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| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIAPENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONOffice of Administrative Law JudgeP.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE** |

January 30, 2013

 In Re:  **R-2012-2315536, *et al.***

(SEE ATTACHED LIST)

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION, *et al.***

**v.**

**IMPERIAL POINT WATER SERVICE COMPANY**

**PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE / Mediation Notice**

 Parties have consented to use the mediation process in the above-captioned matter.

 A pre-hearing conference, immediately followed by a mediation session, will be held as follows:

Date: **Monday, March 4, 2013**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Location: **Hearing Room 3**

**Plaza Level**

**Commonwealth Keystone Building**

**400 North Street**

**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Mediator: **Herbert R. Nurick**

 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

 P.O. Box 3265

 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

 Telephone: (717) 783-5428

 Fax: (717) 787-0481

 Email: hnurick@pa.gov

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Presiding ALJ: **Administrative Law Judge Katrina L. Dunderdale**

Piatt Place, Suite 220

 301 Fifth Avenue

 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

 Telephone: (412) 565-3550

 Fax: (412) 565-5692

 ALJ Dunderdale will preside by telephone for the purpose of setting hearing dates and dealing with matters that the parties would like to have on record. A court reporter will be present to record these matters. Thereafter, ALJ Dunderdale and the court reporter will leave the session so that the mediation process can commence. With regard to the process, please review what follows.

Mediation is an informal, non-adjudicatory process. The mediator does not give advice, represent any party, evaluate or make a decision. Instead, the mediator serves as an impartial facilitator who helps the parties resolve their disputes. In other words, mediation is a process which allows the parties to control the outcome of their dispute, as opposed to a hearing where an Administrative Law Judge and the Commission control the outcome.

Moreover, mediation is different from a settlement conference which is based on competitive negotiations. In mediation, the parties agree to work together toward a final resolution of their differences considering how any solution must address the interests of all parties. The focus is not to determine fault, assign blame, or deal with past issues. Rather, the focus is on the future and on a consensual resolution that the parties can live with.

 Because mediation is not an on-the-record proceeding, there will be no court reporter. Everything that takes place during mediation is, and must remain, confidential, unless otherwise provided for by law, regulation or rule. This applies to everyone who is in the room. An agreement reached between or among the parties becomes public upon submission of the mediator's brief procedural report to a judge (or Commission) when the agreement is attached to the report.

 The parties must act in good faith. A page entitled "Good Faith Factors for Mediation Sessions" is attached. If you feel that you cannot comply with these factors, please let the mediator know well in advance of the mediation session, because it may be that the case will not be suitable for mediation at the scheduled time.

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 Additionally, the parties must follow the Pennsylvania Bar Association Working Rules for Professionalism regarding their conduct. A copy of the Rules is also attached.

 Mr. Nurick has noted that he and the Investigation and Enforcement Staff (“I&E”) are employed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, an agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that the staff of the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) is also employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Nurick has further pointed out that he has been the mediator in other cases in which I&E, OCA, and Thomas, Long, Niesen & Kennard have participated, including persons who are participating in the instant case. Mr. Nurick has stated that these factors will have no effect on his ability to be fair and impartial in this case. Nevertheless, if you object to having him serve as the mediator, or if you are aware of any other factors which could affect his ability to be impartial, please let him know promptly.

 **In the meantime, please attempt to resolve the issues involved prior to the mediation session**.

 Any questions regarding the mediation should be directed to the mediator at the telephone number provided above.

 If you are a person with a disability, and you wish to attend the mediation session, we may be able to make arrangements for your special needs. Please call the scheduling office at the Public Utility Commission at least five (5) business days prior to the session.

 If you require an interpreter to participate in the mediation, we will make every reasonable effort to have an interpreter present. Please call the scheduling office at the Public Utility Commission at least ten (10) business days prior to the mediation session to submit your request.

1. Scheduling Office: (717) 787-1399
2. AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1(800) 654-5988

Mediator Nurick

ALJ Dunderdale

Linda Salome

Calendar File

File Room

GOOD FAITH FACTORS FOR MEDIATION SESSIONS

GOOD FAITH INCLUDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS:

 1. GIVING THE PARTICIPANTS, PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION, ALL THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE CASE. (The Commission believes “that formal discovery procedures are not appropriate in the informal [mediation] process.” *Pa. Bul., Vol. 25, No. 20,* May 20, 1995, p. 1996. Therefore, discoverable information should be discovered informally.)

 2. BEING FULLY PREPARED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE AND WITH POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR RESOLVING THE CASE.

 3. BEING WILLING TO CREATE OPTIONS TO RESOLVE A MATTER, CONSIDERING HOW THE SOLUTION MUST ADDRESS THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES, AS OPPOSED TO TAKING AN UNYIELDING POSITION.

 4. HAVING THE PERSON WITH THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE TERMS FOR RESOLUTION ATTEND THE MEDIATION SESSION, OR, AT LEAST, BE AVAILABLE TO CONFER WITH THE PARTY’S REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE MEDIATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF TERMS.

 5. DEMONSTRATING A WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN AND TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE OTHER PARTIES.

 6. BEING WILLING TO SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY, IF NECESSARY, AT THE SESSION.

***PBA Working Rules for Professionalism***

The practice of law is a profession, a genuine calling inspirited with service to the system of justice, not a common business enterprise. The quality of the profession is only as worthy as the character of the people who practice it.

Self-esteem, shared respect for each other, the clients we serve, the judges and the officers with whom we work, are essential to it.

Civility is a virtue, not a shortcoming. Willingness to temper zeal with respect for society’s interest in preserving responsible judicial process will help to preserve it.

Unwritten rules of professional courtesy have long sustained us. Since they are sometimes forgotten, or sometimes ignored, we should set them down again and conscientiously observe them.

1. Treat with civility the lawyers, clients, opposing parties, the Court, and all the officials with whom we work. Professional courtesy is compatible with vigorous advocacy and zealous representation.

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1. Communications are lifelines. Keep the lines open. Telephone calls and correspondence are a two-way channel; respond to them promptly.
2. Respect other lawyers’ schedules as your own. Seek agreement on meetings, depositions, hearings and trial dates. A reasonable request for a scheduling accommodation should never be unreasonably refused.
3. Be punctual in appointments, communications and in honoring scheduled appearances. Neglect and tardiness are demeaning to others and to the judicial system.
4. Procedural rules are necessary to judicial order and decorum. Be mindful that pleadings, discovery processes and motions cost time and money. They should not be heedlessly used. If an adversary is entitled to something, provide it without unnecessary formalities.
5. Grant extensions of time when they are reasonable and when they will not have a material, adverse effect on your client’s interest.

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1. Resolve differences through negotiation, expeditiously and without needless expense.
2. Enjoy what you are doing and the company you keep. You and the world will be better for it.

***Beyond all this, the respect of our peers and the society which we serve***

 ***is the ultimate measure of responsible professional conduct.***

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**C-2012-2340419**