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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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8 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
 9 RIO RICO UTILITIES, INC., AN ARIZONA
 10 CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION
 11 OF THE FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY
 12 PLANTS AND PROPERTY AND FOR
 13 INCREASES IN ITS WATER AND
 14 WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGES
 15 FOR UTILITY SERVICE BASED THEREON.

Docket No. WS-02676A-09-0257

**NOTICE OF FILING
DIRECT RATE DESIGN TESTIMONY**

The Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") hereby provides notice of filing the Direct Rate Design Testimony of Timothy J. Coley, in the above-referenced matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 4th day of January, 2010.

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JAN - 4 2010

DOCKETED BY

Daniel W. Pozefsky
Chief Counsel

1 AN ORIGINAL AND THIRTEEN COPIES
of the foregoing filed this 4th day
2 of January, 2010 with:

3 Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
4 1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

5 COPIES of the foregoing hand delivered/
6 mailed this 4th day of January, 2010 to:

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RIO RICO UTILITIES, INC.

DOCKET NO. WS-02676A-09-0257

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
(RATE DESIGN)**

OF

TIMOTHY J. COLEY

ON BEHALF OF

THE

RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE

JANUARY 4, 2010

| | | |
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1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 Q. Please state your name, position, employer and address.

3 A. My Name is Timothy J. Coley. I am a Public Utilities Analyst V employed
4 by the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") located at 1110 W.
5 Washington, Suite 220, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

6
7 Q. Please state your educational background and qualifications in the utility
8 regulation field.

9 A. Appendix 1 attached to my direct testimony filed on December 23, 2009,
10 describes my educational background and includes a list of the rate cases
11 and regulatory matters in which I have participated.

12
13 Q. Please state the purpose of your testimony.

14 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present RUCO's recommendations on
15 rate design regarding Rio Rico Utilities, Inc.'s ("RRUI" or "Company")
16 application for a determination of the current fair value of both its Water
17 and Wastewater utility plant and property and for a permanent increase in
18 its rates and charges based thereon for utility service.

19

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1 **RATE DESIGN AND PROOF OF RECOMMENDED REVENUE**

2 Q. Have you prepared Schedules presenting your recommended rate
3 designs for Rio Rico Utilities, Inc.'s Water and Wastewater Divisions?

4 A. Yes, as shown on the respective Schedules TJC-RD1 and TJC-RD2, I am
5 recommending rate designs that are consistent with RUCO's
6 recommended revenue requirements for both divisions.

7
8 Q. Please describe your recommended rate designs for the Company's
9 Water and Wastewater Divisions.

10 A. RUCO's rate designs proportionately mirrors the Company's proposed
11 rate designs. For the Water Division, a 5/8 inch meter monthly minimum
12 would increase by \$3.08 to \$9.53, which is an increase of 47.75 percent.
13 The commodity charge is a three-tier inverted rate structure for the
14 residential 5/8 inch meter with break-over points of 4,000 gallons and
15 10,000 gallons as shown on the Schedules. All other meter sizes and
16 customer classifications have a two-tier rate structure with the break-over
17 point at 10,000 gallons as the Company proposed.

18
19 For the Wastewater Division, RUCO recommends a flat rate design for all
20 customers except for the commercial and multi-family classifications.
21 Those customers have a volumetric rate design based on the gallonage of
22 water consumed as shown on the Schedules. A 5/8 inch meter monthly
23 minimum would decrease by \$16.73 from \$56.36 to \$39.63.

1 Q. Did the Company propose any alternative wastewater rate design other
2 than what was approved in the prior decision?

3 A. The Company provided an alternative volumetric wastewater rate design
4 for all customers but did not suggest it be adopted by the Commission.

5

6 Q. Why did the Company suggest that the alternative volumetric rate design
7 should not be adopted in this case?

8 A. The Company stated that the volumetric wastewater rate design was not
9 based on a cost of service study and many subjective assumptions were
10 made to develop it without objective empirical evidence.

11

12 Q. Did RUCO review the Company's alternative volumetric wastewater rate
13 design?

14 A. Yes. RUCO shares the same concerns that the Company expressed in its
15 testimony. The Company already has a volumetric rate design component
16 in its present rate structure for the commercial and multi-family customer
17 classifications. Without a cost of service study to support a full volumetric
18 rate design, RUCO recommends that the Commission not adopt such a
19 rate design structure in this case.

20

21

22 ...

23

1 Q. Have you prepared a Schedule presenting proof of your recommended
2 revenue?

3 A. Yes, I have. Proof that my recommended rate designs will produce the
4 recommended required revenue as illustrated, is presented also on
5 Schedule TJC-RD1 and a typical 5/8 inch meter bill analysis is provided
6 on Schedule TJC-RD2.

7

8 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

9 A. Yes, it does.

RATE DESIGN AND PROOF OF RECOMMENDED REVENUE
RUCO RECOMMENDED REVENUE

| LINE NO. | DESCRIPTION | (A) TEST YEAR DETERMINANTS | (B) RUCO ANN'ZED ADJTM'TS | (C) RUCO ADJUSTED DETERMINANTS | (D) RUCO RECOMND'ED RATES | (E) RUCO PROPOSED REVENUES | (F) RUCO TOTAL REVENUES |
|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 4" Commodity Usage | 61 | 11 | 72 | \$ 256.28 | \$ 18,452 | \$ 18,452 |
| 2 | First Tier - First 57,000 Gals. | 3,063 | 627 | 3,690 | \$ 2.56 | \$ 9,439 | |
| 3 | Second Tier - Over 57,000 Gals. | 14,765 | 2,805 | 17,570 | \$ 2.91 | \$ 51,050 | \$ 60,489 |
| 4 | 6" Commodity Usage | 12 | - | 12 | \$ 474.52 | \$ 5,694 | \$ 5,694 |
| 5 | First Tier - First 125,000 Gals. | 1,500 | - | 1,500 | \$ 2.56 | \$ 3,837 | |
| 6 | Second Tier - Over 125,000 Gals. | 6,200 | - | 6,200 | \$ 2.91 | \$ 18,014 | \$ 21,851 |
| 7 | Total Commercial Customers | <u>2,429</u> | <u>283</u> | <u>2,712</u> | | | |
| 8 | Total Commercial Usage | 156,651 | 5,155 | 161,806 | | | |
| 9 | TOTAL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 568,376</u> |
| Multi-Family | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 5/8" Commodity Usage | 117 | (9) | 108 | \$ 9.53 | \$ 1,029 | \$ 1,029 |
| 11 | First Tier - First 4,000 Gals. | 433 | (33) | 400 | \$ 2.04 | \$ 814 | |
| 12 | Second Tier - Next 6,000 Gals. | 439 | (32) | 407 | \$ 2.56 | \$ 1,041 | |
| 13 | Third Tier - Over 10,000 Gals. | 382 | (30) | 352 | \$ 2.91 | \$ 1,024 | \$ 2,879 |
| 14 | 1-1/2" Commodity Usage | 12 | - | 12 | \$ 51.26 | \$ 615 | \$ 615 |
| 15 | First Tier - First 20,000 Gals. | 89 | - | 89 | \$ 2.56 | \$ 228 | |
| 16 | Second Tier - Over 20,000 Gals. | 0 | - | 0 | \$ 2.91 | \$ - | \$ 228 |
| 17 | Total Multi-Family Customers | <u>129</u> | <u>(9)</u> | | | | |
| 18 | Total Commercial Usage | 1,343 | (95) | | | | |
| 19 | TOTAL MULTI-FAMILY CUSTOMER REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 4,751</u> |
| PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION CUSTOMERS | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Fire Lines Up to 8" | 185 | 79 | 264 | \$ 13.77 | \$ 3,635 | \$ 3,635 |
| 21 | Commodity Usage | 0 | - | - | No Charge | | |
| 22 | TOTAL PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION CUSTOMERS REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 3,635</u> |
| 23 | COMPANY TOTAL PROPOSED REVENUE PER BILL DETERMINANTS | | | | | | \$ 3,859,697 |
| 24 | Other Revenue | | | | | | 44,672 |
| 25 | COMPANY PROPOSED TOTAL REVENUES | | | | | | <u>\$ 3,904,369</u> |
| 26 | RUCO TOTAL RECOMMENDED REVENUE PER BILL DETERMINANTS | | | | | | \$ 2,765,557 |
| 27 | Other Revenue | | | | | | 44,672 |
| 28 | TOTAL RUCO RECOMMENDED REVENUE PER TJC-1 | | | | | | <u>\$ 2,810,229</u> |

TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BILL ANALYSIS

| LINE NO. | DESCRIPTION | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | (F) |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | PRESENT | | COMPANY PROPOSED | | RUCO PROPOSED | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RESIDENTIAL | \$ 1,440,833 | 79.66% | \$ 3,067,443 | 79.29% | \$ 2,188,735 | 79.14% |
| 2 | COMMERCIAL | 363,332 | 20.09% | 791,258 | 20.45% | 588,376 | 20.55% |
| 3 | MULTI-FAMILY | 3,418 | 0.19% | 7,297 | 0.19% | 4,751 | 0.17% |
| | PRIVATE FIRE | 1,199 | 0.07% | 2,547 | 0.07% | 3,635 | 0.13% |
| | TOTAL | <u>\$ 1,808,782</u> | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>\$ 3,868,544</u> | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>\$ 2,765,557</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |
| ALLOCATION RATIOS | | | | | | | |
| 4 | FIX REVENUE | \$ 532,661 | 29.45% | \$ 1,133,658 | 29.36% | \$ 814,736 | 29.46% |
| 5 | VARIABLE REVENUE | 1,276,120 | 70.55% | 2,725,445 | 70.62% | 1,950,821 | 70.54% |
| 6 | TOTAL | <u>\$ 1,808,782</u> | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>\$ 3,859,103</u> | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>\$ 2,765,557</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |
| RES. G-1 (5/8" X 3/4") RATE DESIGN | | | | | | | |
| | | PRESENT | | COMPANY PROPOSED | | RUCO PROPOSED | |
| 7 | BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE | \$ 6.45 | | \$ 13.71 | | \$ 9.53 | |
| | COMMODITY CHARGE | | | | | | |
| | | PRESENT | PROPOSED | | | | |
| 8 | First Tier - First 4,000 Gals. | First Tier - First 4,000 Gals. | \$ 1.4400 | \$ 2.9300 | \$ 2.0367 | | |
| 9 | Second Tier - Next 6,000 Gals. | Second Tier - Next 6,000 Gals. | \$ 1.7000 | \$ 3.6800 | \$ 2.5580 | | |
| 10 | Third Tier - Over 10,000 Gals. | Third Tier - Over 10,000 Gals. | \$ 1.9000 | \$ 4.1600 | \$ 2.9055 | | |
| RESIDENTIAL BILL COMPARISONS | | | | | | | |
| | COST OF WATER SERVICE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF USAGE WITH PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BILL | % OF AVERAGE MONTH USAGE OF 8,548 Gal. | GALLONS USED AT VARIOUS USAGE | PRESENT MONTHLY WATER COST | RUCO PROP'D MONTHLY WATER COST | RUCO PROP'D MONTHLY INCREASE | RUCO PROP'D MONTHLY % INCREASE |
| 11 | | 25.00% | 2,137 | \$ 9.53 | \$ 13.88 | \$ 4.35 | 45.71% |
| 12 | | 50.00% | 4,274 | \$ 12.68 | \$ 18.38 | \$ 5.70 | 44.98% |
| 13 | | 100.00% | 8,548 | \$ 19.94 | \$ 29.31 | \$ 9.37 | 46.98% |
| 14 | | 150.00% | 12,822 | \$ 27.77 | \$ 41.22 | \$ 13.45 | 48.44% |
| 15 | | 200.00% | 17,096 | \$ 35.89 | \$ 53.64 | \$ 17.75 | 49.45% |

RATE DESIGN AND PROOF OF RECOMMENDED REVENUE
RUCO PROPOSED REVENUE

| LINE NO. | DESCRIPTION | (A) TEST YEAR DETERMIN'TS | (B) RUCO ANN'ZED ADJTM'TS | (C) RUCO ADJUSTED DETERMIN'TS | (D) RUCO RECOMND'ED RATES | (E) RUCO PROPOSED REVENUES | (F) RUCO TOTAL REVENUES |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 5/8" Commodity Usage | 22,848 | 16 | 22,864 | \$ 39.63 | \$ 905,977 | \$ 905,977 |
| 2 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 3 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 4 | 3/4" Commodity Usage | 98 | (2) | 96 | \$ 45.19 | \$ 4,338 | \$ 4,338 |
| 5 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 6 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 7 | 1" Commodity Usage | 104 | 2 | 106 | \$ 55.82 | \$ 5,896 | \$ 5,896 |
| 8 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 9 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 10 | 1.5" Commodity Usage | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ 82.43 | \$ - | \$ - |
| 11 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 12 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 13 | 2" Commodity Usage | 12 | 0 | 12 | \$ 114.33 | \$ 1,372 | \$ 1,372 |
| 14 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 15 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 16 | Total Residential Usage | <u>23,062</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>23,077</u> | | | |
| 17 | Total Residential Usage | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | | | |
| 18 | TOTAL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 917,583</u> |
| COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 5/8" Commodity Usage | 831 | 105 | 936 | \$ 39.63 | \$ 37,089 | \$ 37,089 |
| 20 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 3,681 | 735 | 4,416 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 21 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 5,459 | 377 | 5,836 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 23,429 | \$ 23,429 |
| 22 | 1" Commodity Usage | 437 | 55 | 492 | \$ 55.82 | \$ 27,465 | \$ 27,465 |
| 23 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 2,079 | 385 | 2,464 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 24 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 4,640 | 507 | 5,147 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 20,662 | \$ 20,662 |
| 25 | 1-1/2" Commodity Usage | 87 | (3) | 84 | \$ 82.43 | \$ 6,924 | \$ 6,924 |
| 26 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 545 | (23) | 522 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 27 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 2,970 | (122) | 2,848 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 11,434 | \$ 11,434 |
| 28 | 2" Commodity Usage | 238 | 2 | 240 | \$ 114.33 | \$ 27,440 | \$ 27,440 |
| 29 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 1,511 | 14 | 1,525 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 30 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 24,496 | 178 | 24,674 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 99,056 | \$ 99,056 |
| 31 | 3" Commodity Usage | 12 | 0 | 12 | \$ 199.18 | \$ 2,390 | \$ 2,390 |
| 32 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 77 | 0 | 77 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 33 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 790 | 0 | 790 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 3,171 | \$ 3,171 |

RATE DESIGN AND PROOF OF RECOMMENDED REVENUE
RUCO PROPOSED REVENUE

| LINE NO. | DESCRIPTION | (A) TEST YEAR DETERMIN'TS | (B) RUCO ANN'ZED ADJTM'TS | (C) RUCO ADJUSTED DETERMIN'TS | (D) RUCO RECOMND'ED RATES | (E) RUCO PROPOSED REVENUES | (F) RUCO TOTAL REVENUES | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 4" Commodity Usage | 48 | 0 | 48 | \$ 295.23 | \$ 14,171 | \$ 14,171 | |
| 2 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 336 | 0 | 336 | \$ - | \$ - | | |
| 3 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 16,015 | 90 | 16,105 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 64,656 | \$ 64,656 | |
| 4 | 6" Commodity Usage | 12 | 0 | 12 | \$ 561.02 | \$ 6,732 | \$ 6,732 | |
| 5 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 84 | 0 | 84 | \$ - | \$ - | | |
| 6 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 7,707 | 0 | 7,707 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 30,940 | \$ 30,940 | |
| 7 | Total Commercial Customers | <u>1,665</u> | <u>159</u> | <u>1,824</u> | | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 8 | Total Commercial Usage | 70,390 | 2,142 | 72,532 | | | | |
| 9 | TOTAL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 375,560</u> | |
| Multi-Family | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 5/8" Commodity Usage | 113 | (5) | 108 | \$ 39.63 | \$ 4,280 | \$ 4,280 | |
| 11 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 660 | (35) | 625 | \$ - | \$ - | | |
| 12 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 528 | (20) | 508 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 2,039 | \$ 2,039 | |
| 13 | 1-1/2" Commodity Usage | 12 | 0 | 12 | \$ 82.43 | \$ 989 | \$ 989 | |
| 14 | First Tier - First 7,000 Gals. | 73 | 0 | 73 | \$ - | \$ - | | |
| 15 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | 18 | 0 | 18 | \$ 4.01 | \$ 72 | \$ 72 | |
| 16 | Total Multi-Family Customers | <u>125</u> | <u>(5.00)</u> | <u>120</u> | | | | |
| 17 | Total Commercial Usage | 1,279 | (55) | 1,224 | | | | |
| 18 | TOTAL MULTI-FAMILY CUSTOMER REVENUE | | | | | | <u>\$ 7,380</u> | |
| 23 | COMPANY TOTAL PROPOSED REVENUE PER BILL DETERMINANTS | | | | | | \$ 1,740,668 | |
| 24 | Other Revenue | | | | | | 250 | |
| 25 | COMPANY PROPOSED TOTAL REVENUES | | | | | | <u>\$ 1,740,918</u> | |
| 26 | RUCO TOTAL RECOMMENDED REVENUE PER BILL DETERMINANTS | | | | | | \$ 1,300,523 | |
| 27 | Other Revenue | | | | | | 250 | |
| 28 | TOTAL RUCO RECOMMENDED REVENUE PER TJC-1 | | | | | | <u>\$ 1,300,773</u> | |

TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BILL ANALYSIS

| LINE NO. | DESCRIPTION | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | (F) |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | | PRESENT | | COMPANY PROPOSED | | RUCO PROPOSED | |
| REVENUE ALLOCATION | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RESIDENTIAL | \$ 1,304,221 | 71.10% | \$ 1,241,618 | 71.15% | \$ 917,583 | 70.55% |
| 2 | COMMERCIAL | 518,027 | 28.24% | 493,162 | 28.26% | 375,560 | 28.68% |
| 3 | MULTI-FAMILY | 10,893 | 0.59% | 10,370 | 0.59% | 7,380 | 0.57% |
| | Unreconciled Difference | 1,090 | 0.06% | - | 0.00% | - | 0.00% |
| | TOTAL | \$ 1,834,231 | 100.00% | \$ 1,745,150 | 100.00% | \$ 1,300,523 | 100.00% |
| ALLOCATION RATIOS | | | | | | | |
| 4 | FIXED REVENUE | \$ 1,475,564 | 80.45% | \$ 1,414,566 | 80.36% | \$ 1,045,063 | 80.36% |
| 5 | VARIABLE REVENUE | 357,577 | 19.49% | 345,878 | 19.64% | 255,460 | 19.64% |
| | Unreconciled Difference | 1,090 | 0.06% | - | 0.00% | - | 0.00% |
| 6 | TOTAL | \$ 1,834,231 | 100.00% | \$ 1,760,844 | 100.00% | \$ 1,300,523 | 100.00% |
| RESIDENTIAL 5/8" METER RATE DESIGN | | | | | | | |
| | | PRESENT | | COMPANY PROPOSED | | RUCO PROPOSED | |
| 7 | BASIC MONTHLY CHARGE | \$ 56.36 | | \$ 53.65 | | \$ 39.63 | |
| | COMMODITY CHARGE: (Commercial & Multi-Family Only) | | | | | | |
| | | PRESENT | PROPOSED | | | | |
| 8 | First Tier - 0 Gals. To & 7,000 Gals. | \$ - | First Tier - 0 Gals. To & 7,000 Gals. | \$ - | | \$ - | |
| 9 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | \$ 5.71 | Second Tier - Over 7,000 Gals. | \$ 5.44 | | \$ 4.01 | |