

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD  
APPLICATION TO CHANGE RATE SCHEDULES**

**DOCKET NO. 22-30-WW**

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD OF FILING AND CHANGE IN RATE  
SCHEDULES**

On September 14, 2023, pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 39-3-11 and Part 5 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), the Pawtucket Water Supply Board (“PWSB”) hereby gives notice that it has filed with the Commission an application to increase its rates.

In its filing, the PWSB seeks to implement a multi-year rate plan through a four step increase pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 39-15.1-4. In the first step of the increase, proposed to take effect on October 14, 2023, the PWSB’s preliminary proposed rates are designed to collect additional operating revenue in the amount of \$1,423,220 to support total operating revenue requirements of \$21,764,363. The impact of this request for a typical residential customer who uses 800 cubic feet of water per month (200 gallons per day) will result in an increase of \$21.43 per year, or 4.0%. The impact on all other customers will vary based on customer class.

While the new rates requested under the first step of this increase are proposed to become effective October 14, 2023, the Commission can suspend the rates for up to eight months from the proposed effective date. No rate change will take effect until the Commission has conducted a full investigation and hearing on the proposal. Please note that while the PWSB is requesting this change in rates, the Commission, after full investigation and hearings, may order different rates than proposed by the PWSB.

In particular, it must be noted that the PWSB is currently negotiating an extension of its contract for the operation of its water treatment plant, which expires on February 14, 2024. The increase set forth above for the first step does **not** include any revenues to cover any increased costs that may result from the extension of this contract to avoid any impact on the PWSB’s negotiations. The PWSB intends to amend its filing after the conclusion of the contract negotiations to update the costs associated with the new contract. The PWSB’s proposed increase will likely increase once negotiations are concluded, and the PWSB will issue a supplemental notice directly to customers.

In the second step of the increase, proposed to take effect on July 1, 2024, the PWSB’s proposed rates are preliminarily designed to collect additional operating revenue in the amount of \$80,464 to support total operating revenue requirements of \$21,846,138. The impact of this request will result in an across-the-board rate increase of approximately 0.4% on all rate classes. For a typical residential customer who uses 800 cubic feet of water per month (200 gallons per day), the impact of this request will result in an increase of \$2.08 per year.

In the third step of the increase, proposed to take effect on July 1, 2025, the PWSB’s proposed rates are preliminarily designed to collect additional operating revenue in the amount of \$74,116 to support total operating revenue requirements of \$21,920,254. The impact of this request will result in an across-the-board rate increase of approximately 0.3% on all rate classes. For a typical residential customer who uses

800 cubic feet of water per month (200 gallons per day), the impact of this request will result in an increase of \$1.91 per year.

In the fourth step of the increase, proposed to take effect on July 1, 2026, the PWSB's proposed rates are preliminarily designed to collect additional operating revenue in the amount of \$80,435 to support total operating revenue requirements of \$22,000,689. The impact of this request will result in an across-the-board rate increase of approximately 0.4% on all rate classes. For a typical residential customer who uses 800 cubic feet of water per month (200 gallons per day), the impact of this request will result in an increase of \$2.08 per year.

The PWSB is required to submit compliance filings to the Commission before the second, third and fourth steps of the proposed increase become effective pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 39-15.1-4, which must be approved by the Commission. In addition, the increases are likely to be higher in the second, third and fourth steps as the proposed increases do not include annual escalation expenses for the water treatment plant operations contract, and do not include the actual anticipated costs associated with a Union Contract covering certain PWSB employees that expires on June 30, 2024, to avoid any negative impact on negotiations.

The Commission will publish a notice of the hearing dates when they are scheduled. Ratepayers may comment on the proposed rate increases at that time.

A copy of the application is on file for examination at the Pawtucket Water Supply Board's office and at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. A copy of the filing was also provided to the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls, Rhode Island and the Town of Cumberland, Rhode Island. A copy was also provided to the Rhode Island Attorney General's Department, Consumer Division. Subscriber billing statements will contain notice of this filing.

Pawtucket Water Supply Board  
85 Branch Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
<http://www.pwsb.org>