTIAL***** in tax payments that were not paid to the IRS. Instead,
9 these funds were redistributed to companies with taxable losses. The BPU
10 generously viewed these payments as a "loan", and only requires the Company to
11 provide a consolidated income tax adjustment based on the time value of these
12 loans, hence, the cumulative loans are deducted from rate base. The BPU could
13 have taken a broader range view and actually imposed a consolidated income tax
14 adjustment based on the methodology used in Pennsylvania, which results in a
15 reduction to the pro forma income tax expense that utilities are permitted to
16 recover from ratepayers in their revenue requirement.

17

18 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's contention at page 25, lines 1-8, that there**
19 **is no loan involved among the members of the consolidated group, since taxes**
20 **being charged to ratepayers are not "excess".**

21 A. I disagree. I don't know how Mr. Warren would define "excess". However, since
22 the Company is requesting recovery from ratepayers of \$66.82 million in federal
23 income tax expense that the consolidated group will never pay to the IRS. I

1 definitely consider their tax claim to represent an “excess” that will accrue to the
2 benefit of shareholders.

3
4 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren’s statement on page 25, line 19 that “there is
5 no volume discount when it comes to federal tax returns”.**

6 A. Mr. Warren is correct that the consolidated income tax adjustment does not
7 necessarily change the tax rate that will be applied to AWW’s consolidated
8 taxable income. However, he ignores the fact that this rate is applied to a
9 significantly smaller base amount because of the filing of a consolidated return.
10 AWW clearly does receive a discount relative to what it would pay if the IRS
11 required each subsidiary with positive taxable income to pay 35% of its income to
12 the IRS. As stated earlier, NJAWC paid *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]
13 **END CONFIDENTIAL***** to AWW during the 2002-2010 period while
14 AWW paid \$0 to the IRS during this time. I would classify this differential as a
15 substantial volume discount.

16
17 **Q. Is a consolidated income tax adjustment similar to a gift card with a
18 furniture store, as suggested by Mr. Warren on page 26, lines 3-16?**

19 A. No, it is not. A gift card has value on its own. It can be used by anyone, or could
20 be sold by its holder. This is a far different situation than a federal income tax
21 loss, which can only be used by the generator of the loss or by the consolidated
22 income tax group if the generator of the loss files a consolidated return. In and of
23 itself, the tax loss has no value unless it is combined with positive taxable income.

1 While Mr. Warren keeps changing the examples he uses in his various testimonies
2 on this issue, he still has not found an analogy that successfully rebuts the
3 rationale for consolidated income tax adjustments.

4
5 **Q. Please comment on the discussion on pages 27-31 of Mr. Warren's testimony**
6 **that it is reasonable to pay the tax loss affiliate for the loss when the loss is**
7 **produced.**

8 A. Paying the loss companies results in the transfer of millions of dollars from New
9 Jersey ratepayers to other subsidiaries of American Water Works. Since 1991,
10 AWW has paid *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] **END CONFIDENTIAL***** was
12 contributed by NJAWC. These amounts were collected from ratepayers in order
13 to pay federal income taxes, and not to pay affiliates for tax losses. Moreover,
14 since 2000, the loss companies have been paid *****BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL**
15 [REDACTED] **END CONFIDENTIAL***** while over this same period no
16 payments were made to the IRS by the consolidated group.

17
18 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's statement on page 31 of his testimony that**
19 **consolidated income tax adjustments breach the separation between**
20 **regulated and non-regulated operations.**

21 A. Mr. Warren is incorrect. By making a consolidated income tax adjustment, the
22 Board is not attempting to reach out and import non-regulated transactions. As

1 previously noted in my discussion of cost responsibility, the consolidated income
2 tax adjustment simply recognizes the impact on NJAWC of filing a consolidated
3 income tax return. By filing a consolidated return, NJAWC is asking ratepayers
4 to pay millions of dollars in tax expenses that are never paid to the IRS.

5
6 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's discussion on page 30 of his testimony that**
7 **the activities of the loss affiliates entitle them to the benefits of the tax losses**
8 **they create.**

9 A. Mr. Warren's argument is based on his premise that "no member of the
10 consolidated group producing positive taxable income, including the Company,
11 contributed anything whatsoever to the creation of any tax loss allocated to it by
12 virtue of the CTA mechanism."³ While the companies with positive taxable
13 income may not have produced the tax loss, they are responsible for giving it
14 value. As previously noted, the tax loss only has value when it can be used to
15 offset positive taxable income. In the absence of such income, the tax loss would
16 have no value and there would be no reason for the parent company to pay the
17 losing entity for the value of its tax loss benefits.

18 Moreover, it is ultimately the utility's ratepayers that are the source of the
19 tax payments made by NJAWC to its parent company. Therefore, any payments
20 made to the tax loss companies are funded, at least in part, by ratepayers. The
21 fact that these funds may be funneled through the parent company does not
22 change the fact that ratepayers are the ultimate source of the funds provided by
23 NJAWC. Consolidated income tax adjustments recognize that cost-free capital is

3 Testimony of Mr. Warren, page 30, lines 4-6.

1 provided by ratepayers, because they provide the utility income that generates the
2 tax benefits. This point is addressed in the 1993 JCP&L decision quoted above. It
3 should be apparent that requiring ratepayers to pay a statutory federal tax rate that
4 exceeds the actual taxes paid, provides a cost-free source of capital to the
5 Company, and ultimately to the consolidated group. It is undisputed that a
6 consolidated tax filing for the group members results in an overall tax expense
7 that is less than the sum of the tax expenses resulting from the application of a
8 statutory tax rate.

9
10 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's testimony on page 30, lines 6-12 where he**
11 **states that the tax loss companies take risks that contribute to the tax losses.**

12 **A.** Mr. Warren ignores the risks being taken by NJAWC for participating in a
13 consolidated income tax return with other entities, some of which produce tax
14 losses. As a member of a consolidated income tax return, NJAWC, along with
15 other members of the group, are held responsible by the IRS for the entire group's
16 tax liability. Thus, NJAWC itself faces risks by participating in a consolidated
17 income tax return.

18 In addition, the implications of filing a consolidated income tax return are
19 well known to AWW and its subsidiaries, including the tax loss subsidiaries.
20 Consolidated income tax adjustments are well-established policy in the two states
21 that account for approximately 50% of AWW's regulated operations –
22 Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Tax decisions made at the corporate level about
23 the filing of consolidated returns are made with this knowledge. The fact is that

1 AWW has chosen to file consolidated income taxes and that such a filing creates
2 benefits – these benefits need to be shared with New Jersey ratepayers.

3
4 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren’s statement at pages 34-36 of his testimony**
5 **that the BPU’s consolidated income tax adjustment should be limited to an**
6 **aggregate tax loss over a 15 year period.**

7 **A.** I am not aware of any limitation placed by the BPU on such tax losses.
8 Moreover, Mr. Warren did not provide any support for his claim. While the IRS
9 may limit the period of time over which tax losses can be carried forward or back
10 if a company files a stand-alone return, it is my understanding that the BPU has
11 stated that all tax losses from 1991 onwards should be utilized, unless and until
12 such time that the company generating the tax loss has aggregate positive taxable
13 income. According to the BPU’s formula, tax losses are only eliminated from the
14 consolidated income tax calculation if an individual company moves from a tax
15 loss company to a taxable income company, at which time the losses are no
16 longer considered in the calculation. The BPU’s approach is based on
17 continuation of the adjustment until such time as the utility is compensated for
18 providing cash working capital to the tax loss company.

19 Moreover, on page 35 of his testimony at lines 3-4, Mr. Warren states
20 “Bear in mind that the loss carry-forwards (i.e., the otherwise unusable losses)
21 employed in the CTA calculation are complete fictions. They do not, in fact,
22 exist. They were actually used in consolidation.” However, in spite of this
23 “fiction”, Mr. Warren attempts to limit the CTA to 15 years, based solely on the

1 IRS regulations regarding the fictitious loss carry-forwards. If the loss carry-
2 forwards do not currently exist, and I agree with Mr. Warren that they have been
3 used in consolidation, then the current IRS limitation is meaningless and
4 irrelevant.

5
6 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's statement on page 34, lines 19-20 that if**
7 **the "loan" has not been reversed within the tax law carryforward period, it**
8 **never can be reversed.**

9 A. Mr. Warren's statement may be correct with regard to the IRS's application, but it
10 is not correct with regard to the ratemaking treatment for a consolidated income
11 taxes. The BPU's methodology examines the cumulative tax losses or taxable
12 income over the entire time horizon under review, in this case from 1991 to 2010.
13 Pursuant to the BPU's methodology, a company can "use" its own tax loss at any
14 time over the time horizon under review. It is only losses that have not been used
15 during that time by the company generating the losses that are used in the
16 consolidated income tax adjustment.

17
18 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's statement that CTAs are a "one way**
19 **street", as stated on page 37, line 12 of his testimony?**

20 A. I disagree with Mr. Warren's characterization. First, the formula used by the
21 Board to determine consolidated income tax adjustments treats regulated and non-
22 regulated companies in the same way. Cumulative losses of both regulated and
23 non-regulated losses are allocated to all companies with cumulative taxable

1 income, regulated and non-regulated. Moreover, there is no “incremental charge”
2 being imposed on anyone through consolidated income tax adjustment, as alleged
3 by Mr. Warren on page 37 at line 16. The consolidated income tax adjustment
4 simply allocates a reasonable and proportionate share of a cumulative tax benefit
5 to each company with cumulative positive taxable income.
6

7 **Q Are consolidated income tax adjustments a violation of the normalization**
8 **requirements of the IRS, as discussed on pages 38-39 of Mr. Warren’s**
9 **testimony?**

10 A. No, they are not. Prior to 1990, there was some question as to whether or not
11 consolidated income tax adjustments violated the normalization provisions of the
12 IRS. However, around that time, the IRS determined that such adjustments do not
13 violate the normalization rules. The BPU subsequently adopted consolidated
14 income tax adjustments for New Jersey utilities. In the past 20 years, the IRS has
15 never ruled that the consolidated income tax methodology used by the BPU
16 violated the normalization requirements of the tax code. Mr. Warren
17 acknowledged as much in the response to RCR-CIT-39, where he stated that he
18 “knows of no IRS ruling denying a utility the use of accelerated depreciation
19 based on a consolidated tax adjustment since the IRS changed its view of these
20 adjustments in this regard in or about 1991.” When the BPU issued its policy on
21 consolidated income taxes, New Jersey utilities had the opportunity to seek a
22 ruling from the IRS as to whether this methodology violated the normalization
23 requirements of the tax code. As stated in the response to RCR-CIT-40, “Mr.

1 Warren knows of no request to the IRS that it rule on whether any 'rate base
2 method' for consolidated income taxes violates any IRS requirements."

3

4 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's recommendation that tax losses associated**
5 **with members that have transferred outside of the group should not be**
6 **included in a consolidated income tax adjustment, as discussed on page 40 of**
7 **his testimony.**

8 A. The Board's consolidated income tax adjustment is based on the premise that the
9 companies with positive taxable income contributed working capital by making
10 tax payments to the parent company that were well in excess of the payments
11 made by the parent to the IRS. Whether a specific company is still part of the
12 consolidated income tax group is irrelevant to this analysis. Unless and until a
13 company with positive taxable income is fully compensated for these excessive
14 tax payments, the consolidated income tax adjustment is appropriate. For the
15 same reason, the Board should reject Mr. Warren's argument on page 42 of his
16 testimony that tax losses associated with merged or liquidated companies should
17 be excluded.

18

19 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Warren that the consolidated income tax adjustment**
20 **should be reduced by the amount of tax losses that have not yet been used by**
21 **the consolidated group, as discussed on pages 40-42 of his testimony?**

22 A. No, I do not. Whether the tax loss has been used or not by the parent is not the
23 issue. The issue is whether or not the utility has paid the parent the excess tax

1 expense. Otherwise, ratepayers could be asked to pay for millions of dollars in
2 income tax expense which is not being paid at all to the IRS. As noted
3 previously, from 2002-2010, NJAWC has paid its parent company ***BEGIN
4 CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED] END CONFIDENTIAL*** while its parent
5 company has paid \$0 to the IRS. Moreover, the Board's current methodology
6 reflects the inclusion of pro forma income tax expense in the Company's revenue
7 requirement. The Company has included \$66.82 million of federal income tax
8 expense in its revenue requirement claim, pro forma taxes that are unlikely to be
9 paid to the IRS in the near future, if at all.

10 The Board's current methodology does not reduce the consolidated
11 income tax rate base adjustment for tax loss carry-forwards. If the Board
12 determines that tax loss carry-forwards should be considered, then it should also
13 consider excluding all federal income tax expense from the Company's revenue
14 requirement.

15
16 **Q. Please discuss Mr. Warren's testimony on pages 43-44 where he states that**
17 **“[t]he rule in New Jersey is that the tax benefit of a cost that is disallowed by**
18 **the Board cannot be factored into the setting of rates.”**

19 **A.** Once again, Mr. Warren is confusing the issue of disallowances with the issue of
20 consolidated income taxes. As discussed earlier in my testimony, consolidated
21 income tax adjustments do not attempt to reach into a non-regulated entity's
22 business transactions or to impute disallowed expenses back into the ratemaking
23

1 process. The consolidated income tax adjustment simply recognizes that there is
2 an impact on the regulated utility resulting from membership in a consolidated tax
3 return. Moreover, Mr. Warren states that this supposed rule conflicts with the
4 New Jersey Supreme Court decision in Hackensack Water Company v. BPU.⁴
5 While I am not an attorney, I would like to point out that none of the transactions
6 involving other AWW entities are passed through to New Jersey ratepayers, and
7 we are not attempting to do so here. The fact that the New Jersey courts have
8 already ruled on the legality of consolidated income tax adjustments suggests to
9 me that the issue is settled.

10

11 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Warren's testimony at pages 44-46 where he states**
12 **that a portion of the tax loss benefit should be allocated to the companies**
13 **with taxable losses.**

14 A. Mr. Warren's testimony is completely at odds with well-established Board policy.
15 Mr. Warren previously argued that tax loss benefits should be allocated primarily
16 to unregulated companies with positive taxable income. Both arguments directly
17 conflict with Board policy, which is that cumulative tax loss benefits be allocated
18 to companies with cumulative positive taxable income. Moreover, since it is
19 these companies who are bearing the entire income tax burden for the group, the
20 Board's policy is appropriate.

21

22 **Q. Will it be necessary to update your recommendation later in this proceeding?**

⁴ See page 11 of Mr. Warren's testimony.

1 A. Yes, it will. I recommend that my consolidated income tax adjustment be updated
2 to include 2011 tax information, if that data becomes available during the hearing
3 phase of this case.

4

5 **Q. Please summarize your recommendation with regard to consolidated income**
6 **taxes.**

7 A. The BPU has a long-standing policy on consolidated income tax adjustments, and
8 on how such adjustments should be quantified. The Company has not provided
9 any rationale for why the BPU should deviate from its policy or why the BPU
10 should treat NJAWC differently from the other utilities in New Jersey.
11 Accordingly, the BPU should adopt the consolidated income tax adjustment that I
12 have quantified at Schedule ACC-1. While this is a large adjustment, the BPU
13 should keep in mind the amount of taxes paid by NJAWC to its parent company,
14 relative to the actual tax liability incurred by AWW. "Excess" funds have been
15 redistributed to other subsidiaries. Ratepayers should continue to be compensated
16 through a consolidated income tax adjustment for these payments to the parent
17 company that exceed NJAWC's share of actual taxes paid to the IRS.

18

19

1 **B. Cash Working Capital**

2 **Q. What is cash working capital?**

3 A. Cash working capital is the amount of cash that is required by a utility in order to
4 cover cash outflows between the time that revenues are received from customers
5 and the time that expenses must be paid. For example, assume that a utility bills its
6 customers monthly and that it receives monthly revenues approximately 30 days
7 after the midpoint of the date that service is provided. If the Company pays its
8 employees weekly, it will have a need for cash prior to receiving the monthly
9 revenue stream. If, on the other hand, the Company pays its interest expense semi-
10 annually, it will receive these revenues well in advance of needing the funds to pay
11 interest expense.

12

13 **Q. Do utilities always have a positive cash working capital requirement?**

14 A. No, they do not. The actual amount and timing of cash flows dictate whether or not
15 a utility requires a cash working capital allowance. Therefore, one should examine
16 actual cash flows through a lead/lag study in order to accurately measure a utility's
17 need for cash working capital.

18

19 **Q. Please describe the Company's claim for cash working capital.**

20 A. The Company has based its cash working capital claim on three lead/lag studies
21 performed by its witness, Howard Walker, III. The expense lag days were generally
22 developed by analyzing invoices for the twelve months ending December 30, 2010.
23 Mr. Walker initially calculated his expense lags on an aggregated basis, i.e., he did

1 not attempt to determine separate expense lags for each Service Area but rather
2 determined an aggregate lag for each expense category. He then applied the
3 aggregated lag for each expense category to each Service Area's expense levels to
4 determine the expense lags for each area. Mr. Walker included all sewer operations
5 in Service Area 1. Mr. Walker similarly calculated an aggregate revenue lag that
6 he applied to all three Service Areas.

7 Mr. Walker rounded the results of his analysis, resulting in an original cash
8 working capital claim of \$66.0 million, including \$40.7 million for Service Area 1,
9 \$23.8 million for Service Area 2, and \$1.5 million for Service Area 3. The
10 Company did not revise its claim for cash working capital when it filed its 9+3
11 Update on November 11, 2011. However, in response to RCR-CWC-12, NJAWC
12 did provide updated schedules that reflect the 9+3 Updates. I have utilized these
13 updated schedules to develop the recommendations contained in my testimony.

14
15 **Q. Are you recommending any adjustments to the Company's cash working**
16 **capital claim?**

17 **A.** Yes, I am recommending that NJAWC's cash working capital claim be revised to
18 eliminate cash working capital associated with non-cash items, such as depreciation
19 and amortization expense, deferred tax expense, and uncollectible expense. I
20 recommend that non-contractual costs, such as utility operating income, be
21 excluded from the lead/lag study. I am recommending an adjustment to the
22 expense lag associated with Management Service Company costs. I recommend
23 that the lead/lag study be revised to include the lag on interest expense. This

1 adjustment reflects the fact that revenues are collected in rates for interest expense
2 on a monthly basis but debt payments are made semi-annually to the bondholders.
3 Finally, I am making a similar recommendation with regard to the lag on the
4 payment of preferred stock dividends, which are typically paid quarterly.
5

6 **Q. Please explain how NJAWC has treated the non-cash items you have**
7 **eliminated in your adjustment to cash working capital.**

8 A. NJAWC has included depreciation and amortization expenses, deferred tax
9 expense, uncollectible expense, and utility operating income in the lead/lag
10 calculation as expenses with zero-lag days. The inclusion of these items with a zero
11 lag actually has a very significant impact on the cash working capital requirement
12 because it reduces the average number of expense lag days. The reduction in the
13 average expense lag results in an increase in the overall cash working capital
14 requirement because the net lag, i.e., the revenue lag – the expense lag, increases as
15 the expense lag decreases. Thus, the Company's inclusion of non-cash items in a
16 lead/lag study generally results in a significant increase to cash working capital.
17

18 **Q. Why does NJAWC seek to include these items at a zero lag?**

19 A. Mr. Walker argues at page 9, lines 13-20 of his testimony that depreciation, in the
20 form of accumulated depreciation, is subtracted from rate base before the expense
21 has been fully collected from customers, due to the lag in revenues. At pages 12-13
22 10 of his testimony, he argues that deferred taxes are also subtracted from rate base
23 before they are fully collected in rates. Mr. Walker does not expressly address

1 uncollectible expense in his testimony, but he has included uncollectible costs in
2 “Other Expenses” to which he applied a 45 day lag. Finally, on page 13, lines 6-12
3 of his testimony, he states that operating income becomes the property of investors
4 as it is earned, but it is not realized until revenues are collected.

5

6 **Q. What is the basis for your recommendation to exclude depreciation and**
7 **amortization expense from the lead/lag study?**

8 A. It is inappropriate to include depreciation and amortization expense in a utility’s
9 cash working capital claim because these costs do not result in cash outflows by the
10 utility. NJAWC does not make cash payments for depreciation expense on a
11 specified date. The purpose of a lead/lag study is to match cash inflows, or
12 revenues, with cash outflows, or expenses. Cash working capital reflects the need
13 for investor-supplied funds to meet the day-to-day expenses of operations that arise
14 from the timing differences between when NJAWC had to expend money to pay
15 the expenses of operation and when revenues for utility service are received by the
16 utility. Only items for which actual out-of-pocket cash expenditures must be made
17 should be included in a cash working capital allowance. At Schedule ACC-2, I
18 have made an adjustment to eliminate the cash working capital claims associated
19 with depreciation and amortization expense from NJAWC’s lead/lag studies. My
20 adjustments for Service Area 1, Service Area 2, and Service Area 3 are shown on
21 pages 2, 3 and 4 respectively of this schedule, while a summary of my
22 recommendations is shown on page 1 of Schedule ACC-2.

23

- 1 **Q. Please comment on Mr. Walker’s argument that depreciation expense should**
2 **be included in a lead/lag study at zero lag because it is deducted from rate base**
3 **prior to being recovered from ratepayers.**
- 4 A. The argument that these expenses must be reflected in the lead/lag study because of
5 their rate base impact ignores how utility rates are established. The amount of
6 revenues to be collected is determined in a base rate case that includes pro forma
7 depreciation expense and a rate base valued at a given point in time. Although
8 accumulated depreciation at a point in time is deducted from rate base, that does
9 not change the fact that depreciation is a non-cash expense. It does not matter in
10 the slightest that the books of account include accrued depreciation that is
11 subtracted from rate base at a point in time. Moreover, the rate base that is used to
12 set rates is known and measurable, and it does not change on a monthly basis.
13 Therefore to claim a cash working capital requirement based on booking a non-cash
14 item such as accumulated depreciation during the year, is unwarranted. It is
15 immaterial how much depreciation is actually booked or when it is booked because
16 the revenue per unit of consumption is established for the rate effective period,
17 regardless of any changes that may occur between rate cases. Utility rates are not
18 reset every month to reflect the actual changes in rate base that occur between rate
19 cases. Moreover, the calculated revenue lag already reflects the lag in the collection
20 of all expenses, including depreciation. The rate base has been determined in a
21 manner that allows NJAWC an opportunity to earn its authorized return on investor
22 supplied capital and that process already reflects the regulatory treatment for

1 accrued depreciation. NJAWC's method effectively double-counts the revenue lag
2 for depreciation expense and its claim should be rejected.

3

4 **Q. Why do you also reject the use of zero lag days for deferred tax expense?**

5 A. This item is similar to depreciation in that the amount allowed in rates for its
6 recovery is established by the BPU and does not change during the rate-effective
7 period based on fluctuations in actual results. Therefore the lag in revenues already
8 reflects the lag in the collection of deferred tax expense. The Company is fully
9 compensated in rates for deferred taxes and the entire balance of deferred taxes is a
10 rate base offset because it represents a source of non-investor supplied funds. Thus
11 all the regulatory allowances, including all rate base effects, for this item are
12 considered and determined in the rate setting process. The Company is not paying
13 deferred taxes to another party. It pays only current taxes, and therefore deferred
14 tax expense is not properly includable in any form in the calculation of cash
15 working capital.

16

17 **Q. What expense lag did the Company utilize for Management Service Company
18 costs?**

19 A. Mr. Walker utilized an expense lead (negative expense lag) of (11.5) days. This
20 assumes that, on average, the Company pays its Management Service Company
21 charges 11.5 days before the date when service is provided by the Service
22 Company to NJAWC. Essentially, NJAWC has reflected a prepayment of these
23 costs in its lead/lag study.

1 Q. Do you believe that it is appropriate to reflect a prepayment for Management
2 Service Company costs in the lead/lag study?

3 A. No, I do not. The Management Service Company Agreement, which covers the
4 majority of the services billed to NJAWC through Management Service Company
5 fees, provides for each company to be billed “as soon as practicable after the last
6 day of each month, Service Company shall render a bill to Water Company for all
7 amounts due from Water Company for services and expenses for such month plus
8 an amount equal to the estimated cost of such services and expenses for the current
9 month,...”⁵ While the Agreement provides for a prepayment each month based on
10 estimated costs, it does not necessarily follow that this prepayment should be
11 reflected in utility rates through the Company’s cash working capital claim.

12 The provisions of the Management Services Company agreement result in a
13 cash working capital requirement. However, if NJAWC provided these services
14 internally, or obtained these services from a third party, there would be a lag
15 between receipt of service and payment for service, resulting in a source of cash
16 working capital. Ratepayers should not have to pay for higher cash working capital
17 requirements because of AWW’s decision to centralize certain services in the
18 Management Services Company.

19

20 Q. What do you recommend?

21 A. I recommend that a 10.4 day expense lag be used for Management Service
22 Company costs in the development of the Company’s cash working capital claim.

23 This is the lag used by NJAWC for its internal labor costs. If the services provided

5 Agreement provided in response to RCR-CWC-7, Attachment B, page 11.

1 by Management Service Company personnel were instead provided internally by
2 NJAWC, there would be a 10.4 day labor expense lag. Since labor-related costs
3 generally comprise the majority of centralized service company costs for a utility, it
4 is reasonable to utilize an expense lag equal to the lag that would be result if the
5 services were provided internally by the utility. Accordingly, I am recommending
6 that a 10.4 day expense lag be used for Management Service Company costs in the
7 lead lag study.

8
9 **Q. Why should uncollectible costs be excluded from a utility's cash working
10 capital requirement?**

11 A. Uncollectible costs are non-cash expenses and therefore they should not impact the
12 cash working capital calculation. Moreover, the Company is already fully
13 compensated for the cash working capital impact of its cash expenses through the
14 lead/lag study. For example, assume that the Company's revenue requirement
15 consists of only two expenses, payroll costs of \$100 and uncollectible costs of \$5.
16 The result would be a total revenue requirement of \$105, \$100 of which the
17 Company would actually collect from customers. That \$100 in revenues would
18 match the actual cash outflows required to be made by this hypothetical company.
19 Therefore, the uncollectible expense does not generate an additional cash working
20 capital impact for the Company. Accordingly, at Schedule ACC-2, I have made
21 adjustments to eliminate uncollectible expense from the Other Expenses included
22 in the Company's claim at a 45 day expense lag.

23

1 **Q. Please explain why you have rejected the Company's claim for zero lag days**
2 **for utility operating income.**

3 A. Utility operating income includes components for cost of equity, cost of debt, and
4 cost of preferred stock. The latter two components, i.e., interest expense and
5 preferred stock dividends, are addressed below.

6 With regard to the cost of equity, this component does not represent a
7 contractual obligation of NJAWC. The Company is under no obligation to make
8 payments to their stockholders. While NJAWC may make common dividend
9 payments, they are not contractually obligated to do so. Moreover, even if
10 dividend payments are made, they are generally made no more frequently than
11 quarterly. They are certainly not made on a daily basis, which is the assumption
12 inherent in the use of a zero lag. In addition, companies generally retain a portion
13 of their earnings rather than paying out all earnings as dividends, another fact not
14 taken into account in NJAWC's lead/lag study.

15

16 **Q. Has NJAWC reflected a reduction in cash working capital related to the lag in**
17 **its payment of interest expense?**

18 A. No, it has not. NJAWC failed to reflect the fact that the revenue requirement
19 includes a component for interest expense, which is a contractual obligation of the
20 utility, and that this obligation is typically paid semi-annually.

21

22 **Q. How is working capital generated by NJAWC's lag in the payment of its**
23 **interest expense?**

1 A. NJAWC collects revenues from ratepayers for interest expense on a monthly basis
2 but it pays its bondholders for interest only twice a year. Therefore, on average, the
3 accrued interest funds are available to NJAWC, at no cost, to finance its operations
4 between the time the Company collects the interest from customers and the time
5 that interest payments are made to bondholders.

6

7 **Q. How should this cost-free source of funds be reflected for ratemaking**
8 **purposes?**

9 A. The lag in the payment of interest expense must be reflected in the cash working
10 capital calculation so that ratepayers are compensated for providing a cost-free
11 source of capital to NJAWC. In developing my adjustment, I included the interest
12 expense at a lag of 91.25 days, which reflects semi-annual payments of interest.⁶

13

14 **Q. Are you making a similar recommendation with regard to the dividend**
15 **payments on preferred stock?**

16 A. Yes, I am. However, since dividend payments on preferred stock are generally
17 made quarterly, I used an expense lag of 45.625 days.

18

19 **Q. Are you recommending any adjustments to the expense lag days reflected in**
20 **the cash working capital study?**

21 A. No, I have not made any adjustment to any of the lead/lag days reflected in the
22 Company's lead/lag study other than the adjustment to the Management Service

⁶ Reflects the lag from the midpoint of the 182.5 day service period (365 / 2 / 2).

1 Company charges discussed above. My other adjustments relate solely to the
2 components to which these lead/lag days should be applied.
3

4 **Q. What are the results of your cash working capital adjustments?**

5 A. I have eliminated the zero lag days used by the Company for depreciation,
6 amortization, deferred tax expense, uncollectible expense, and utility operating
7 income. I have used a 10.4 day expense lag for charges from the Management
8 Service Company. In addition, I have reflected the lag in the payment of interest
9 expense and preferred dividends. As shown in Schedule ACC-2, page 1, my
10 adjustments result in a cash working capital allowance \$9,700,000 million for
11 Service Area 1, \$4,900,000 million for Service Area 2, and (\$100,000) for Service
12 Area 3. Therefore, I recommend that the Board include a cash working capital
13 allowance of \$14,500,000 in the Company's pro forma rate base.
14

15 **Q. Do you have additional comments regarding cash working capital?**

16 A. Yes. I have based my recommendation on the level of expenses included in the
17 response to RCR-CWC-12, which the Company indicated corresponds with
18 NJAWC's 9+3 Update of November 11, 2011. However, I recommend that the
19 cash working capital requirement be updated to reflect the actual level of expenses,
20 including interest expense and preferred dividends, found by the BPU to be
21 appropriate.
22

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

1 A. Yes, it does.