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Re: Case 13-W-0303

United Water NY Long-Term Water Supply Source - October 1, 2013

** Please note this is a Preliminary transcript, subject to later edits when reviewed by the Administrative Law Judges assigned to the cases.

STATE OF NEW YORK PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Case No. 13-W-0303, Proceeding on the Motion of the Commission to Examine United Water New York, Inc.'s, Development of a New Long-Term Water Supply Source.

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Public Statement Hearing Clarkstown High School South 31 Demarest Mill Road West Nyack, New York

October 1, 2013 7:15 p.m.

PRESIDING:

KEVIN CASUTTO, ESQ.

Administrative Law Judge

ALSO PRESENT:

COMMISSIONER DIANE BURMAN

COMMISSIONER GREGG SAYER

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2	PROCEEDINGS
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4	ALJ CASUTTO: All right, let's go
5	on the record at this time.
6	I call case number 13-W-0303,
7	United Water of New York, Inc. proceeding on
8	a motion of the Commission to examine United
9	Water New York's development of a new
10	long-term water supply source in Rockland
11	County. My name is Kevin Casutto. I'm an
12	administrative law judge with the New York
13	State Department of Public Service. We're
14	fortunate to have with us tonight two
15	Commissioners of the Commission, who you've
16	been introduced to you earlier. We have
17	Commissioner Burman and Commissioner Sayer.
18	(Applause)
19	ALJ CASUTTO: On July 19th, 2013,
20	the Commission instituted this proceeding and
21	ordered United Water to employ a report
22	updating its assessment of need for a new
23	water supply source. The company filed its
24	report on August 17th.
25	We have had a very lively

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	informational forum just preceding this
3	Public Statement Hearing. So I think that
4	you understand the purpose of the Public
5	Statement Hearing. We do have a stenographer
6	present who will record your statements, so
7	please speak loudly and clearly as I call
8	your names to speak.
9	Now, I'm not going to place a time

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Now, I'm not going to place a time limit on the speakers, but I would ask you, as a courtesy to others who are waiting to speak, to try to be brief and to the point. We will begin by hearing by some of your elected representatives, and then we will turn to your comments, public comments.

Before we went on the record, some of you asked to continue the question and answer that was covered during the informational session. And after we hear from your elected officials, I'll ask the audience whether you would prefer to have some more question and answer rather than make comments on the record.

So let's turn to the statements we have. We have a podium up front here. And

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the first speaker will be Harriet Cornell,
3	chair of the Rockland County Legislature.
4	(Applause)
5	CHAIR CORNELL: Thank you very
6	much, Judge Casutto. And I certainly hope
7	that my friend Norman Cohen will have an
8	opportunity to ask his question. I've
9	already made arrangements with the
10	legislature to have someone else run the
11	meeting. But I do want to thank you for this
12	opportunity to speak. Little did I think
13	decades ago when I saw the movie Chinatown
14	that the issue of water would be here in
15	Rockland County, New York and we would be
16	spending all this time trying to understand
17	the value of water and what was happening.
18	I understand, and will follow, the
19	instructions for these hearings, focusing on
20	the question of need. But please forgive me
21	for expressing a level of frustration and
22	confusion which has dogged this process over
23	the past six or seven years since United
24	Water New York announced its preferred

project for a plant to convert brackish water

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 1 2 in the Hudson to drinking water. 3 What's happened is that the calls 4 for an issues conference, that is a 5 reasonably standard process, has just been 6 ignored, an issues conference by the DEC. disputed issues of fact have never been 7 8 resolved. And that's part of the reason why 9 so many people are here tonight. There's been confusion and frustration about that. 10 11 There's also been thousands of 12 signatures, hundreds of meetings, scores of 13 legislative resolutions, and they have all 14 fallen into a void. Not-for-profit organizations and local governments have 15 16 spent their resources on studies focused on 17 one project, the desalination plant. So I 18 really want to thank you for the Public Service Commission hearings coming tonight 19 20 because it's very welcome, it's a breath of 21 fresh air. It gives us an opportunity -- it 22 gives you an opportunity, all of us an opportunity, to hear from the public and to 23 24 provide transparency to the process.

25 The Public Service Commission has a

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	very wide ranging jurisdiction. And, as it
3	says on your Web site and it was shown
4	before, the Public Service Commission of the
5	State of New York has been ensuring safe,
6	reliable service and just and reasonable
7	rates since 1907. And there is a wide
8	ranging jurisdiction with sweeping powers and
9	responsibilities. That's why it is so
10	important for the Commissioners to be here to
11	listen to all of us today.

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Section five, number two of the Public Service Law, the law establishing the Public Service Commission, reads, and I quote, "The Commission shall encourage all persons and corporations subject to its jurisdiction to formulate and carry out long range programs individually or cooperatively for the performance of their public service responsibilities, with economy, efficiency and care for the public safety, the preservation of environmental values, and the conservation of natural resources." comments will focus on how to determine need objectively, and then how to ensure that the

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	need for water is met while still ensuring
3	just and reasonable rates. And I will
4	present a plan for a task force of persons
5	and corporations subject to the Public
6	Service Commission jurisdiction, just as it
7	says in the law forming the Public Service
8	Commission.
9	Offers of proof from testimony at
10	previous hearings tell us that the combined
11	capacity of the Rockland water supply system,
12	if managed properly, will be adequate to meet
13	projected future need for a long period of
14	time, ten years at least. Sufficient to make
15	any decision to increase supply via an
16	infrastructure project unnecessary.
17	(Applause)
18	CHAIR CORNELL: Given the evidence
19	that demand in recent years has been
20	significantly less than previous projections,
21	relied on at the time of the original order,
22	which, as you well know, was never a

23 requirement for a single project. It was 24 never that. It's necessary to focus on issues like Lake DeForest, better management 25

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of existing water resources, groundwater
3	recharge rates, and available demand side
4	management techniques.
5	I want to start with a real life
6	story which has major implications for
7	Rockland County's future and this county's
8	ability to conserve natural resources with
9	economy of efficiency and the preservation of
10	environmental values.
11	Over 25 years ago, a garbage barge,
12	it was called The Mobro, hauled the same load
13	of trash from Islip in Suffolk County, New
14	York to Belize, or Belize, and back again,
15	unable to dispose of it because of a national

unable to dispose of it because of a national landfill shortage. No coastal city along the United States would take the garbage from the barge.

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Rockland County decided to construct an expensive incinerator to burn the county's trash. A site on Route 303 was selected and a land purchase was just about to occur when environmental activists prevailed upon legislators to reduce the waste stream by supporting recycling instead.

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2 I remember this well, I was a young

3 legislator then.

Today, the Rockland County Solid

Waste Management Authority efficiently deals

with the county's recyclable materials and

collects revenues to offsets its operating

costs. Recycling is a more sustainable

solution and has spawned all other kinds of

environmental programs. County residents

have embraced recycling as a way of life. I

believe county residents will also embrace

conservation of water.

(Applause)

But new information has come to light since 2010 and certainly since 2006. The fact that the PSC ordered United Water of New York to develop a long term source to ensure Rockland's projected need for water was, as I mentioned, not an order for a single piece of infrastructure. There are a number of ways to ensure water supply, and the water coalition in Rockland has been examining model programs in this country and overseas, working with elected officials and

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	nationally known experts, some of whom you
3	will hear, in addition to Professor Appleton
4	who spoke before, to offer a plan that will
5	satisfy need, protect ratepayers, and create
6	more permanent jobs and promote economic
7	development.
8	Despite Mr. Pointing's rather
9	selective utilization of some of the studies,
10	his description of some of the studies, and I
11	must say I did take issue with his trying to
12	create fear about public health and safety,
13	that's
14	(Applause)
15	CHAIR CORNELL: And I'm not going
16	to go through all of the dozen or so new
17	pieces of information that have occurred
18	since in recent years. I'll just mention a
19	couple.

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The census figures, the census was taken in 2010. What hasn't been mentioned is that Rockland has experienced a huge growth in residents who are over the age of 65. And this is comprising a major shift in the age structure. So that more than 23,300 persons

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	will account add that to the entire
3	number will be accounting for 48 percent
4	of total growth. And we know that people on
5	fixed incomes are not going to be able to pay
6	higher rates for water. And, as we know,
7	increased rates will exert a downward
8	pressure on demand. We all know that when
9	people live on fixed incomes they are
LO	sometimes making decisions between food and
L1	medicine. They are also going to make a
12	decision about water use.

Also, the comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2011, I know it well because I worked with the county planning department and helped write it, we called for a comprehensive water plan focusing on best management practices, leakage controls, conservation, and made many recommendations regarding waste water reuse, stormwater, impervious surfaces, et cetera. So there's a huge amount in our comprehensive plan that's going to help this county move forward when we work together.

There are so many other things that

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I wanted to mention. Lake DeForest, the
reservoir. I live near Lake DeForest, the
reservoir. This is a source of water, as you
heard, for Rockland County. But a huge
amount of water is sent to New Jersey, way
beyond what was ever contemplated in the
original agreement. The agreement was
(Applause)
CHAIR CORNELL: There are presently
negotiations going on between United Water
New York and their parent company, United
Water New Jersey. The County of Rockland has
sought to have its attorney as part of those
negotiations. Thus far that has not
happened. But those negotiations are very,
very important because there's no reason why
more of that water shouldn't be for Rockland
County.
(Applause)
CHAIR CORNELL: And I do know that
one of our one or more of our experts will
be talking about that and giving you more
facts than I had done just now.

There is also the -- as I said, I'm

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	not going to go through all of these things,
3	but the permit, the inter-company agreement.
4	We do need a more equitable use of Lake
5	DeForest. That in itself will be a huge help
6	to us for water.
7	(Applause)
8	CHAIR CORNELL: I've been so
9	honored to work with these consultants.
10	Professor Appleton. We're going to be
11	hearing from Robert Kecskes, who is with the
12	New Jersey he's a water manager and he's
13	been with the New Jersey state department.
14	We're going to hear from him. We're also
15	going to be hearing from Charles McLane. So
16	you're going to hear a lot of very factual
17	and good information.
18	I simply want to say that it's too
19	bad that the State of New York doesn't really
20	have a long term water supply plan, and
21	whatever plan there was is very outdated, and
22	there's no regional water commission in this
23	region. Some states in some parts of the
24	states have that. What I am suggesting is

that we develop a process and a strategy to

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	prepare that comprehensive long term plan to
3	address water supply. And the County of

Rockland is ready to take the lead on water

conservation and to develop a comprehensive

plan, starting with the best management

practices that our comprehensive plan talks

about.

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And the task force, and I'm going to hope that the Public Service Commission will in some way or another endorse this task force to convene and to develop a comprehensive long term water plan, because it should be a process that's transparent, that's collaborative, that's inclusive. Its members should definitely include United Water, elected officials, the water coalition, the citizens, the organizations, the Public Service Commission, the DEC and others. And it will allow us to conduct those analyses that Professor Appleton talked about and that you'll hear more about. Baseline analyses of water consumption, trends analysis, cost benefits analysis, all of the modeling that really has not been done

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	to date. And, fortunately, we do have the
3	time to give this issue the attention it
4	requires. We are not in a crisis situation.
5	(Applause)
6	CHAIR CORNELL: We are not subject
7	to problems with health and public safety.
8	We have the time. And until this hearing
9	and I thank you once again for this
10	hearing it appeared that the collective we
11	were on the verge again of doing something
12	that wasn't necessary, environmentally
13	sustainable, or cost effective.
14	(Applause)
15	CHAIR CORNELL: And I think that,
16	as was mentioned before, the requests by
17	United Water for a surcharge and for rate
18	increases demonstrated that the handwriting
19	is on the wall for any project that is too
20	extensive for either commercial or
21	residential ratepayers to buy.
22	(Applause)
23	CHAIR CORNELL: So without being
24	facetious, and I don't mean this but the
25	reality is that United Water's proposed

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project has created enormous public awareness about the value of water, and it's galvanized the public in opposition. We are in a better place now with regard to educational efforts, greater understanding of water as a finite resource, and the need to plan and preserve.

And before I wind up, I just want to give you a stirring example of water conservation done by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, which is responsible for the water supply for 2.3 million people in the greater Boston area. They faced a major infrastructure project to increase water supply. Instead, they reduced per capita water consumption by one-third after a sustained conservation effort. This was addressed, and conservation -- be clear, we're not just talking about residential conservation. This was achieved by first addressing lost water, which are leaks in the system, implementing code changes, and instituting an aggressive conservation program. The program included directly installing water saving devices in homes,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	public education in schools, outreach to the
3	private sector, and collaboration with other
4	utilities. The leak detection program is
5	ongoing, as is the public education. And as
6	the director of that facility explained in a
7	phone call, the best time to do conservation
8	is when you have people's attention. We do
9	have the public's attention, and thankfully,
10	the attention of the Public Service
11	Commission.
12	Thank you very much.
13	(Applause)
14	ALJ CASUTTO: The next speaker is
15	New York State Senator David Carlucci.
16	Following Senator Carlucci we will hear from
17	New York State Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski.
18	SENATOR CARLUCCI: Good evening. I
19	want to thank you, Public Service Commission,
20	for heeding our call to come down and listen
21	to the residents of Rockland, the people that
22	will be forced to drink this water,
23	regardless of what happens. So I'll be brief
24	because I know so many of you want to speak
25	tonight. And I'm grateful to see so many

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303	

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3 As was said, we've heard 4 conflicting reports. And since 2006 a lot 5 has changed. We have heard about the United 6 States geological survey that indicates that 7 the aguifers are refilling at a faster pace 8 than thought. That the water is not on a 9 downward trend. That, in addition, Columbia University putting out a study that showed 10 11 that we can do more with conservation. 12 fact, upwards of ten percent conservation 13 savings by 2021. You've heard from the 14 experts like Professor Appleton. You've 15 heard a lengthy amount of information from 16 Chairwoman Cornell, and I'll be submitting 17 written testimony as well. 18 19

I want to keep it brief, but I want to thank the Public Service Commission for coming down, for listening to us, because this is an extremely important decision. And the thing that I want to emphasize is that we're not in a rush, that this is too important of a decision to be made hastily. We have to make sure that every stone is

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	overturned to make sure that we are making
3	the right decision for not only ourselves in
4	this room and not only Rockland County today,
5	but for future generations to come. So thank
6	you all for your commitment to our community,
7	and I look forward to working with all of you
8	that we make sure we have quality water for
9	the future of Rockland County.
10	Thank you.
11	(Applause)
12	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
13	Assemblyman Zebrowski. Following
14	Assemblyman Zebrowski will be New York State
15	Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee.
16	ASSEMBLYMAN ZEBROWSKI: Thank you,
17	your Honor, members of the Commission, the
18	public, thanks for having us here today.
19	Thanks for coming here to Rockland County.
20	We're in my alma mater, Clarkstown South High
21	School. It's a great place. So thank you
22	for coming here today.
23	I was one of the group of elected
24	officials that requested that Mr. Appleton be
25	able to present the other side of the case.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	So I don't want to reiterate that. There's
3	always trying to strike a balance between
4	expressing the views of the public as
5	expressed and also allowing them to speak.
6	So I will also, like Senator Carlucci, be
7	rather brief.
8	But just to summarize a little bit,
9	I think that the main thing here as we talk
LO	about need is that there are changed
11	circumstances since 2006. Certainly we've
L2	seen that usage has decreased. We've seen
L3	studies that have suggested that there is an
L4	increased capacity in our groundwater

circumstances since 2006. Certainly we've seen that usage has decreased. We've seen studies that have suggested that there is an increased capacity in our groundwater systems. We have seen instances where an excess of water has been sent to New Jersey, and we've heard from the County of Rockland that they're going to revisit the rule curve.

We've seen and heard about different

efficiencies that can be implemented.

And if I can just give an anecdotal story, where a constituent of mine had months, actually, well, quarters of estimated bills, there was a possible leak, he received three or four estimated bills, and then got

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	hit with a twenty thousand dollar water bill.
3	Twenty thousand dollars. I along with my
4	office helped assist him, and we took it all
5	the way to the Public Service Commission.
6	And, thankfully, the Public Service
7	Commission, after hearing testimony, did rule
8	in that constituent's favor. And what that
9	tells you is this. It's just one story, but
LO	it's not as efficient, the water system, as
L1	it could be. And if it can happen to that
L2	one constituent that happened upon my office,
L3	it can happen to a lot of constituencies.
L4	As you heard from Mr. Appleton, by
L5	just decreasing that water loss a few
L6	percentage points can leave a lot in terms of
L7	addressing demand.
L8	We've also not heard and not
L9	addressed the economic effects of the
20	increase of the prices. We have seen
21	numerous water rate hikes since that time.
22	And I think that it's elementary economics to
23	consider the effects that those have.
24	And we also haven't we've seen

tremendous climate change since that point.

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1	25 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	And regardless of where you stand on that
3	issue, it is without question that since 2006
4	here in Rockland County we have seen such
5	extreme weather events that it's often funny
6	that we are talking about this and talking
7	about droughts, where since that time, I was
8	elected in 2007, most of my work with United
9	Water has been with the residents of West
10	Nyack who have experienced such tremendous
11	flooding each and every time, and yet we are
12	talking about droughts.
13	(Applause)
14	ASSEMBLYMAN ZEBROWSKI: And I think
15	that we have to address that and have to
16	think about that and have to think about our
17	overall water policy.
18	I'm thankful that the head of

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United Water talked about New York and New Jersey having to work together, because my colleagues and I have been pushing for a bi-state watershed initiative to study the holistic approach to this issue. And I think now it's needed more than ever, before we sink hundreds of millions of dollars into

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	this project. And just to
3	(Applause)
4	ASSEMBLYMAN ZEBROWSKI: Just to
5	expand a little bit on what Professor
6	Appleton said, and I'll conclude with that.
7	In the event that the Commission does
8	conclude that an additional water source is
9	necessary, it's extremely important that a
LO	utility not be solely relied upon to analyze
L1	the available options.
L2	(Applause)
L3	ASSEMBLYMAN ZEBROWSKI: I'm well
L4	aware that this hearing is limited to need.
L5	However, we need to recognize that there are
L6	different gradations of need. United Water
L7	admits that in the past five years there's
L8	been a decrease. It's indisputable that this
L9	at the very least calls into question the
20	level of Rockland's future need. Therefore,
21	it would be imprudent to jump immediately to
22	the most costly alternative when the extent
23	of the problem is still in flux.
24	Need should not be an all or

nothing determination. If a speculative need

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	is established, the Commission should take an
3	active role in determining the most cost
4	effective way to meet future demand. The
5	Commission should mandate that the company
6	start with steps that are the least
7	expensive, such as efficiencies of
8	conservation, prior to authorizing a plan
9	that could be the most costly alternative.
10	(Applause)
11	ASSEMBLYMAN ZEBROWSKI: I thank the
12	Commission for its time. And I think what
13	the residents of Rockland County are really
14	looking for is someone to analyze the data,
15	we have seen data on both sides, and really
16	to represent the public. So thank you so
17	much.
18	(Applause)
19	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
20	The next speaker is New York State
21	Assemblywoman Helen Jaffee. Following
22	Assemblywoman Jaffee, Clarkstown Board Member
23	Shirley Lasker.
24	(Applause)
25	ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: Thank you

1	28 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	very much, your Honor, thank you for this
3	opportunity. I thank the Public Service
4	Commission for the opportunity, and good
5	evening.
6	Good evening to all of the
7	ratepayers who took their time from your very
8	busy schedules to be here tonight, because
9	this issue matters to all of us. I hope this
10	is the first of other opportunities for the
11	public to have a say in this process, that
12	will affect us very personally. Especially
13	with respect to economics in Rockland County.

I know I've spoken with the governor's office on several occasions, and hope that we can continue this dialogue.

We are here tonight to discuss whether Rockland needs additional water for the future. I'm hopeful that the Public Service Commission's reexamination of the need will result in serious consideration of all the new and previously undiscovered information regarding water supply in Rockland that we have discussed this evening, you know, and my colleagues have referred to

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

2 as well.

Based on the information available, you know, in 2006 I did join the rate case because I assumed at that time that there was going to be a very thorough study done to look at all the options and review all the possible approaches to this issue with a thorough, robust, transparent review. And unfortunately I haven't seen that, and I never saw that occur. I assumed that that was going to be open to new information that resulted from further study, and that didn't happen.

So what I did as county legislator at the time was to, you know, I became motivated to move it forward to that place.

I arranged for, I invited the USGS to visit the Rockland County Legislature and had a conversation about the possible study of the aquifer. And we did get them, with assistance from the county financially, as well as United Water and the state DEC, we were able to press for this landmark study of Rockland's county water by Paul Heisig of the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	United States Geological Survey, and I was
3	really pleased that we were able to get that
4	done.
5	The Heisig report certainly stands
6	out as previously undiscovered information.
7	For one, Paul Heisig found that there has not
8	been a downward trend in groundwater levels
9	across the aquifer. In fact, our aquifer is
10	recharging at a faster rate than previously
11	thought, which meant we were not facing the
12	imminent danger that was being suggested.
13	And, as important, Heisig found that our
14	needs are purely seasonal. Therefore, we are
15	not in crisis, as that continues to be
16	suggested.
17	Let's keep this in perspective.
18	Rockland is not Arizona or New Mexico or many
19	of the places in our nation struggling with
20	real need resulting from real drought, places
21	that would trade their situation with
22	Rockland, New York in a minute.
23	As Al Appleton said, Rockland
24	doesn't have a water problem, it has a water
25	management problem. We can

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 2 (Applause) 3 ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: We can come 4 up with low impact, common sense solutions. 5 Paul Heisig provides a framework for 6 solutions that subsequent experts have built 7 upon. Heisig says sustainability of water 8 resources in Rockland is largely dependent on 9 the ability to adjust for the use during 10 drought periods and during summer peak demand 11 periods, and avoid the loss of supply from 12 groundwater contamination. Better water 13 policy, real conservation, as noted by 14 Chairwoman Cornell, infrastructure 15 management, these are all initiatives that 16 spring from Heisig's report and provide the 17 direction that we need. 18 So our aquifer is healthier than we 19 thought. Our problem is merely seasonal. 20 What else has changed? Well, for one, 21 Rockland's actual water use has fallen short 22 of projections, as we have heard this 23 evening. Our demand for water has decreased.		2.1
ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: We can come up with low impact, common sense solutions. Paul Heisig provides a framework for solutions that subsequent experts have built upon. Heisig says sustainability of water resources in Rockland is largely dependent or the ability to adjust for the use during drought periods and during summer peak demand periods, and avoid the loss of supply from groundwater contamination. Better water policy, real conservation, as noted by Chairwoman Cornell, infrastructure management, these are all initiatives that spring from Heisig's report and provide the direction that we need. So our aquifer is healthier than we thought. Our problem is merely seasonal. What else has changed? Well, for one, Rockland's actual water use has fallen short of projections, as we have heard this evening. Our demand for water has decreased.	1	31 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
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21 Rockland's actual water use has fallen short 22 of projections, as we have heard this 23 evening. Our demand for water has decreased.	19	thought. Our problem is merely seasonal.
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evening. Our demand for water has decreased.	21	Rockland's actual water use has fallen short
	22	of projections, as we have heard this
24 And that is significant new information that	23	evening. Our demand for water has decreased.
	24	And that is significant new information that

25 the Public Service Commission must consider.

	2.7
1	92 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	The simple explanation is that as water
3	prices rise, our use declines. As our
4	population ages, our use declines.
5	One change I'm aware of as a
6	legislator in the State Assembly is that more
7	towns and villages now are reviewing all the
8	options and possibilities of undertaking
9	projects to save water. Now we're seeing a
10	new trend in the county with municipalities
11	creating water reclamation plants. And
12	significant, this county itself will form a
13	task force, as was noted this evening, to
14	explore water saving options. Conservation
15	is central.
16	And by the way, in Massachusetts,
17	as was noted earlier, the conservation
18	efforts, they have a desal plant that they
19	had built in Brockton. They didn't need it
20	anymore because they conserved their water.
21	(Applause)
22	ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: The city of
23	San Antonio, Texas should serve as an
24	inspiration, a city with a real water supply

problem. Its population has grown by

	2.2
1	93 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	two-thirds since 1984, but its water
3	customers use the same amount of water as
4	they did 29 years ago. If conservation can
5	work in a truly drought plagued area, it can
6	certainly work here with our average annual
7	rainfall of 48.5 inches. San Antonio has
8	almost half of that at 29 inches a year.
9	Conservation, better management of
LO	Lake DeForest, including fairer agreements
L1	with New Jersey.
L2	(Applause)
L3	ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: And we have
L4	to move forward with that new approach, would
L5	certainly provide ample water for Rockland.
L6	A rushed knee jerk response could lead to
L7	projects we can't afford. United Water has
L8	pushed the hysteria button. They have had
L9	seven years to look at easy, common sense
20	solutions such as conservation and water
21	management.
22	I urge the Public Service
23	Commission to be the voice of reason. Do not
24	treat Rockland like we're Arizona, New Mexico

or Southern California. We can put into

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	operation innovative water saving programs as
3	well as policies that will increase available
4	water. We have ten years, at least. Please
5	grant us this time.
6	Today I call on the Public Service
7	Commission to provide Rockland the time it
8	needs to put in place common sense demand
9	side solutions. In fact, I will be
10	introducing legislation to require, as
11	Massachusetts does, a bill requiring all
12	demand side solutions to be used before huge
13	pricing supply side projects can be
14	considered.
15	(Applause)
16	ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: I look
17	forward to working with you for a safe
18	(Applause)
19	ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAFFEE: I look
20	forward to working with you for a safe,
21	practical water policy that fits Rockland's
22	needs. And thank you so much for this
23	opportunity this evening.
24	(Applause)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Shirley Lasker,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Clarkstown Town Board Member. Following
3	Ms. Lasker, Chris St. Lawrence, Town of
4	Ramapo supervisor.
5	(Audience participation)
6	MS. LASKER: All right, my comments
7	are going to be brief but to the point,
8	because I think it's important for every
9	person in this room, every resident of
10	Rockland County who wishes to speak tonight,
11	to be able to have their voices heard.
12	(Applause)
13	MS. LASKER: So thank you, thank
14	you for this opportunity to speak frankly
15	with you about why Rockland County does not
16	need United Water's proposed Haverstraw
17	desalination plant.
18	I am deputy supervisor and council
19	member of the Town of Clarkstown, and also a
20	member of the Rockland Water Coalition. We
21	in Clarkstown are extremely proud of our
22	environmental record and accomplishments in
23	the area of land use, conservation of natural
24	resources, and control of development. We
25	have been the recipient of many awards,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	including the Rockland Business Association
3	Green Council Award in 2012, the Pace
4	University School of Law Land Use Law
5	Center's Founders Award in 2011 for
6	Excellence in Collaborative Decision Making,
7	Planning, Land Use and Sustainable
8	Development, and the New York State Planning
9	Federation's Comprehensive Plan Award in 2012
LO	for Clarkstown's Comprehensive Plan, which is
L1	recognized as a model for the entire state.
L2	The Town of Clarkstown is sending a
L3	loud and clear message to Governor Cuomo,
L4	which is: Just say no.
L5	(Applause)
L6	MS. LASKER: Say no to a hugely
L7	expensive, energy intensive and unnecessary
L8	plan that would adversely affect our
L9	residents' health and pocketbooks. As
20	elected officials, we are beholden to the
21	citizens' best interests and not the profit
22	margins of a large, multinational
23	corporation.
24	(Applause)

MS. LASKER: The Town of Clarkstown

	37
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	has had very limited growth. In fact, we
3	have had the lowest growth of any town in
4	Rockland. According to the recent census,
5	from 2000 to 2010 the population of
6	Unincorporated Clarkstown has only increased
7	by .8 percent. That is a total increase of
8	611 people for a period of ten years. Our
9	town's population of 78,867 people is 25
10	percent of the population of the entire
11	county. The Clarkstown school district has
12	had decreased enrollment, and projects
13	further decreases in the future. Certainly
14	United Water's projections of increased water
15	supply needs cannot be based on the actual
16	needs of Clarkstown residents.
17	(Applause)
18	MS. LASKER: Clarkstown's limited
19	growth is not an accident. It is a result of
20	decades of comprehensive land use planning.
21	We have been careful not to overburden the
22	infrastructure of our town, county and state.
23	We combined controlled residential
24	development with environmental protections,

open space acquisitions and sustainable

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	practices. Our 2009 comprehensive plan has
3	continued promoting these goals. More
4	specifically, our plan calls us to:
5	Protect and conserve both the
6	sources and supply of potable water, and the
7	natural features which add to water quality;
8	Enact limits on total development
9	coverage for all zoning districts;
LO	Require stormwater management to a
L1	higher extent than is currently applicable
L2	where development is proposed in watersheds
L3	which experience flooding;
L4	Establish stream protection
L5	corridors and enact wetlands protection
L6	ordinances;
L7	Continue the acquisition of open
L8	space to protect natural habitats;
L9	Implement programs which require
20	and/or encourage environmentally sound
21	business practices.
22	We have not left our plan on the
23	shelf. In the past four years the town has
24	enacted requirements and incentives for green
25	building which include water conservation

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	new stormwater management practices which
3	improve water quality and reduce runoff,
4	helping to recharge the groundwater.
5	Development coverage requirements in our most
6	flood prone areas, and caps on high density
7	residential developments. Just to name a
8	few. All of these factors working together
9	brings us to this. We have a lower demand
10	for water and more recharge of existing
11	supplies locally.
12	More can still be done and will be
13	done if we all work together on finding a
14	sensible solution to our water supply needs.
15	The county is forming a task force to develop
16	a comprehensive, long term county water plan
17	to ensure a safe supply that incorporates
18	sustainability. Clarkstown is looking
19	forward to participating with the task force
20	and promoting and implementing its findings.
21	On its own, the town is forming a
22	committee to reduce water demand by ten
23	percent in the near future.
24	(Applause)

MS. LASKER: Clarkstown and the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	other towns and villages in the county can
3	require developments to install low flow
4	fixtures and appliances, rainwater harvesting
5	and less impervious surfaces, and encourage
6	conservation through educational
7	informational workshops. The town will look
8	to reduce its own water usage by performing
9	an audit of its own facilities and
10	instituting water conservation measures that
11	will not only decrease water usage but save
12	taxpayers money.
13	Cornell Cooperative Extension has
14	research methods that can decrease nearly 50
15	percent of the water needs by residents for
16	landscaping purposes. If we apply these same
17	methods to businesses, government facilities,
18	and school grounds, the demand for water will
19	be greatly reduced.
20	(Applause)
21	MS. LASKER: It has been my
22	personal experience with United Water in the
23	14 years that I have been a councilwoman that
24	the company has shown little to no interest
25	in conservation.

	4.1
1	41 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(Applause)
3	MS. LASKER: They also seem
4	uninterested in infrastructure repairs that
5	would stop the enormous loss of water due to
6	leaks in other areas.
7	(Applause)
8	MS. LASKER: In summary, United
9	Water's desalination plant is not necessary,
10	and would be harmful to the health and
11	well-being of our county residents and
12	businesses. I do not want my grandchildren,
13	who live in New City, to drink and bathe with
14	water that has Strontium-90 untreated in it.
15	(Applause)
16	MS. LASKER: Yes, I have a personal
17	and vested interest in the water supply in
18	this county. But it's not an interest of
19	profit. The Town of Clarkstown asks that the
20	Commissioners and the Governor defend the
21	interests of Rockland's communities and
22	environment and stop this project
23	immediately.
24	Thank you for your time and
25	consideration.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(Applause)
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
4	The next speaker is Chris St.
5	Lawrence, Town of Ramapo Supervisor.
6	Following Supervisor St. Lawrence we'll hear
7	from Howard Phillips, Supervisor of the Town
8	of Haverstraw.
9	(Audience participation)
LO	SUPERVISOR ST. LAWRENCE: Good
L1	evening, Judge Casutto, and to Commissioner
L2	Sayer and Commissioner Burman, thank you for
L3	being here. I have some written remarks
L4	which I will give to the stenographer, I
L5	won't read them. I just want to make a few
L6	statements.
L7	I have intervened before the Public
L8	Service Commission in all of the United Water
L9	cases, all of the Orange & Rockland gas and
20	electric cases in the last decade. As a
21	supervisor of the Town of Ramapo, the largest
22	town in the state of New York outside of the
23	mega towns on Long Island, a very ethnically
24	diverse town, I can tell you we have spent

\$50 million in open space. Our first, very

	4.2
1	43 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	first open space purchase being the Ramapo
3	well field, which we have protected and which
4	has been cleaned of the paint sludge by Ford
5	as we speak. Hundreds of thousands of
6	material taken out that is protecting the
7	water source here in Rockland County.
8	It is important I think for people
9	to realize that we also are spending \$168
10	million in an advanced wastewater treatment
11	facility. A facility that puts in one and a
12	half million gallons of clean water back into
13	the Ramapo River or further up the stream
14	above the weir to keep our flows and the
15	Ramapo River above eight million gallons, so
16	we don't have to turn to the Ramapo well
17	fields. That is a way that we can extend the
18	ability of that Ramapo well field, which at
19	times can be 30 or 40 percent of the water in
20	Rockland County.
21	We talked about need, though, and
22	that's what I want to address the
23	Commissioners about.
24	In May of in May of 2010, this

very Commission came down with an austerity

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	edict. And many times in the rate cases we
3	are talking about very nebulous things maybe
4	to the public like return of equity and
5	things of that nature, decoupling. Very
6	seldom to we get to talk about conservation.
7	But I was at that table and intervened when
8	we talked about the future water needs of the
9	County of Rockland. And the numbers that
LO	were presented that day were not the numbers
L1	of the reality that is today. We've heard
L2	that. I think Mr Professor Appleton's
L3	wonderful, wonderful study lays that out.
L4	It is your edict that talks about
L5	austerity. So really, really, austerity?
L6	We're talking about spending \$186 million to
L7	suck water out of the Hudson River, while we
L8	release seven and a half million gallons of
L9	our own clean, free water out of Lake
20	DeForest. That makes no sense and there is
21	no need.
22	(Applause)
23	SUPERVISOR ST. LAWRENCE: You know,
24	the professor spoke about conservation and

ten percent. Harriet Cornell, the first lady

1	45 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of Rockland County, spoke about the barge
3	that went up and down the East Coast. For
4	the last 15 years as chairman of the Rockland
5	County Solid Waste Management Authority I
6	will tell you that we've taken 40 percent of
7	the material out of the waste stream from 15
8	years and recycled it.
9	(Applause)
10	SUPERVISOR ST. LAWRENCE: New York
11	City, the Professor has this in his notes in
12	his study, New York City had a 40 percent
13	saving in conservation. Boston, 25 percent.
14	He took a very modest ten percent. We can do
15	better than that. Ten percent yields three
16	million gallons. And leakage, the numbers of
17	one and a half million gallons a day in
18	leakage is also not an aggressive number. We

You know, there are a lot of people doing great work. Not just people like
Assemblywoman Jaffee and Senator Carlucci and Harriet Cornell and Ken Zebrowski and Shirley
Lasker and Rita Louie, all these elected

could easily get down from that 17 to ten

percent and increase that yield tremendously.

	4.6
1	46 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	officials. But there are a lot of people
3	that are ratepayers and just regular citizens
4	who are doing the job, whether it's George
5	Potanovic in SPACE or whether it's Bob Dillon
6	in the water coalition, or whether it is Phil
7	Bosco, who started the idea of a bi-state
8	Hackensack water protection area. We have
9	that in Ramapo. We have protected 162 square
10	miles of the Ramapo watershed with a 26
11	member bi-state, two states, four counties,
12	26 communities from Kiryas Joel to Pompton
13	Lakes in New Jersey. And yes, we can think
14	outside of the box, and yes, we could get
15	tapped into New York City water.
16	Need is not now, if ever, for a
17	plant of this size. You know, Ellen spoke
18	about the plant at Braintree. You can call
19	it whatever you want, a white elephant. You
20	can call it, as the Professor called it, I

think, a stranded investment. But we are planning to build something that will not bring tax revenue to North Rockland because what the ratepayers are going to be paying is far more than what's going to be collected in

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	taxes. But we are going to build something
3	that with this elasticity, which is a
4	reality, you price yourself out of the
5	market, you force people to have to conserve,
6	you can do that through smart techniques and
7	not by spending \$186 million on a desal
8	plant.
9	(Applause)
10	SUPERVISOR ST. LAWRENCE: But if
11	you do spend that money on a desal plant, if
12	you do spend that money on a desal plant, it
13	will be obsolete, out of work and not needed.
14	It is an exercise in futility. It's an
15	oxymoron.
16	If we were to release even four
17	million gallons of water from Lake DeForest,
18	you know, we do want to protect that
19	ecosystem on the Hackensack River, but even
20	using the recent court case, New York against
21	Delaware where the Supreme Court ruled on
22	what the flow needs to be to have that
23	sustainability, we'd be able to release even
24	more than four million gallons.

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I am not going to go on for a long

PUBLIC HEARING - 1	10/1/13 -	CASE NO.	13-W-0303
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time, but I do want to just make people think
of this one other thing. What were the
three, what were the three choices? As
Harriet said, it shouldn't be one, pick one,
it should be a comprehensive plan, that deals
with leakage and deals with conservation, and
deals with the demand side and not the supply

side. But there are three choices.

Ambreys Pond, we have heard about that forever. I don't think the DEC has allowed a dam in the State of New York in the last five decades. The desal plant. Or taking the water that we take in our sewage systems and cleaning it. And it can be done. And it will be the future, because water is that precious.

You know, the advanced wastewater treatment that was sent around, well, we could have done a tertiary plant with sequential batch reactors, but we didn't. We took it to microfiltration, taking out crypto, giardia, and bringing it to drinking water standards. One and a half million gallons a day, expandable to two million

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 2 gallons.

3 Where does the water go on the 28 4 million dollars -- 28 million gallons of 5 water that's used every day? It goes into 6 pipes, into sewer systems. Twenty-eight million of it comes, as the vice chairman of 7 the Rockland County Sewer District, 28 8 9 million gallons comes to our facility. We need to look at the ability to clean that 10 11 because it's two fold. Right now that is put 12 into the Hudson River. And if we could clean 13 it and utilize it, whether it's rainwater or 14 whether it's near drinking water that could 15 be put into a wetlands for mitigation. It 16 would be good for the environment, and it 17 would be a much more sustainable ability. 18 You know, we could help New Jersey by putting in clean drinking water into a manufactured 19 20 or into a built-up wetlands so we could get 21 the final polishing that could go into Lake 22 Tappan. That would be another way that we could deal with the bi-state agreement. 23 24

So to the Commission, need. Do we really need to spend \$186 million to bring in

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	seven and a half million gallons of water and
3	open up the flood gates at Lake DeForest and
4	let seven and a half million gallons go for
5	free? We don't need to do that. And we
6	don't need to do it for future generations
7	and we don't need to build a plant that will
8	price itself out of existence. Could we get
9	to 40 percent as New York City did with
10	conservation? Think if we got to 40 percent.
11	That would be 12 million gallons of water

that we'd have every day.

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So with all due respect to the Commissioners, I think you should follow your own edict of May 2010 on austerity. You have to make sure that we have a reliable water use and availability here in Rockland County. But you have to do it in the most cost efficient way. And the most cost efficient way quite clearly is quite visible to everyone in this room, and I believe to you Commissioner Burman and Commissioner Sayer, the most cost effective way is on the demand side.

Thank you very much. And I'll

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	submit a copy of my stuff.
3	(Applause)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: The next speaker is
5	Howard Phillips, supervisor of the Town of
6	Haverstraw. Following Supervisor Phillips
7	we'll hear from Rockland County Legislator Ed
8	Day.
9	Is Supervisor Phillips here?
10	(No response)
11	ALJ CASUTTO: All right, let's go
12	to County Legislator Ed Day. Ed Day?
13	(No response)
14	ALJ CASUTTO: All right. The next
15	speaker is Rita Louie, Trustee of the Village
16	of Pomona.
17	(Applause)
18	MS. LOUIE: Thank you so much to
19	the Public Service Commission for holding
20	these hearings. Sorry, I just have to find
21	my page. Okay. I thank you all for coming
22	out tonight.
23	I'm Rita Louie from the Village of
24	Pomona. I'm a trustee. I speak on behalf of

myself. I speak, I believe, on behalf the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Rockland Water Coalition that I'm a member
3	of. I also speak on behalf of the residents
4	and constituents in my village in Pomona.
5	And also for myself personally, and for my
6	family.
7	United Water was asked to present a
8	report to this Commission, which we got
9	tonight. I'd like to say that it's not worth
LO	the paper that it's written on.
L1	(Applause)
L2	MS. LOUIE: The reason I say that
L3	is because it is ludicrous to think that any
L4	corporation who has already spent \$150
L5	million researching and planning for a
L6	project to come out and for you to ask them
L7	do you still really need this, there's no way
L8	on earth they were going to come out and say
L9	never mind, we were wrong, we don't really
20	need this. So the report that they presented
21	tonight I wouldn't even count as a report.
22	With regards to population, I can
23	only speak for my own village. According to
24	our master plan, our village is pretty much

built out. We don't expect much more

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	population in our village. So they can
3	discount that.
4	Another issue of need that came out
5	in United Water's plan is fire protection.
6	They've talked about it in the DEIS, they've
7	talked about it in the reports, they've
8	talked about it a little bit tonight they
9	touched on it. Fire is extremely heinous,
LO	and of course firefighters must have the
L1	water pressure needed to put out fires.
L2	Somebody else also mentioned, I think it was
L3	Shirley mentioned that that fire that they
L4	often reference was a matter of valves and
L5	equipment. It had nothing to do with
L6	quantity of water. And to use scare tactics
L7	like that on our firefighters and for the
L8	people of Rockland County, to scare them that
L9	we might not have water to put out a fire is
20	reprehensible.
21	(Applause)
22	MS. LOUIE: There is another force
23	in the Hudson Valley, I dare say, that has

been much more destructive than fire in

recent years. And it's water. We've had

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	flooding the likes of which the Hudson Valley
3	hasn't seen of almost Biblical proportions in
4	Nyack, in Pomona, in Wesley Hills, in Ramapo,
5	in Suffern, in Pearl River. I don't think
6	in Stony Point. There isn't a part of
7	Rockland County that hasn't suffered severe
8	flooding damage over the past 20 years.
9	We had Hurricane Floyd back in the
10	early nineties that caused severe flooding
11	damage in parts of Rockland County, when
12	other parts of New York state weren't
13	affected that badly by that hurricane. We
14	had Hurricane Irene a couple of years ago
15	that caused severe flooding. We also had
16	heavy rainfalls that totally destroyed parts
17	of our county. So to talk about drought or
18	fire as a reason to have a new water supply,
19	when we have an enormous amount of water
20	doing much more destruction than either of
21	those natural occurrences is crazy. United
22	Water has ignored the flooding problem.
23	AUDIENCE MEMBER: They created a
24	few.

MS. LOUIE: Thank you.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	If United Water really cared about
3	the water or whether we have enough water in
4	Rockland County, then they might have taken a
5	mandate from the Public Service Commission
6	back in 2006 and used their brilliant
7	scientists and their water experts and
8	figured out how to manage the water that's
9	flooding the streets and destroying our
10	homes.
11	(Applause)
12	MS. LOUIE: They have instead
13	played the PSC. They made a mockery of the
14	original mandate as far as I'm concerned, and
15	used it to come up with this cockamamie
16	scheme that will make them millions of
17	dollars and cost us our home values, our
18	county reputation, and possibly our health.
19	(Applause)
20	MS. LOUIE: We have so much water
21	in Rockland County that people's homes have
22	been destroyed, bridges and roads have been

been destroyed, bridges and roads have been wiped out, schools and businesses have been closed for days and days at a time. Flooding from storms and heavy rainfall in Rockland

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1	56 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	County has cost the state and the federal
3	government millions and millions of dollars.
4	And the Governor should be paying attention
5	to this. Because if we don't manage the
6	water in Rockland County, and we continue to
7	allow building on wetlands which one other
8	thing I want to say, since 2006 and since
9	I've been in public service, I've been on the
10	planning board and in public service since
11	2002, I don't remember a single instance
12	where United Water has not issued a
13	compliance letter for a developer. Every
14	time a developer comes before them and says
15	we need okay from you that you have enough
16	water so that we can build our project, they
17	say oh, yeah, sure, we have got plenty of
18	water. So why are we here. Why are we here
19	saying we don't have enough water, when we
20	actually do.
21	As far as the Hackensack River, I'm
22	just going to say one more thing about the
23	Lake DeForest. I have friends who live down
24	in New Jersey. And I have been following a

plan in New Milford, New Jersey, where United

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Water New Jersey, who owns United Water New
3	York, is selling off crucial watershed
4	property in New Milford to developers along
5	the Hackensack River, against the will of the
6	people in the town of New Milford, New
7	Jersey. There's a huge fight going on down
8	there. Now, I don't know for sure, it's just
9	a gut feeling, but I suspect that United
10	Water New Jersey, who owns United Water New
11	York, is kind of their boss, feels that they
12	don't need that watershed property or that
13	wetland area in New Milford anymore because
14	of all the new water they're going to get
15	from Rockland County if they have too much
16	coming out of the desal plant that the
17	Rockland County ratepayers are going to pay
18	for.
19	(Applause)
20	MS. LOUIE: I'm not buying it, and
21	neither should you.
22	Thank you.
23	(Applause)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: All right, the next
25	speaker is Assemblyman James Skoufis, New

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1	58 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	York State Assemblyman James Skoufis.
3	ASSEMBLYMAN SKOUFIS: Good evening,
4	everyone, and thank you all for taking the
5	time to come here and listen to what are
6	clearly many questions and concerns.
7	I'm going to be brief. I know many
8	points have already been made, I don't want
9	to rehash them. And, you know, there's
10	certainly many smarter people in this room
11	that can speak to any health ramifications
12	and, you know, many more people who can speak
13	to, you know, some of the, whether it's
14	conservation, whether there truly is a need
15	here in Rockland County.
16	The point that I want to make that
17	hasn't really been made to this point is
18	that you know, I represent Stony Point.
19	That's the only town in Rockland County that
20	I do represent. The rest of my district lies
21	in Orange County. And in Orange County the
22	idea of a private company, you know,
23	controlling and owning the infrastructure and
24	thus, you know, really controlling the water

is a foreign concept.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(Applause)
3	ASSEMBLYMAN SKOUFIS: We either
4	have private wells or we have municipal
5	wells. And so what I'm getting at is if it
6	is determined that there is an increased need
7	in Rockland County, and that's a big if and I
8	think that there are many questions before
9	getting to that point, but if there is
10	determined that there is a need, I want to
11	point out that in Stony Point, where I
12	represent, in 2010, the latest census, 15,059
13	people. In 2000, 14,244 people. Less than a
14	thousand people as far as, you know, the
15	increase goes. Ramapo, 2010 census, 126,515
16	people. 2000, 108,905. You've seen almost a
17	20,000 person increase in just ten years in
18	Ramapo. What I'm getting at is if there is
19	determined to be a need in Rockland County,
20	Stony Point, which has not seen an increase
21	in growth, should not have to pay for it.
22	(Applause)
23	ASSEMBLYMAN SKOUFIS: Clarkstown
24	should not have to pay for it. Orangetown
25	should not have to pay for it. Haverstraw

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	should not have to pay for it. The only
3	significant growth happening in Rockland
4	County is Ramapo.
5	(Applause)
6	ASSEMBLYMAN SKOUFIS: And I don't
7	understand why my ratepayers have to pay for
8	that. So if there is determined to be a need
9	in Rockland County, I do hope that the PSC
10	puts conditions forth so that there's either
11	a tiered system of payment or that there is
12	some fair structure in place that my
13	constituents in Stony Point do not continue
14	to pay for the growth in Ramapo.
15	Thank you.
16	(Applause)
17	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
18	The next speaker is Patrick
19	Withers. Following Patrick Withers, Stuart
20	Braman.
21	Is Mr. Withers present?
22	MR. WITHERS: Yes.
23	Thank you, your Honor. I thank the
24	Commissioners for joining us. Thank you to

everyone for being here as well. My name is

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Patrick Withers. I'm the deputy supervisor
3	in the Town of Ramapo. I've also owned a
4	small business for almost 20 years called
5	Ireland's 32, a restaurant in Suffern, New
6	York. I'm going to bring two perspectives
7	here, one in government, and one as a former
8	business owner who knows what it's like to
9	pay his own taxes and his own bills and
10	United Water bills and stuff like that.
11	I'm going to bring some perspective
12	here that you're probably not aware of
13	because most of you said that you are not
14	from the area. There are other sources
15	available than the desalination than needs
16	to be a desalination plant. The potential
17	sources I'm aware of are the abandoned Tilcon
18	Quarry in Suffern, which the Town of Ramapo

We have recently requested the Suffern water department determine how

that offer.

owns. Pine Meadow Lake. The Town of Ramapo

owns the Tilcon Quarry and has offered it to

United Water. As a source of water, I'm not

sure why United Water has not even accepted

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1	62 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	many how surplus water that could be made
3	available to United Water. I understand that
4	some of the discussions was possibly seven
5	years ago, but I don't understand why, what
6	went wrong with those discussions.
7	Also in the Town of Ramapo is Pine
8	Meadow Lake. It's 73.4 acres and a mean
9	depth of 12 feet.
10	There are other sources of Rockland
11	County. And I'm offering my assistance to
12	you tomorrow to drive you around, on my own
13	time and own gas, to show you these big lakes
14	that are available to you in Rockland County.
15	One being at Stony Point, Hessian
16	Lake, 30.1 acres, with a depth of 24.6 feet.
17	Lake Sebago in the Town of
18	Haverstraw, 294 acres, a mean depth of 24.6
19	feet.
20	Lake Welch in the Town of
21	Haverstraw has a source of 205 acres and a
22	depth of 17 feet.
23	Rockland Lake in the Town of
24	Clarkstown, a source of 279 acres and a depth

of 14.4 feet. These are the lesser lakes

1	63 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	that have been available to data on the DEC
3	Web site. While I'm not an engineer, it
4	would seem to be there seem to be some of
5	the fresh water sources that could be tapped
6	and the less investigated and less
7	expensive than a \$170 million investment.
8	Thank you very much.
9	(Applause)
10	ALJ CASUTTO: Stuart Braman.
11	Following Stuart Braman, Simon Gruber.
12	MR. BRAMAN: I'm Stuart Braman,
13	adjunct associate research scientist at
14	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia
15	University.
16	(Applause)
17	MR. BRAMAN: I'm presenting tonight
18	on my own.
19	Since 2007 I've been studying
20	residential water use in Rockland County,
21	with the goal of understanding the nature and
22	the amount or the potential contribution
23	increased conservation could make to
24	addressing the gap between projected supply
25	and projected demand. In 2010, Simon Gruber

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and I looked into the history of water
3	conservation in Rockland County. And the
4	important take-away for today from that
5	research is the historical precedent for the
6	Public Service Commission to take an active
7	role with respect to United Water and the
8	actions United Water takes with respect to

water conservation.

In the eighties and the nineties the Public Service Commission played an effective role with United Water, requiring the analysis and implementation of conservation programs, including the summer-winter rate structure implemented in 1980, and the conservation studies and programs implemented in the early nineties. This historical precedent for an active Public Service Commission role with respect to conservation has encouraged the present circumstances.

In 2012, the county worked with two Columbia University sustainable development workshops to begin to address the water conservation potential in Rockland County.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	The first workshops specifically estimated
3	savings that could be achieved from increased
4	water conservation using software methodology
5	for the Alliance for Water Efficiencies on
6	behalf of the Rockland County Department of
7	Health. And in the course of a project for
8	the Rockland County Legislature and
9	Environment Committee, the second workshop
10	did due diligence in a sensitivity analysis
11	on the quantitative results of the first
12	workshop.
13	Following the second workshop, the
14	results were presented publicly three times
15	in Rockland County. These workshops looked
16	at the impact of seven potential water
17	conservation programs, both individually and
18	in combination. The programs analyzed were:
19	High efficiency toilet rebate
20	programs;
21	High efficiency washer rebate
22	programs;
23	Water efficient outdoor nozzle and
24	water efficient pre-rinse spray nozzle
25	giveaway programs;

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-V
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2	Irrigation	controller	rebate
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3 programs; and,

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4 Outdoor water waste ordinances.

In addition to estimating water savings, the workshops analyzed cost effectiveness as well, under both pessimistic and optimistic assumptions. The combined results of all seven programs were cost effective under all scenarios, both the pessimistic and optimistic. And savings nine years into the program ranged from 1.14 MGD in the pessimistic scenario, to 3.15 in the optimistic scenario. If you look at the mean result of 2.15 MGD, and add in a proportional amount to non-residential conservation, you get the same three MGD savings consistently with the amounts identified as a conservation savings potential by other speakers this evening.

Because toilet and washer rebates accounted for two-thirds of this analysis, and because United Water claims that there are no gains to be made there, and second, that their water conservation discounts were

_	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	equivalent to a rebate program, I just want
3	to report a few more details from that

4 analysis.

rebate, estimated to be half the cost of a new toilet and the plumbing. We started with United Water's claim that 85 percent of the toilets in Rockland County are already low flow, so the remaining 15 percent is what we looked at. And we looked at published toilet rebate case studies to get our pessimistic and optimistic assumptions of participation rates.

For the washers we also looked at a \$150 rebate, estimated to be half of the incremental cost of going to a high efficiency washer. Unlike the toilets, we didn't assume the rebate would be sufficient to motivate replacing an existing working washer, so we just looked at the washers that are replaced every year for the rebate program. And the savings combined in the toilet and washer rebates averaged 1.4 MGD, those two together.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Finally, I'd like to comment on the
3	oft-repeated statement by United Water that
4	as a private company they are not able to
5	mandate conservation. And it's true as a
6	private company they can't mandate
7	conservation. But the number of conservation
8	actions that they can take with PSC approval
9	is much larger than the number of activities
10	that they're not allowed to undertake, and I
11	just want to close by enumerating these.
12	The actions that United Water can't
13	undertake:
14	They can't pass ordinances or laws
15	prohibiting outdoor water waste, restricting
16	hours and days of outdoor watering;
17	They can't establish permit
18	requirements for underground irrigation
19	systems;
20	They can't require new development
21	to be water neutral.
22	But what they can do, with the
23	permission of the Public Service Commission,
24	the same kind of approval they need for
25	supply side options, is:

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	They can modify the pricing
3	structure directed specifically towards
4	discretionary water use;
5	They can modify the pricing
6	structure to bring non-residential pricing
7	structure in line with the conservation
8	oriented residential block structure,
9	increasing the block structure;
10	They could offer high efficiency
11	toilet rebates, high efficiency residential
12	washer rebates, irrigation controller
13	rebates;
14	They could give away efficient
15	watering nozzles, the pre-rinse spray
16	nozzles;
17	They could do residential and
18	non-residential water audits; and,
19	They could provide technical
20	assistance to commercial and industrial users
21	trying to plan for water conservation.
22	Thank you.
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
24	(Applause)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: The next speaker is

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-030
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2 Simon Gruber. Following Mr. Gruber is Norman

3 Cohen.

MR. GRUBER: Thank you. I'm an environmental planner based in Orange County. And I've been studying this process and this proposal for a number of years as an important case study in the region. And I want to say it is very important to be planning for weather and how to provide a new water supply. And I do not think the current proposal is as sound as it could be.

I want to start out by mentioning that, I don't like to disagree with the chairwoman, but there is actually a long term water supply plan for this region and for the state, but it's not surprising you wouldn't know that since it dates from 1989. I believe the PSC was probably a member of the Water Resources Planning Council; I didn't refresh my memory today. But this is a council that was formed by law. And the DEC is charged with maintaining that and updating the strategies the council created in 1989, but they have not done so. And that would be

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a specific method, a pathway for having

people at the table talk about need and how

to meet needs.

In any case, this project and this proposal and the original order, and I'm very glad you're having this re-hearing of the 2006 decision, it's very important not only for the county, obviously particularly for the people in the county and the people who pay for the water here, but it is an important precedent potentially for the region. And I'm hoping the PSC and the DEC and others can take this opportunity to look at a new way of going forward in a more coordinated way.

I don't think you can isolate need from a number of other factors, especially in an increasingly crowded and challenging environment with a growing population, albeit that's -- that's -- the trends are therein.

But need does not operate in a vacuum. In today's world it's much harder really to try to separate it out from some of these other issues that a lot of people are bringing up

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2 tonight in terms of conservation potential,

and the watershed flooding issue, which may

4 seem extraneous but in these watersheds the

5 water itself interacts with the groundwater

6 and the surface water and the land use and

7 the landscape in ways that really need to be

8 considered. And I would ask and recommend

9 that what is needed here is a much more

10 coordinated process.

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If you look -- Stuart mentioned the paper we wrote together. If you look at the history of the last seven years, it's a very linear, sequential, fragmented process.

Where the county Department of Health made a determination, your agency and your board with others came to a decision in 2006. The water company was given the role of developing a proposal for how to meet that order. Then the DEC was given a role of reviewing the proposal. Everybody should have been together at the same table in the first place. And I mentioned this old water resources planning council, which technically on paper still exists, but in some fashion

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	may be the task force that was mentioned.
3	And I heard something, I believe
4	Assemblywoman Jaffee mentioned or maybe it
5	was somebody else that there might be a
6	provision actually in the PSC law where the
7	PSC could be formally sort of sanctioning
8	some kind of task force. I had never heard
9	about that before. But in any case, if you
LO	can, I would urge you to think about how, as
L1	Assemblymen Zebrowski said, the PSC should be
L2	playing a more active role. Not just sort of
L3	hoping you need to do this, but how is it
L4	done and what are the implications.
L5	Thank you.
L6	(Applause)
L7	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
L8	The next speaker is Norman Cohen.
L9	After Mr. Cohen we'll hear from John Jay
20	Tormey, attorney at law.
21	MR. COHEN: Thank you. I'm here to
22	talk about the wonders of desalinization.
23	Here we have a system that sort of
24	reminds me of Alice in Wonderland, except
25	Alice in Wonderland was written by a

	T 4
1	74 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	mathematician, and I don't see anything
3	mathematical about this proposal.
4	The problem here is that this is a
5	facility that has to operate around the
6	clock, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
7	Now, when you have a large facility like
8	this, in order to justify a rate increase to
9	you, Public Service Commission, you must keep
10	it operating. You can't have a piping
11	operation or peaking operation that goes on,
12	off, on, off as water is needed. How then do
13	you regulate the problem of flooding or
14	mitigating once the aquifers become saturated
15	if we have a situation where we have storms,
16	heavy rains and so forth. Then what is the
17	net result? Surface flooding. Ah, then we
18	have to call in FEMA or we have to call in
19	the Governor. Isn't that expensive? Is that
20	what Albany wants? Is that what you want us
21	to be confronted with?
22	You can't predict climate cycles.
23	It's chaotic, it's chaotic science, it's not
24	precise. I don't care what formulation you

use, you cannot precisely figure out when the

1 PUBLIC HEARING	- 10/1/13 -	CASE NO.	13-W-0303
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2 next major hit is going to take place. It's

just there is not such an accurate science

4 that can be quantified mathematically.

So what you're dealing with essentially is a loose concept of projection analysis, which sounds good on paper but you can't tell that to Mother Nature. Mother Nature doesn't understand that. And you are trying to control Mother Nature. And then what happens. You say well, the only way we can justify our course and our operation is to continue running it.

You also have the other problem is you're putting a very expensive membrane in that facility, and you don't want that membrane to dry out, so you want to keep it running and you want to keep the facility running. Well, I don't know if that's such a great idea either.

So in conclusion, what I'd like to say is why should we pay for a service that at times is not needed, yet is going to be continuously operating in order to justify to the Public Service Commission the right to a

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	formula which states that we need more money
3	or this is what it's costing us, because you
4	are wise people, you are not going to pay for
5	something that's not being used. And so if
6	they were to operate it on and off, on and
7	off, or during that off cycle or short term,
8	you're going to ask for some kind of rebate
9	from United Water saying look, you didn't
10	provide the service; therefore, the rate
11	increase is not justifiable, or we'd like to
12	see a rebate. So there's the logic. I don't
13	know where it comes from.
14	Thank you.
15	(Applause)
16	ALJ CASUTTO: All right, the next
17	speaker is John Jay Tormey III. Following
18	Mr. Tormey, Mike DiTullo of the Rockland
19	Economic Development Council.
20	MR. TORMEY: Commissioner Sayer,
21	Commissioner Burman, thank you for the
22	opportunity to speak.
23	Judge Casutto, I want to start with
24	a personal apology. I got a little hot under
25	the collar before when Mr. Norman Cohen's

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	comments were cut off. I appreciate the fact
3	that he was able to put comments on the
4	record, and I want to personally apologize
5	for my reaction to it earlier. But he is a
6	senior and he's also one of the heads of our
7	AARP in Rockland County. My feeling is that
8	seniors deserve a particular amount of
9	respect and should be listened to, and their
10	instincts especially by virtue of their
11	experience should be listened to. What I'm
12	hearing
13	(Applause)
13 14	(Applause) MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because
14	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because
14 15	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of
14 15 16	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout
14 15 16 17	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout the evening is on instinct. Instinctually I
14 15 16 17	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout the evening is on instinct. Instinctually I believe that the bulk of the people in this
14 15 16 17 18	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout the evening is on instinct. Instinctually I believe that the bulk of the people in this room believe the argument about shortage,
14 15 16 17 18 19	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout the evening is on instinct. Instinctually I believe that the bulk of the people in this room believe the argument about shortage, about need propounded by United Water is
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. TORMEY: Thank you. Because what I'm hearing in this room in terms of side conversations that I'm having throughout the evening is on instinct. Instinctually I believe that the bulk of the people in this room believe the argument about shortage, about need propounded by United Water is pretextual. It was concocted to create a

this issue before. I mean aside from my

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	fighting United Water in 2007 when they
3	dumped arsenic into our water supply, which I
4	wasn't happy about, we also fought the FAA.
5	And the FAA used a similar type of logic.
6	They concocted a shortage, they concocted
7	crowded air space, they blamed us, the
8	victim, for it, and then they said well,
9	you're going to have to pay for it in terms
LO	of having to suffer up to 600 jumbo jets a
L1	day over Chestnut Ridge. We said no. Right
L2	now there are no planes, no jumbo jets over
L3	Chestnut Ridge because the people spoke.
L4	(Applause)
L5	MR. TORMEY: And I think the people
L6	need to speak here again. And we are going
L7	to speak in greater volumes than are in this
L8	room because you have a meeting tomorrow
L9	night, there are going to be more people
20	tomorrow night. There are going to be more
21	people that are part of the email trail that
22	are part of the blogosphere, and we're going
23	to have everybody in Rockland County
24	sensitized to this issue.

I want to start -- well, I am an $\,$

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	entertainment lawyer. I'm not an
3	environmental lawyer, I'm not a water lawyer.
4	So when I get under stress I tend to respond
5	with Shakespeare. And I say, "Offer me your
6	reckoning to all the numbers that we have
7	heard tonight." We have heard 17 percent
8	leakage. We've heard 18 months of a faulty
9	valve in DeForest that let water run to New
10	Jersey without any accounting. We've heard
11	28.9 percent rate increase. We've heard 7.5
12	million gallons of water get sent down to New
13	Jersey, again, at our expense it sounds like.
14	The cost of the plan varies, 140 million, 157
15	million, \$186 million.
16	The number that I want to focus on
17	is the number 45 percent. Does anybody in
18	this room know the significance of the number
19	45 percent? Does anybody on the Commission
20	know the significance of the number? You do.
21	Camden, New Jersey, 2009. United
22	Water New Jersey, which is apparently the
23	parent company. I consider then the same
24	enterprise, United Water New Jersey, United
25	Water New York. I just spoke to the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	investigator today on the phone, or one of
3	them, with the office of the state
4	comptroller in the state of New Jersey. You
5	know what happened in Camden, New Jersey,
6	speaking of lack of conservation on the part
7	of United Water? I will tell you because I
8	love this story, and it's instructive to us
9	as to what we need to do to solve our
10	apparent water problem, which I still think
11	is concocted, but we do need to take the long
12	view and make sure that our children and
13	children's children do have water and safe
14	water to drink.
15	OSC, by the way, is Office of the
16	State Comptroller of the state of New Jersey.
17	And this is from 2009. The comptroller's
18	name is a Matthew Boxer, who I believe is
19	still the comptroller. This document is
20	available on the Web. It's certainly going
21	to be on my blog, by the way,
22	unitedwatersuez.blogs.com, so you'll see this
23	up on my blog too.
24	The OSC audit, again, from 2009,
25	determined, among other findings relating to

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2 health sometimes, that from 2004 to 2008, and

3 average of 45 percent of the city's water

4 production went either unbilled or unused.

5 Forty-five percent water loss, a combination

of leakage, storage overflows, meter

7 inaccuracies and errors in customer billing

8 systems far exceeds the ten percent maximum

9 in the city's contract with its water

10 service. Guess who its water service was?

11 United Water, LLC. It's the same cast of

12 characters.

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My question is, why should we trust this cast of United Water when that cast of United Water a couple of years ago was responsible in what is apparently an unanswered allegation. United Water's response was to sue the comptroller, or the state, but for money, not responding to the 45 percent leakage allegation. Why should we trust them now when we know what their track record is? Why should we trust them at all. And I would encourage anybody that's interested in conservation to look at how Camden exposed it.

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 1 2 Now, the only experience I have in 3 my own life to liken this to is the 4 accounting of money. Like some of the other 5 speakers tonight -- let's take the number in 6 the number that sounds most favorable to United Water. Let's assume that they didn't 7 8 leak 45 percent of our Rockland County water 9 over the past couple of years. Let's assume 10 that it's a lesser number than that. 11 assume it's the 17 percent that I believe 12 Professor Appleton cited earlier tonight. 13 And by the way, Professor Appleton, thank you 14 for that speech because that was wonderful what you did earlier, thank you. 15 16 (Applause) MR. TORMEY: By analogy, if I'm a 17 18 lawyer and I take client money and I put it into an escrow account, and then the next 19 20

year I tell the client or the client asks me, and I say oh, 17 percent of that money is gone. What's going to happen to me as a professional? No job, no license. And I submit to you that maybe that's the same thing that should happen to the people that

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1	83 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	are sitting here. No job, no license.
3	(Applause)
4	MR. TORMEY: I lean back on
5	Shakespeare. The fault lies not in our stars
6	but within ourselves. And actually the
7	quote, I just looked it up, is, "The fault,
8	Dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in
9	ourselves." So rather than United Water,
LO	look at the stars. Because these people, my
L1	friends, my neighbors, these are my stars.
L2	I think United Water on the issue
L3	of need should look at themselves and all the
L4	things over the years in Camden, in here, in
L5	Toms River, in Indianapolis, all the places
L6	that United Water has botched up its water
L7	system, why doesn't United Water take a
L8	closer look at how it can conserve and
L9	prevent a 17 percent loss or 45 percent loss.
20	That's a public asset, that water is a public
21	asset. It is a property. It is proprietary.
22	It's proprietary to us and proprietary to
23	everybody in this room.
24	And with all due respect, both

Commissioners and you, your Honor, as public

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	officials when you become aware of
3	exfoliation of a public asset of an
4	unexplained, unsupported loss of a public
5	asset of that magnitude, if you multiply 17
6	percent by the volume of water, that's a huge
7	amount of water and a huge amount of money.
8	My feeling is, it's worth asking. Might each
9	of the Commission members not have a
10	professional obligation to make a call over
11	to some prosecutorial authority and ask for
12	an investigation as to why that 17 percent of
13	the water supply disappeared without
14	accounting?
15	(Applause)
16	MR. TORMEY: And how come that
17	referral hasn't happened? And if it hasn't
18	happened and if the PSC is not going to do
19	it, I know of a few friends and a few
20	citizens who might be able to make that call
21	themselves. Because I certainly can think of
22	one that's willing to make that call, myself.
23	Anyway, I appreciate your time.
24	Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
25	(Applause)

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
3	The next speaker is Mike DiTullo.
4	And we'll have one or two more speakers and
5	then we'll take a break and let the
6	stenographer have a break.
7	MR. DiTULLO: Good evening,
8	Commissioners, and good evening, ladies and
9	gentlemen. This has been quite an evening.
10	And I'm going to talk specifically about
11	economic development here in Rockland County.
12	As the CEO of the Rockland Economic
13	Development Corporation, I have an acute
14	interest in the economic well-being of the
15	county. In order to retain and to attract
16	inward corporate investment, it is imperative
17	that we have dependable abundant
18	infrastructure. It's the number one factor
19	when companies are doing due diligence and
20	checking into investing into the county.
21	I'm not going to talk about
22	scientific and technical evidence. I'm going
23	to talk specifically about need.
24	In 2006 and 2010 many of you know,
25	in fact, I think all of you know, that the

1	96 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Public Service Commission, with expert input
3	from the Rockland Department of Health,
4	determined that there was a need for a new
5	long term water supply in Rockland County.
6	That's why the Public Service Commission
7	required United Water to develop a project to
8	meet Rockland's long term needs. Not the
9	short term needs, not the flood that we had
10	last week, not the oversupply that we had six
11	months ago, but our long term needs for
12	multi-generations.
13	Now, some people have talked about
14	specific villages that aren't growing. Well,
15	the county is growing. The population has
16	continued to grow, and according to new
17	studies, over the last decade it has
18	increased by more than ten percent. It is
19	now about 320,000.
20	United Water filed, it was
21	mentioned earlier, a 53 page report on August
22	19th that confirmed that Rockland County's
23	current water supply will not support the
24	growth that is already happening and will

continue to happen in the coming years.

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1	87 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where is it
3	happening?
4	MR. DiTULLO: The analysis is based
5	upon the most recent population projections,
6	water demand forecasts, water supply
7	information, and economic growth patterns.
8	Let's talk about the growth
9	patterns. There has been a recession, but
10	over the last two years Rockland County has
11	had more than two million square feet of
12	corporate occupancy. Major companies like
13	FedEx, Hunter Douglas, Raymour & Flanigan
14	with their corporate service center and
15	distribution center. So many other
16	companies. Bloomberg, that we just mentioned
17	recently. Three new companies have located
18	into the Pfizer campus, two more are looking
19	to move in shortly. And Pfizer is not going
20	to vacate. They're going to be locating
21	their global research center there. That
22	says something about the county and about
23	their confidence in our market area.
24	The need for water is expected to

grow as the economy continues to recover,

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	especially given some of the big projects
3	that are on the horizon. The Tappan Zee
4	Bridge. We talked about the Bloomberg data
5	center in Orangeburg. There are other IT
6	centers, data centers, biotech prospects that
7	have short listed Rockland County. And by
8	the way, year over year, just the most recent
9	Department of Labor numbers came out, and
LO	Rockland gained 3,400 jobs year over year.
L1	So we're seeing that happening now. And
L2	infrastructure is a key indicator.
L3	After an in-depth study of all the
L4	possible ways to meet the growing need for
L5	water, United Water proposed the Haverstraw
L6	water supply project. It will provide
L7	quality water, cost the least to build and
L8	operate, and perhaps most importantly is the
L9	most drought tolerant. Yes, there's

conservation, there's other means. But long term we need a dependent and abundant water supply. I can't overemphasize that if we really want to be a world class competitor.

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The project has been under review since 2007. This is the third time that I've

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	testified at hearings. And I'm sure many of
3	you have testified even more than that. And
4	that's a good thing.
5	United Water has compiled a 1,500
6	page environmental report, 1,500 pages, with
7	the Department of Environmental Conservation.
8	It's built a test facility and run the water
9	quality tests over a year. Received input
10	from over 70 experts, and participated in
11	more than a dozen public hearings.
12	The project will create nearly a
13	thousand direct construction jobs, and
14	deliver over seven
15	(Audience participation)
16	MR. DiTULLO: That's not yeah,
17	tell that to your neighbors that's not
18	important. A thousand construction jobs will
19	pump more than \$70 million of payroll into
20	the county during that period.
21	(Audience participation)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay, please come to
23	order. Let's allow let's allow the
24	speaker to make his statement. Let's let
25	everybody be heard tonight.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	MR. DiTULLO: Thank you. And I
3	know you all want that.
4	Also, as many of you know, this
5	will be tax positive. More than \$7 million
6	will benefit the Town of Haverstraw, North
7	Rockland school district, and the County of
8	Rockland. Seven million dollars. Business,
9	labor and community groups representing more
10	than 310,000 people have publicly stated they
11	support the Haverstraw water supply project.
12	Further delays will only increase the overall
13	costs to customers, and put Rockland at risk
14	of future water shortage.
15	We would submit that we need this
16	project. We need the investment in
17	infrastructure. We need the tax positive
18	rate boost. We need the Haverstraw water
19	supply project to move forward so that
20	Rockland County can move forward.
21	Thank you.
22	(Applause)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
24	All right. The next speakers are
25	Al Appleton, Robert Kecskes, and then Charles

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	McLane. So Mr. Appleton, would you like to
3	come forward, please.
4	(Applause)
5	MR. APPLETON: Thank you, your
6	Honor. Thank you, your Honor, thank you,
7	members of the Commission. There are a few
8	points I would like to make.
9	I did hear the comment in the
LO	audience about supposedly about need. That
L1	seemed to be a very fairly passionate
L2	argument I just heard for a particular
L3	solution. So I'd just like to very briefly
L4	touch on that. The thousand jobs would come
L5	at the cost of doubling the water rates. The
L6	question of what that impact would be on
L7	economic activity in the county has obviously
L8	not been factored into that analysis.
L9	We were also told that this the
20	businesses like essentially reliable
21	infrastructure. The \$150 million or so that
22	the desal plant would use up is going to
23	essentially preempt the kind of money you
24	need for maintaining your street

infrastructure. So that essentially you are

1	92 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	talking about
3	(Applause)
4	MR. APPLETON: If you're talking
5	about infrastructure reliability, you don't
6	have it in that situation. And the same
7	thing about the positive tax ratables. I
8	mean is all of this really worth doubling the
9	water rates? I mean let's be real
10	businessmen about this, let's see how this
11	pencils out.
12	All right. A couple of points I
13	wanted to just re-emphasize again to the
14	Commission. First of all, in looking at
15	need, if you do not look at cost and if you
16	do not look at its impact on demand, you will
17	not be engaging in a real world exercise. We
18	will submit many, many studies of elasticity
19	of water demand with respect to price, and we
20	will of course invite United Water to refute
21	those. Even more, we will invite the
22	Commission to direct that United Water fund
23	an impartial study of the impact of water
24	rates and the impact to the changes in

disposable income on water development for

	0.3
1	93 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Rockland County.
3	I was particularly also interested
4	to note that they brag about their
5	conservation program, at the same time
6	telling us demand is going to shoot up in the
7	future. But I failed to connect something
8	here. Did I miss something?
9	Speaking of conservation, I am the
10	person who saved the 40 percent water in New
11	York City. And the reason we saved that 40
12	percent water in New York City, it cost us
13	\$550 million to do that, and we saved \$5
14	billion in infrastructure. Just as when we
15	did our watershed protection program, it cost
16	us one billion dollars to do that and we
17	saved \$8 billion. The point about
18	sustainability is this. You make the
19	environment pay for itself. And when you do
20	that, when you assess the need properly, you
21	must assess this need properly because the
22	economic and environmental implications for
23	Rockland are so high.
24	Now, at the coalition's request I

Now, at the coalition's request I have prepared a study that I will be

1 PUBLIC HEARING - $10/1/13$ - CASE NO. 13-V
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submitting it on the record for the review of this Commission. I will also be submitting the comments made tonight.

about which Mr. Braman made, he actually stole some of my thunder. It's very important for you to understand that most of what is done in conservation does not depend upon the oft-stated claim oh, we don't have the power to do that. You know, kind of like my teenage daughter telling me she can't deny the group when they all want to go to that rock concert at two in the morning. The truth of the matter is most -- all the activities proposed in my report as a demand side solution to add water to Rockland County is within the power of United Water or it's within the power of the PSC to order it.

First of all, let's talk about

DeForest. I would like to make it clear that
in my report I do not advocate diving in
through all the intricacies of water

management in New Jersey, though that would
certainly be an interesting topic. The truth

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of the matter is, though, under the permit
3	for DeForest, Rockland County as the original
4	permit holder has the authority to reopen
5	that permit at any time and consider the
6	conditions for passing flow. Passing flow
7	must meet two requirements. The water
8	necessarily for the riparian downstream use
9	in New Jersey, and the water necessary to
LO	protect that, the environmental resource. As
L1	Mr. Kecskes is going to talk about in more
L2	detail when he testifies, through a number of
L3	standards, New Jersey's own standard for
L4	passing flow, New Jersey's level of effort
L5	versus Rockland in terms of managing its
L6	water, through the size of the watershed,
L7	through other technical and hydrologic
L8	consideration, there is an overwhelming
L9	argument for DEC to change the permit
20	conditions to give Rockland four million
21	gallons a day of extra water out of the
22	DeForest.
23	(Applause)
24	MR. APPLETON: I might also add

that removing that water and the plan for

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1	96 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	which you manage, you know, this is a
3	conjunctive system, you've got to balance
4	groundwater with surface water, that will
5	give you some flexibility perhaps in your
6	flood management plan. So that basically
7	this PSC should not rule on any demand, any
8	need until DEC has acted upon the legal right
9	of Rockland to invoke this permit change.
10	They should also not approve anything in the
11	inter-company agreement that will be
12	allocating cost because it will create
13	incentives for how we will manage that future
14	need.
15	Now, the other things of water
16	conservation, water main protection, water
17	main leakage, I'm not sure I agree that the
18	1.7 17 percent loss in water leakage
19	represents anything criminal. I certainly
20	agree it represents bad business, because
21	water main leakage control is not rocket
22	science. And indeed, in the DEIS United

Water claims that by using until such time in

2030 they will get at least a 1.2 percent --

a 1.2 million gallons a day reduction in

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	leakage. So my question is of course why do
3	you have to wait 25 years to accomplish this
4	when these are basically very straightforward
5	things and when the alternative is spending
6	so much money.
7	Lastly, most of our conservation is
8	the result of incentives in public education.
9	Those are both controlled, as Mr. Braman so
10	accurately pointed out, by United Water.
11	They're perfectly capable of doing this.
12	I would like to mention one thing
13	about rates. United Water was talking about
14	we have a kind of conservation rate system.
15	They really don't. What you really want to
16	have in terms of conservation is a rate
17	system that targets discretionary use such as
18	lawn watering, which is called an ascending
19	block ground rate. The problem with an
20	across the board rate on summer water usage
21	is that it penalizes people for their
22	essential water use as well as their
23	nonessential water use.
24	(Telephone interruption)
25	MR. APPLETON: Sorry, that better

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1	98 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	not be my wife. It is, sorry. I forgot to
3	turn that off, I apologize.
4	All right. So what should the
5	Commission do. You heard discussion of an
6	inter-agency task force. Essentially what
7	they're trying to do is something that is
8	often done in modern water planning, which is
9	create a stakeholder driven planning process.
10	This stakeholder driven planning process
11	should go through two tiers.
12	The first tier is that it should
13	look at the immediate demand measures that
14	have been proposed to cover the projected 7.1
15	million gallons a day, assuming that's the
16	real need, which it's not, as I have
17	discussed earlier. The second thing is the
18	long term water plan in which all of the
19	other solutions that you heard talked about
20	here, the various reservoirs, the various
21	lakes, capturing stormwater, recycling sewage
22	water, ultra conservation could be looked at.
23	So you first do the due diligence

on the immediate solution, which as I suggest in my report is worth $8.5\ \mathrm{million}$ gallons a

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1	PUBLIC I	HEARING -	10/1/13	3 - C2	ASE NO.	13-W-0303
2	day,	then you	do the	long	term w	ater plan.

3 It is my professional opinion that if

4 Rockland County follows the strategy it will

be, sorry for the flooding analogy, swimming

6 in water. That is, there's clearly no long

7 term water demand through at least 2030. If

8 you do this, we've talked about the long

9 term, you'll have enough water forever. That

is, this is counted at 49 inches of rain with

an awful lot of water features and very good

12 groundwater. There is no long term need.

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that. We heard that the current water -that the drop in projected demand is going to
leave us about five million gallons a day
below the 2014 available water after they
have implemented, commendably, the short term
recommendations of the PSC. The cover of a
five million water gallon gap would mean for
the next four years water usage in this
county would have to grow five percent a
year. Now, I do not believe there's anybody
who reliably thinks that with these price
impacts water usage in Rockland is going to

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

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grow five percent a year. And that assumes

3 that the demand is not going to be further

4 depressed by the rate increases that are

5 already pending with some of the initiatives

6 we have already heard. So that it's very

7 difficult for me to -- I mean they're

8 continuing to repeat trends, they're

9 continuing to repeat population data, we're

10 continuing to hear stories of all these

11 business. They don't add up to what's going

on in the demand figures we are actually

seeing. Something else is going on here.

So when the Commission comes to think about how one should pursue this in the future, the question of need and the question of long term water planning, the first question is the right demand study that, as I said, looks at changes in climate, changes in market technology, changes in pricing. Then they need to look at the long term. They need to look at the ways you can add water to Rockland, eight and a half million gallons a day. And remember, that's a target. I am not saying you should not do the due

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diligence of this. I am urging you to do the

due diligence, because quite frankly I

4 believe you will come up with more water. I

5 have tried to make this as conservative as

6 possible in the assumptions in my report so

7 that you can have the benefit of a margin of

8 safety.

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But lastly I have to say, the kind of ad terrorem suggestion that businesses are not going to relocate here, that somehow we are going to run into a drought, these are management issues. When I took over the New York City water system, we were 200 million gallons a day over safe yield. That does not mean we immediately decided to rush out and conclude that we had some need. We actually -- we took our time, we did the careful calculation, and we saved the city billions of dollars. If you're worried about a drought showing up in the middle of solving this problem, you have a drought management plan. You have strategies to deal with this. You don't kind of say here's kind of some kind of arbitrarily set target because we

1	102 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	have got a projection that says maybe or two
3	years we are going to miss that. We
4	immediately have to decide if we have to turn
5	our water system upside down immediately. As
6	I said, they're very simple measures. There
7	is no demand problem in Rockland. There is a
8	water management demand problem. If you
9	solve that, you will solve this problem.
10	As I said, if you look at what I
11	did in water conservation in New York City,
12	which was asked how much is the supply side
13	solution going to cost, how much does the
14	demand side solution cost, let's save all
15	that money. As I said in my opening
16	comments, if we had spent just a major chunk
17	of the 56 million that they're now asking to
18	be put into the rate base, none of us would
19	be here tonight. I hope when you come to
20	calculate that demand and look at that, you
21	will remember that fact.
22	Thank you.
23	(Applause)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
25	The next speaker is Robert Kecskes,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and then we'll hear from Charles McLane.
3	I'll just say it's about 9:15 now,
4	and I did say we were going to take a break.
5	But I know that these three speakers,
6	Mr. Appleton, Mr. Kecskes and Mr. McLane are
7	consultants for Rockland County Water
8	Coalition, so I thought we tried to get
9	through all of them before we took a break.
10	(Applause)
11	MR. KECSKES: I appreciate it,
12	thank you.
13	Good evening. My name is Robert
14	Kecskes. I've been asked by the Rockland
15	Water Coalition to prepare a comprehensive
16	assessment of the recent United Water report.
17	I will be shortly providing that report to
18	the Commission.
19	I'll be preparing that report based
20	on my background, which includes 35 years
21	with the New Jersey Department of
22	Environmental Protection. Twenty-five of
23	those years were devoted to managing the
24	water supply planning section of the state.
25	We did a lot of feasibility studies, a lot of

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	alternatives analysis. Very similar to
3	what's going on in Rockland County.
4	In New Jersey we have a we are
5	the densest state in the union, and there's
6	very few unused water supplies. Because of
7	that, we need to really evaluate optimization
8	of existing supplies and conservation of
9	existing supplies. I think Al is right on
10	target with what he's proposing.
11	Al provided a real good big picture
12	of the problems associated with this seven
13	and a half million gallon desal plant. As Al
14	described, future demand will not exceed
15	water availability any time soon. In fact,
16	you have a surplus. I don't know where we're
17	thinking we're here tonight because
18	there's this deficit, this impending deficit.
19	You have a surplus that in a lot of places in
20	the world they don't enjoy such a surplus.
21	You have a surplus for quite a while. You're
22	going to enjoy it for several more years.
23	Al estimates that we could squeeze
24	three million gallons a day from

conservation. I think that's modest. But

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	that's 40 percent of upcoming demand, it's a
3	nice start.
4	Another initiative that Al just
5	described that could extend the amount of
6	time before we need a big structural water
7	supply is to reduce the Lake DeForest
8	reservoir passenger flows to the same passing
9	flows that New Jersey uses. If the Lake
10	DeForest passing flows were reduced, it's
11	estimated, tentatively, these are real back
12	of the match cover analysis, four and a half
13	million gallons. So between reducing the
14	passing flows to the same passing flows that
15	New Jersey would require, and the modest
16	water conservation programs, we're at seven
17	and a half MGD. That's the size of the desal
18	plant.
19	Charles McLane will be talking
20	next. He'll talk about there's some
21	groundwater left in the supply. Not a silver
22	bullet, but there's quite a bit of
23	groundwater left in the supply.
24	The legal and technical rationale
25	for reducing Lake DeForest passing flows is

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303	10/1/13 - CASE NO	1 PUBLIC HEARING -
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2 relatively straightforward. It's too large.

3 I'll give you the details.

When it was applying for a permit to build a reservoir in 1952, the Spring

Valley Water Company, the previous owner of the reservoir, cited objections from New

Jersey as a central reason for the passing flow. The company subsequently proposed using a passing flow method similar to that which was recommended when New York City and New Jersey was arguing in front of the Supreme Court about the city's use of reservoirs in the Delaware River basin.

What is at variance, however, is that the passing flow that was being recommended in the Delaware River basin was specifically established to ensure that the salt front in the Delaware River -- way over there -- estuary didn't migrate up the estuary and adversely affect the recharge areas of the big confined aquifers in southern New Jersey and the surface water intakes that New Jersey has as well as Philadelphia. There was fear that the salt

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	front would migrate if too much reservoir
3	water was taken out. They did calculations
4	and they came up with they needed 291,000
5	gallons per square mile per day to keep that
6	salt front at bay literally, no pun intended.
7	In contrast, when New Jersey was

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objecting to the construction of Lake DeForest, it cited the New Jersey statute that regulated passing flows in that state. Its passing flow law, if implemented for Lake DeForest and prorated to consider the entire Hackensack River drainage area in New York state, would have resulted in a passing flow that would have been 50 percent less than what was enacted; 125,000 gallons a day, which is what New Jersey requires, versus the 291,000 that was proposed back in 1952.

Nevertheless, the Spring Valley Water Company proposed, and the state of New York accepted, the higher pass flow that the company recommended. This resulted in about ten MGD being available from Lake DeForest for Rockland County. Had the company employed the passing flow that New Jersey

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	statute required for reservoirs for that
3	state, there would approximately be 4.5
4	million gallons more, and the state yield of
5	the reservoir would be 15 million gallons a
6	day, versus the 10 million gallons a day that

you now have.

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Fortunately, a condition was placed in the Lake DeForest permit that allowed for the reopening of the permit if any party to the permit's proceedings wished to make an adjustment to the passing flow. While I can -- while I might be wrong, I surmise that the New York state regulators included this condition 60 years ago because they realized that the passing flow was relatively large. Too much water was being allowed to go to a downstream state. Rockland County has recently asked the DEC to reopen this permit. That's a very big occurrence, that if they're successful, you'll have four and a half million gallons more water available, which is roughly 60 percent of what's projected over the next 20 years.

The argument for reevaluating the

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303
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Lake DeForest passing flow actually grows stronger when one considers the revision to the water supply permit for Lake DeForest in 1982. That modification actually increased the passing flow from what was required in 1952. Now, when Hackensack -- when the --this was going back to 1982, when United Water New Jersey was the Hackensack Water Company. When those reservoirs in New Jersey were lower than the reservoir levels in Lake DeForest, the passing flow would actually

have to be increased.

In order to ensure that water availability for Rockland County remained at 10 million gallons a day, the permit was revised where Lake DeForest reserve storage was reduced by about a third. This reduction in reserve storage provided the necessary water to allow for the additional flows to go down to New Jersey, to the New Jersey reservoirs. The end result of that revision, however, is water availability increased for the Hackensack Water Company reservoirs, while the drought safeguard for Rockland

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2 County was downgraded. In short, Rockland

3 County took on more risk in enduring a future

4 drought, but received no benefit. If the

5 reduction in reserve storage was allocated to

6 Rockland County, water availability would

7 actually be more than the four and a half

8 million gallons that I'm talking about.

The argument for reevaluating the Lake DeForest passing flow becomes even more glaring when one considers that the Lake DeForest releases are not allowed to consider the following factors. First, United Water New Jersey has the capability of having more water transferred to it from other sources than it did in 1982. However, those transfers aren't allowed to be used in the calculation for Lake DeForest releases. They still have to be made as if those transfers weren't increasing water levels in the United Water reservoir system.

Second, leakage in the United Water

New Jersey water system is substantial. This

is an additional demand which causes water

levels to decrease, meaning that more Lake

DeForest water has to be released in order to compensate all this leakage that's occurring in that system.

Third, the summer water demand rates are substantially greater by United Water New Jersey customers than compared to United Water New York. Again, this causes drought water levels in the reservoir to decline and to be made up by Lake DeForest releases.

I believe that all these factors that I described will result in a favorable decision by the New York State DEC in its re-examining of the Lake DeForest permit, and water availability will be increased. I further believe that Rockland County will develop water conservation policies that will extend the period when a major structural water supply alternative will be needed. In consideration of the non-debatable fact that there is ample time before a new source of water is needed in Rockland County, I urge the Commission to give the county the time it needs to address its conservation and Lake

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	DeForest initiatives.
3	The intent of the original water
4	supply permit for Lake DeForest that was
5	issued in 1952 that stated that Lake DeForest
6	be operated solely for the benefit of the
7	citizens of Rockland County has strayed over
8	the decades. It's time to return to the
9	initial purpose.
10	Thank you.
11	(Applause)
12	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
13	The next speaker is Charles F.
14	McLane III. And after that speaker we will
15	take a recess.
16	DR. McLANE: Good evening. My name
17	is Dr. Charles McLane. And I want to thank
18	the Commission for the opportunity to speak
19	here this evening. I know I'm the last
20	speaker before the break, so I will try to be
21	brief.
22	So the Rockland Water Coalition has
23	asked me to speak to you about some of the
24	hydrologic science issues of the topics that
25	are being discussed here tonight. And I

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	think it's important, so I will be brief but
3	I'd like you to listen and I appreciate your
4	patience.
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Could you possibly
6	start out with some of your credentials?
7	DR. McLANE: Certainly. I am a
8	Ph.D. hydrologist. I'm a founder of McLane
9	Environmental in Princeton, New Jersey. And
10	my firm specializes in hydrologic and
11	hydrogeologic investigations. For over 25
12	years I've consulted with on water science
13	problems and issues. I have worked with
14	counties and municipal agencies on water
15	management plans, water supply well fields
16	and on resource, natural resource and
17	hydrologic assessments. I've also published
18	on the topic of sustainable water supply.
19	The coalition has asked me to look
20	at a volume of documents and data about the
21	hydrology of Rockland County, and I've done
22	that. Some of those were United Water New
23	York reports. Some of them were the recent
24	United States Geological Survey studies that

talk about the hydrology of the county, and

produced a groundwater computer model for the
county, a hydrologic model.

You have heard from many speakers
this evening. You have heard from Professor
Appleton and Mr. Kecskes and others about
actions that Rockland County can take to both
enhance its existing supply and also reduce
the demand. From my view as a hydrologist,
those not only will allow the county to avoid
the burden of a new water supply project, but
they will also help the hydrogeologic system
and the groundwater aquifers be more robust

and more sustainable.

The groundwater aquifers are healthy and resilient in Rockland County.

And smarter and better management of the combined surface water and groundwater systems can provide a sustainable supply of water for the citizens and businesses of Rockland County for the next ten years and beyond. And there is information in the United States Geological Survey reports that support my conclusions. Some of these you've heard before. For example, Senator Carlucci

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and Assemblywoman Jaffee mentioned that there
3	is no overall downward trend in water levels
4	in the groundwater aquifers. So the aquifers
5	of Rockland County are not being depleted.
6	Also you heard that the recharge
7	estimates produced by the United States
8	Geological Survey are substantially greater
9	than the previous estimates that were in
10	place at the time this new water supply
11	project was proposed. So that's an important
12	finding.
13	In addition, the U.S.G.S. report
14	suggests a number of actions that can be
15	taken, and you've heard about some of those
16	tonight, to enhance existing water supplies.
17	And these include a couple of things, I'll
18	mention four of them.
19	One is you can add water to the
20	river valley aquifer systems where well
21	fields are located. Now, this does a couple
22	of things. First of all, it makes for
23	healthier well fields Second of all it's

going to make for a more sustainable and

reliable groundwater supply, and it also

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	allows for the passing flows, it ensures
3	these passing flows that are being required.
4	You can retain stormwater. There
5	are millions of gallons a day of water on the
6	average that are flowing off of impervious
7	surfaces in Rockland County. If you retain a
8	portion of that, you can have millions of
9	gallons a day that can infiltrate the
10	aquifers and replenish that supply.
11	Also, you can reuse water from
12	treatment plants, and that does two things.
13	First of all, that allows for downstream flow
14	requirements, but it also allows for
15	in-county use. And both of those can take
16	the stresses off your groundwater system,
17	those actions.
18	And finally, you can enhance
19	production from water supply wells. And that
20	has been estimated to produce another one to
21	one and a half million gallons per day of
22	water.
23	Another important factor that I
24	want you to recognize is, what came out of
25	this United States Geologic Survey study was

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a computer model, a hydrologic computer model. That model could be used very effectively I think by United Water and by other agencies to better manage the Rockland County water supplies. Rockland County is fortunate to have a model like that. It's been produced for your use, and not many counties have it. You should take maximum

use of that and advantage of that.

mention certain issues that I have with aspects of United Water's work on this project. I don't think they properly did their homework, or at least they didn't transparently present the data behind their conclusions, or maybe both. And some examples of that are, I think the United States Geological Survey 2010 studies provide valuable information on the hydrologic system of Rockland County. And yet, I didn't see a real effort on the part of United Water to work that new information into their 2013 report, even though they had three years to do that.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Also, I think United Water could
3	have used the USGS computer model as a
4	planning tool to answer many of the
5	hydrologic questions that they had. But
6	apparently, to my review, they didn't make
7	the effort to do that.
8	United Water stated that the
9	addition of new wells in Rockland County
10	could add only marginally to the safe yield.
11	And yet I looked for a hydrologic study of
12	theirs or data to back up that statement, and
13	I couldn't find it.
14	And another issue, and I think it's
15	one of the most serious flaws in my review of
16	their analyses is that they did not present a
17	proper analysis of integrated alternatives
18	for Rockland County water supply. What they
19	did instead was to look at individual
20	alternatives and then one by one discount
21	those, rather than looking at integration of
22	possible multiple solutions for the problem.
23	United Water also stated that the
24	U.S.G.S. study confirms the need for a new

 $\hbox{U.S.G.S. study confirms the need for a new}\\$ water supply water project. Nowhere in the

2 U.S.G.S.'s report do I see that conclusion

3 stated.

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So the bottom line from the water science point of view is that the hydrologic system in Rockland County is healthy and productive. But it is also complex and interrelated. As the county matures, it will be necessary, with or without new water supplies, and I want to stress that, with or without a new water supply, Rockland County is going to have to handle all of the water related issues in the county in a coordinated, sustainable, cost effective manner. The water required for supply can come out of the efficiencies that are gained in that process. Application of this approach, as opposed to a short-sighted, supply side engineering solution that may provide more water now but will eventually make the other water problems in Rockland County worse, means that a new water supply project is not needed at the present time. What is needed is a coordinated look at Rockland County's water resources and a plan

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	for the best path forward to not only meet
3	water demand, but to provide a solution for
4	beneficial water management in Rockland
5	County.
6	Thank you.
7	(Applause)
8	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you. All
9	right, it's approximately 9:35 now. We are
10	going to take a ten minute break, and we will
11	resume at a quarter to ten.
12	(Recess taken)
13	ALJ CASUTTO: Let's go back on the
14	record.
15	You will note that the United Water
16	representatives are no longer up on the
17	stage. I have advised them that they can be
18	seated in the audience because we're
19	continuing taking statements at this time.
20	So we'll continue with that.
21	The next speaker is Ed Day,
22	Rockland County Legislator. Following
23	Mr. Day we will hear from David Fried.
24	MR. DAY: Good evening. First off,
25	I want to thank you for being here and

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	holding this forum for the public here in
3	Rockland County. I do appreciate it.
4	As you noted, I am a elected
5	official. I am not a hydrologist, I am not a
6	scientist. I cannot offer any expert
7	opinion. But you are and should have been
8	hearing this for some time. And I will
9	presume that you and the DEC have been acting
LO	upon it in some measure. However, I am a
L1	former police commander, a former police
L2	executive. I am imbued with two things.
L3	Common sense, and an expectation that things
L4	happen in the proper and appropriate manner
L5	and in a timely manner. We are a nation of
L6	laws. And we rely on government and the
L7	branches of government.
L8	I'm sure you've heard plenty from
L9	the folks here this evening. You should have
20	been able to feel the pulse of the people
21	from Rockland by this time this evening. I'm
22	sure you understand that no one wants to
23	drink from the Hudson River, drink from a

toilet, or pay for the privilege. That is

something folks really don't want to do.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	We here have been largely left
3	outside the process. This is a process that
4	has a reliance upon you as the Public Service
5	Commission, and the Department of
6	Environmental Conservation. At stake here in
7	this entire debate is the public safety of
8	this county, the economy of this county, the
9	future of 320,000 residents and untold people
10	following that.
11	In 2006, there was a very
12	well-intended and important decision made in
13	Rockland County, that we should look at the
14	issue of water, whether we will have enough
15	in the future. That was a laudatory thing to
16	have been done by the county legislature at
17	the time. Fifty million dollars plus later,
18	seven years later, where are we.
19	Well-intentioned good people on both sides
20	are submitting information to you, and all
21	because of one thing, they give a damn about
22	this county. They care about this county.
23	Where is the state, where is our
24	state government. Where are our regulatory

agencies. Where are the folks who have been

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	trying to work through this to get to the
3	bottom of that core question, is there the
4	need, do we need to increase supply. It's a
5	very simple question that needs to be
6	addressed. Seven years, \$50 million later.
7	I will make a note of the last a
8	very recent news article about the questions
9	that are being asked. The DEC has yet to
10	announce whether an issues conference will be
11	held, and neither the agency nor Governor
12	Andrew Cuomo's office has provided a response
13	to The Journal News, despite repeated
14	inquiries. That is unacceptable. I will say
15	that as an elected official. That is
16	completely unacceptable.
17	On Friday the PSC did not respond
18	to inquiry about which judge would conduct
19	the hearings and if there was a deadline for
20	recommendations. I will tell you directly,
21	that is unacceptable.
22	The PSC said in July it would
23	review the need for an additional water

supply, and require United Water to consider new information. It is November. Where are

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	we. Seven years, \$50 million plus later.
3	Where are we.
4	The core issue in this debate
5	revolves around one very simple issue. Do we
6	need additional water supplies. That is the
7	decision that has to be made, because
8	everything else comes off of that. And I
9	really hope to God that we haven't gone down
10	a road of seven years and over \$50 million
11	and we find out it was a complete boondoggle.
12	Think about that. The waste of money that we
13	are going to see if that's true.
14	But it's still incumbent upon you
15	and the DEC to make a determination. You
16	have the info, you have the time, you've been
17	measuring this for a lengthy period of time.
18	I'm going to leave you with one simple
19	thought. Do your job, get to the bottom of
20	this, provide some solace and answers to the
21	people in this community as to exactly what
22	the issues are and what needs to be done.
23	Our county hangs in the balance.
24	Thank you.
25	(Applause)

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you. The next
3	speaker is David Fried. David Fried?
4	Following Mr. Fried, Jerry Fox.
5	I will note that this auditorium
6	was quite full when we began the evening,
7	it's emptying out now. So I'll note for the
8	record that I have 118 cards up here of
9	potential speakers. I'm assuming many of
10	those people have left and gone home already,
11	but I do want it to be on the record that we
12	had 118 people who wished to make statements
13	tonight.
14	Mr. Fried.
15	MR. FRIED: Thank you for allowing
16	me to be one of the 118, and thank you for
17	sticking it through.
18	For the past few years we've been
19	told by United Water that without immediate
20	action we face critical shortages in the near
21	future. But the evidence has shown that
22	United Water's prognostication may be
23	premature and without real substance. The
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4 1	evidence in fact points to a healthy water

supply for Rockland County. If we are

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diligent with its maintenance, an overhaul is

not an order. This is a manufactured crisis.

4 Better management is what's in order.

United Water asserts that we need a new water supply because water demands will eclipse supply in the near future. But science is on the side of Rockland's concerned citizens, not United Water. The United States Geological Survey has found that Rockland's bedrock aquifers are not in danger. In fact, they are replenishing themselves at healthy rates, based on some 20 plus years of scientific evidence that they have analyzed.

In addition to the news that our aquifers are healthy, we also have learned that the Rockland County's already sparse water sharing agreement with New Jersey has been continuously violated, and we're sending too much of our water across state lines.

According to testimony by Dr. Miller of the Rockland County Department of Health before the Public Service Commission, United Water sent more than 19 million gallons of water

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	per day to New Jersey in excess of the
3	agreement, and profited from it. But United
4	Water was not penalized for violating that
5	agreement. Rockland County residents are
6	using significantly less water over the past
7	decade, dropping from 71 gallons per family
8	in 2005 to 62 gallons in 2009. So the 19
9	million gallons per day that's over shared
10	with Bergen could meet the water needs of
11	more than 250,000 homes. It's critical that
12	the next agreement be strictly enforced,
13	including stiff penalties for utility
14	companies for over sharing.
15	Future agreements must also include
16	drought restriction reciprocity. Currently
1 7	when Rockland is under drought restrictions

and water use limitations, Bergen County is not required to be under the same constraints, despite sharing of water source. While Rockland residents can't water their lawns, and restaurants can't serve glasses of water, their children can use slip and slides and play at will. Such an arrangement is patently unfair to Rockland residents and

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businesses. We must take action to make this
agreement more equitable.

Another cause of concern is the significant loss of treated water sent to New Jersey in an aging pipe infrastructure.

According to New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, United Water's Garden State operations lost more than 10.6 billion gallons of treated and processed water in 2011, more than 26 percent of the utility's total treated water. This high rate of loss is avoidable. But it would continue unabated under United Water's plan, which does not address these infrastructure concerns in its own backyard.

The discussion we should be having is not whether we should pay for a new water source in Rockland, but how to fix critical problems with an aging delivery system that causes a great amount of costly and avoidable waste. United Water justifies their call for new water sources based on an anticipated shortfall caused by the increased demands of continued over development. And yes, rampant

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	over development has the potential to reduce
3	the recharging of subsurface aquifers, as
4	there is less rainwater to replenish them.
5	That's why I strongly oppose developments
6	like the Patrick Farm in Ramapo.
7	I do encourage
8	(Applause)
9	MR. FRIED: I do encourage smart,
10	sustainable development, however. Which
11	utilizes permeable surfaces that can help
12	recharge aquifers at even greater rates,
13	while also reducing the potential of
14	flooding. For example, a recently
15	constructed permeable parking lot at
16	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory will reduce
17	water runoff at the campus by 25 percent, and
18	eliminate the need for detention basins.
19	This permeable lot will also last 15 years
20	longer than traditional paved parking.
21	The evidence I've highlighted
22	points to Rockland County having ample water
23	resources to sustain a moderately growing
24	region if we proceed smarter. The issues
25	that must be addressed are an aging

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	infrastructure, strict enforcement of water
3	sharing agreements, conservation, fair
4	allocation of resources, and smart growth and
5	development to keep our aquifers adequately
6	charged.
7	Here in Rockland County we have
8	access to many respected experts in the field
9	of water management. And they can't find
10	justification for United Water's plan. We
11	should be listening to them and not relying
12	on the opinion of a utility whose objective
13	is profit.
14	Thank you.
15	(Applause)
16	ALJ CASUTTO: The next speaker is
17	Jerry Fox. Following Mr. Fox will be Bill
18	Prehoda. Is Jerry Fox present?
19	AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, he left.
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Bill Prehoda?
21	MR. PREHODA: Yes, sir.
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Following
23	Mr. Prehoda, Hayley Carlock. And please turn
24	off cell phones or beepers. Thank you.
25	MR. PREHODA: Thank you. My name

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	is Bill Prehoda. I'm a hydrogeologist with
3	United Water New York. I have worked on
4	United Water's groundwater supply wells for
5	the past 24 years. I'd like to comment on
6	the results of U.S. Geologic Survey's report,
7	which focused primarily on the bedrock
8	aquifer resource in Rockland County. I
9	should note that United Water contributed to
LO	the funding of this study.
L1	Two of the goals of the
L2	USGS/DEC/Rockland County study were to:
L3	Evaluate if the current rates of
L4	groundwater withdrawal are depleting the
L5	aquifers or not; and,
L6	To evaluate possible additional
L7	water sources. The study documented the
L8	status of current water resources for the
L9	years 2005 to 2007.
20	The study found that decades of
21	suburban development has resulted in
22	increasing the demand on the water resources
23	of the county. In concert with the
24	development, the installation of storm and
25	sanitary sewers and the resulting export of

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	water into the Hudson River has reduced
3	recharge to the bedrock aquifer.
4	The study showed that based on
5	historic withdrawal rates from the bedrock
6	aquifer between 1989 and 2004, that the
7	production from United Water's wells tapping
8	the bedrock aquifer has not exceeded the
9	available recharge on an annual basis; thus,
10	the aquifer has not been depleted.
11	During the
12	ALJ CASUTTO: I suggest that you
13	slow down a bit so that the stenographer can
14	get what you're saying, unless you're going
15	to submit a written statement as well.
16	MR. PREHODA: Either way, I'll slow
17	down, it doesn't matter. I'll give it to you
18	later.
19	During the peak summer demand
20	season, however, increases in pumping rates
21	from the bedrock aquifer to meet the increase
22	in demand has, and does, put stress on the
23	bed rock aquifer. The study showed that 25
24	to 35 percent of the bedrock aquifer wells
25	may not be able to sustain the needed demand

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	rate during the summer season, particularly
3	in years with lower than normal recharge.
4	The inability to sustain these
5	pumping rates in the summer season means that
6	the well production rate must be reduced.
7	This in turn lowers the amount of water
8	available to meet demand.
9	Even if we were to consider
10	installing new wells in the bedrock aquifer
11	for small gains, this task would be limited
12	by a variety of different factors. For
13	example:
14	Higher yielding wells have already
15	largely been developed;
16	There are few new locations to
17	provide the required 200 foot setback of
18	buffer zone to protect it from pollution
19	sources;
20	Many areas in the aquifer are
21	contaminated, requiring treatment; and,
22	Impact to neighboring users can be
23	significant in many cases.
24	So my overall conclusion is, based
25	on the findings in the USGS report, it would

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	be unrealistic to expect to have enough
3	solely from the bedrock aquifer resources to
4	meet the future projected county water supply
5	needs.
6	That's it. Thank you.
7	(Applause)
8	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
9	Hayley Carlock. Following
10	Ms. Carlock, Hector May.
11	MS. CARLOCK: My name is Hayley
12	Carlock. I am an environmental advocacy
13	attorney with Scenic Hudson. We're a
14	nonprofit organization that works to protect
15	and restore the Hudson River as an
16	irreplaceable national treasure and a vital
17	resource for residents and visitors.
18	We were founded 50 years ago to
19	fight a proposed pump storage electric
20	facility on Storm King Mountain. In the
21	process of that fight, we won the right for
22	citizens like those who showed up today to
23	have their voice heard at public hearings
24	like this one. And I just want to say how
25	inspiring it is to see how many people showed

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	up out of their busy day to come and to speak
3	their mind, and also how impressive it is how
4	much knowledge there is in the residents of
5	Rockland County about the water issues facing
6	the county.
7	And I'd like to thank the
8	Commissioners and Judge Casutto for coming
9	down and holding this open and as long as
10	people need to speak.
11	Although like many communities
12	Rockland County would benefit from a
13	comprehensive water management plan to
14	maximize the efficient use of its existing
15	water resources, Rockland County does not
16	need a new long term water supply project.
17	Contrary to United Water's projections, which
18	form the primary basis for the Commission's
19	findings back in 2006, water use has not
20	increased as expected in Rockland County. In
21	fact, it has decreased.
22	United Water's own report that they
23	cited earlier cites a five million gallon a
24	day difference between what they had

ξY day difference between what they had projected average day demand would be in 2012

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and what the actual observed demand in 2012
3	was, and then nearly a ten million gallon per
4	day difference in peak day demand between
5	what was estimated and then actually observed
6	in 2012. That data in the United Water
7	report suggests that demand would not exceed
8	available supply for at least another ten
9	years, which gives Rockland County plenty of
10	time to implement sustainable water
11	management policies.
12	Nationwide, water suppliers have
13	seen a growing trend that water use has
14	actually decreased over the past 30 years,
15	even as our population has rapidly increased.
16	According to recent studies by the U.S.
17	Geological Survey, water demand in the United
18	States peaked back in 1980, and it is
19	reasonable to plan for water use to actually
20	decrease even as population grows.
21	American Water Works, which
22	provides water services to over 16 million
23	people in 32 U.S. states, has reported
24	consistently declining residential uses for
25	over a decade. In Seattle, total water

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	consumption has declined by 30 percent since
3	1990, while the population increased 15
4	percent during that same time. In the South
5	Florida Water Management District, 83 million
6	gallons per day less water was used in 2010
7	than in 2000, while the population of the
8	water district grew by 70,000 people during
9	the same time frame.
10	You heard Mr. Appleton say earlier
11	that between 1990 and 2005, New York City

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that between 1990 and 2005, New York City went from using 200 million gallons per day over what the safe yield was of their water system to 200 million gallons per day under what the safe yield was. So this is not an anomaly of the recession of the past five years. This is not an anomaly of Rockland County. This is the new water trend.

And as the demographics in Rockland County continue to change, with slowing population growth as the county becomes built out, as there becomes an increasing percentage of elderly households, as Chairwoman Cornell mentioned earlier, and as the denser development of townhouses and

apartments proliferates over the formerly dominant single family homes on lawn lots, and as housing stocks are replenished with more water efficient fixtures, water demand will continue to decrease. And even assuming a generous population growth rate of ten percent over the next decade, the current available water supply in Rockland would meet average water demand for another decade. This gives Rockland County ample time to implement less expensive, more incremental demand side water management measures.

You heard from several experts
earlier that there are cheaper and more
sustainable demand side solutions that can be
implemented long before we'd be in any type
of water crisis. You heard from Dr. McLane
that another one and a half million gallons
per day could be taken from better management
of the current groundwater resources. You
heard from Professor Appleton that if United
Water's estimate of being able to reduce the
current 17 percent system water loss to 13
percent was just made a bit more aggressive

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and on a quicker time scale where a target of
3	ten percent leakage rate, over an additional
4	two million gallons per day of water would
5	become available.
6	And then the primary water supply
7	concern that led to the Commission's 2006
8	investigation of need was summer peak demand,
9	which in Rockland County is 25 percent
10	greater than demand at other times of the
11	year. This is in large part due to outdoor
12	irrigation, as the USGS study of Rockland
13	water uses noted.
14	There is extensive and successful
15	experience in the U.S. with reducing excess
16	use of water in lawn watering, including:
17	Reasonable restrictions on watering
18	in certain conditions;
19	Limiting it by an odd and even day
20	system;
21	Restricting to certain hours to
22	improve soil absorption. And these measures
23	could save up to three million gallons per
24	day by conservative estimates. That's just a
25	ten percent reduction in consumer water

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usage, compared to 40 percent that has been

achieved by New York City, and 25 percent in

Boston. And that could be accomplished by a

combination of targeting outdoor irrigation

use during the summer, and targeted measures

for selective water use sectors and fixture

replacement.

And you heard Chairwoman Cornell and others discuss that Rockland County has made a commitment to developing a comprehensive water management policy and pursue meaningful and effective conservation measures. The county has announced its plan to create a task force to pursue this goal. And you heard Ms. Cornell say earlier that the Rockland County executive has formally requested the DEC reevaluate the Lake DeForest operating permit to make the distribution of water between Rockland County and Bergen County more equitable. And by reducing the passing flows of Lake DeForest to New Jersey without, without damaging the ecosystem of the Hackensack River or sacrificing the carrying rights of downstream

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	users. And this would make at least an
3	additional four million gallons a day
4	available for Rockland's use from Lake

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DeForest.

So United Water's own report and the opinion of experts makes clear at the very least, even if one assumes that none of the four above measures I mentioned took place, it will be at least ten years before a new water supply source is needed. We have ample time to implement these lower cost, lower impact demand side solutions, many of which are already underway, before needing to consider whether other strategies might be required. And if demand continues to decrease, as has been seen all across the country, even in the face of population growth, the evidence tells us that more than enough water will still be available. is clearly the most prudent course to pursue.

And yet, United Water has every incentive to push for a capital intensive infrastructure project. Its first responsibility is to its shareholders.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	with the stable return on equity set by the
3	Commission, the more expense, the more
4	Rockland County ratepayers will be required
5	to pay. And the public is counting on the
6	Public Service Commission to ensure it has an
7	adequate water supply for sure, but also to
8	protect them against unreasonable
9	expenditures and the fate of other
10	communities. Like Brockton, Massachusetts,
11	where they pay some of the highest water
12	rates in the country to finance a costly
13	project like the one United Water has
14	proposed here, that is not needed, and in
15	Brockton sits today unused.
16	Facing a situation where demand
17	will not exceed supply for over a decade, and
18	where demand side water management
19	improvements and conservation measures
20	actively underway can easily and relatively
21	cheaply increase Rockland's available supply
22	by more than the 7.1 million gallons per day
23	that the Commission ordered in 2006, it is

clear that the Commission must not require

United Water to develop a new water supply

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	project that is simply not needed.
3	Thank you.
4	(Applause)
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
6	Is Hector May present? Following
7	Mr. May, Al Samuels.
8	MR. MAY: Judge Casutto,
9	Commissioners, I first want to say that I
10	want to apologize to you for the way my
11	fellow citizens have presented themselves to
12	you today. That's not what Rockland people
13	do. We're courteous and we're self-contained
14	and self-controlled.
15	I believe that the issue here is
16	need. And I'd like to make an analogy. Many
17	of our elected officials, many of the experts
18	are saying we're going to take a ride from
19	California to New York in this beautiful new
20	car, but we are not going to take a spare
21	tire. And we are going to wing it because
22	it's a new car, I think I've got ten years
23	before we're going to need tires. I think
24	that's short-sighted.

I think what is needed is an

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	in-depth study, where you can come back and
3	say there is a need. And even if there isn't
4	an immediate need, why should we have a knee
5	jerk reaction to the future. Why can't we
6	plan for water needs that will come. Because
7	they're not making any more land that I can
8	think of, and we will get increased
9	population.
10	And so I say to you, our elected
11	officials, PSC and United Water should work
12	together to find a solution to find a way to
13	help the people, not now, but in the future.
14	I see no gain in taking pot shots at United
15	Water and conducting a witch hunt. It makes
16	no sense whatsoever. What we need is a
17	concentrated effort to do what's best for
18	Rockland County.
19	Thank you.
20	(Applause)
21	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you. Al
22	Samuels. Following Mr. Samuels, Robert
23	Dillon.
24	(Question from the audience)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Mr. Samuels is

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	speaking now, will speak momentarily.
3	MR. SAMUELS: Thank you. Hector
4	and I consider ourselves brothers, and if you
5	want to make us interchangeable, that's fine
6	with us.
7	Thank you for the opportunity. My
8	name is Al Samuels. I'm the president and
9	CEO of the Rockland Business Association. I
LO	am also one of Rockland's two voting members
L1	on the Governor's Regional Economic
L2	Development Council. In that capacity, I
L3	have the added responsibility and the honor
L4	of chairing what we call the Inhibitors Work
L5	Group. It was the task of that group to
L6	identify, as the word implies, the title, the
L7	inhibitors to economic development in our
L8	region. And so many of them are manifest
L9	here in Rockland. And it goes to the issue
20	of need, it goes to the issue of credibility
21	of some of the opposition to anything that
22	would advance economic development and
23	construction of new businesses, even housing.

We were tasked by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor Duffy to create business

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them.

opportunities in this region, and in Rockland
County with particular attention to the fact
that we're a border county with New Jersey,
and New Jersey is writing huge checks that
we're not even sure they could cash to take
our businesses over the line and to take the
jobs with them and to take the ratables with

So we see that there is a great need for infrastructure. Because three of the things that we identified were infrastructure issues, to include water in several of the counties, Rockland being one of them. The disconnect between the local municipalities' desire to attract ratables and their ability to separate from that need some of the other areas that concerned them. For example, I have attended meetings in municipalities that voted for a resolution to basically block this project from moving forward. But they have also sought to attract businesses like data centers, which are considered clean ratables, with decent paying jobs, but one of the most water

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	intensive businesses that we could attract.
3	The one that is talked about the
4	most recently is of course the attraction of
5	the Bloomberg data center. The folks from
6	Bloomberg themselves said it will use 250,000
7	gallons per day, that's 91 and a quarter
8	million gallons a year. And yet the
9	municipality that worked so hard to bring
10	this to Rockland also says we should not come
11	up with a new source of water which would be
12	needed for a facility like that and for all
13	the others that are being sought.
14	My colleague, Mr. DiTullo, gave you
15	a very good report so I don't have to repeat
16	all those numbers about the companies that
17	are looking to come to Rockland. Companies
18	that are short listed to come here.
19	Companies that have arrived here already that
20	for the most part the general public is
21	unaware of and in most cases so are elected
22	officials.
23	I was told that this hearing was to

be about things that are new relative to Rockland that may have changed that which the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Public Service Commission deemed appropriate
3	some years back, and also if there were need
4	changes. Nothing happens in a vacuum. And
5	some of the things that are new in Rockland,
6	which might not seem to apply to this,

unfortunately do.

Last Wednesday we found something out when Comptroller DiNapoli issued a report that said of all the communities in New York state, Rockland County had the most distressed fiscal status in the state of New York. On a scale going up to 100, with 100 being the worst, we were 86.7 percent. Only Monroe County upstate came close. Everybody else was in the seventies and below.

The Rockland Business Association produced a white paper on the county's fiscal crisis that clearly identified the failure of the people responsible for our budgeting, the elected officials responsible for our budgeting, the failure to exercise their fiduciary responsibility, their failure to make cuts where necessary. The failure to properly adjust to things that other

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	communities have adjusted to, the recession,
3	the unfunded mandates, have brought Rockland
4	to a point where Standard & Poor's have rated
5	us one level above junk. That's the most
6	serious rating in the state.
7	In order for us to be extricated

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from this, we only have several options. We can cut. Unfortunately, I learned this morning that the budget for Rockland County that's being prepared now, there's a minimum of \$600,000 higher than the current budget. They're not looking to cut. They don't cut. They have two other ways to go. They have to raise money. And one of the two ways is to I think the people of Rockland County have been taxed to a point where there would be a tax revolt if new taxes were put in place. I think elected officials realize that.

Economic development is the only opportunity that we have. And yet we have elected officials who seek economic opportunities for their communities voting to block this initiative. We have people who

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	come here, elected officials, who talk about
3	.8 percent growth. But they don't tell you
4	that's from 2010 excuse me, from 2000 to
5	2010. I have a report here from Cornell
6	University and from the think tank Pattern
7	for Progress where that number is given for
8	Clarkstown. Between 2000 and 2010 they had a
9	0.78 percent increase. But no one is telling
10	you that Cornell University is projecting
11	that by 2040 we're going to have an over 14
12	percent increase in population to over
13	355,000.

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And those numbers were not available to you when you made your decision. These numbers are even greater. And yet it was the Public Service Commission that went to the utility, United Water, and said you have to come up with a new methodology for generating water, for providing water. And we agreed with it. As I recall, it was an outgrowth from a study that was begun in the county legislature under the chairmanship of Assemblywoman Jaffee when she chaired the environmental committee. We agreed with it.

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2 And we think that the circumstances in 3 Rockland have become even more severe over

the years.

And I too, I am not a hydrologist,
I am not an engineer. But clearly we have a
growth projection that is greater than what
you are being told. We have an economic
development mandate from the Governor. And
we have an economic development opportunity,
which our colleagues and we are desperately
striving to meet so that Rockland's residents
can be relieved of the tax burden that they
have. We need this infrastructure in order
to provide that.

There are some things that were shared here today that just don't have validity attached to them. And not being in Rockland, as one of the earlier speakers said, perhaps you're not aware of some of these things. I think maybe it was finally brought out, Pfizer is not closing. Pfizer sits on the board of the Rockland Business Association. They are not closing in 2014. In 2014 they will have finished a phase-out

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1 2 of the manufacturing business that they had 3 at the Pearl River site. In its place is one 4 of five worldwide R&D facilities. Yes, there will be fewer jobs, it will be roughly a 5 6 thousand, maybe under a thousand, where there 7 used to be three. But there are a thousand 8 jobs at a higher rate of pay that will focus 9 great attention on Rockland County and that facility. It has made it possible for our 10 11 economic development people to bring in 12 protein science and two other companies with 13 I believe Mr. DiTullo said several others who 14 were looking to locate there.

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The Regional Economic Development Council determined that pharmaceutical companies, both manufacturing and R&D, as well as tech companies such as data centers, are prime opportunities for our entire region but specifically for Rockland. They are water intensive. We must have an adequate supply of water. The due diligence teams that go out from these companies, and they're outside the New York area obviously, that's the first thing they look for. Bloomberg

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	said the reason we are coming to Orangetown
3	is because there's water. We have to ensure
4	that every other company that looks to do
5	that says there is water in Rockland.
6	Because if we don't bring in those
7	businesses, if we don't bring in those
8	ratables, these people, and there's 200 or so
9	who left already, are not going to be able to
10	afford to stay here. Because again, our
11	elected officials are failing us in the
12	budgets that they prepare where they are not
13	cutting but they are adding. We're already
14	the most fiscally stressed community in the
15	state of New York, which we weren't at any
16	point that the PSC was involved with us.
17	This is new. We must have this
18	infrastructure.
19	There are also a number of people
20	who commented about United Water being driven
21	by the profit motive. But you all know that
22	United Water did not go to the Public Service
23	Commission and say we want to build a plant
24	so we can make money. You told them they had

to come up with something. And you folks

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	approved what they came up with. And in
3	October of last year the chairman, Chairman
4	Brown, sent a letter to Assemblywoman Jaffee,
5	in which he said that the issues raised
6	regarding sufficient or insufficient
7	financial analysis of alternatives at the
8	time that the PSC made its decision with
9	regard to this, the need for reevaluation of
10	water supply need, significant increased
11	energy usage and substantial public
12	opposition, which obviously we know exists.
13	The chairman said no need exists for another
14	examination of United Water New York's plans
15	for a long term water supply source.
16	We in the business community who
17	monitor this closely have not seen any
18	substantive addition within the categories
19	mentioned here between October 19th of last
20	year and August of this year when it was
21	announced that these hearings would be held.
22	So it's not a question in which I expect you
23	to give me an answer because I'm afraid the

answer is that it was a political decision

that created another round of hearings.

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2 And yet maybe it's a good thing.

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3 Maybe it's a good thing that there is an 4 opportunity, with this tremendous group of 5 people who seem to oppose this because they 6 have been driven to oppose this. People 7 talked about scare tactics. People talked about taking advantage of folks. Hysteria 8 9 was another word. There's no scare tactic or 10 hysteria from the company, United Water. It 11 was the emergency services people who said 12 there wasn't enough water and there wasn't, 13 you know, enough pressure in the hydrants, 14 that they had to be sure that there would be 15 more water. That wasn't something that 16 United Water said to frighten people into 17 agreeing to this. But we know that people have told us that there were folks who went 18 about, and I'm not saying it was all of them, 19 20 to solicit signatures by saying you want your 21 children to get cancer if you don't sign 22 this. There was a lot of hysteria that was generated. And unfortunately there weren't 23 people who were in the position of 24 25 responsibility to stand up and redirect that

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and change that, but they fed into it. And
3	that's the reality of Rockland.

We now have a situation where a significant number of people have expressed displeasure with a project at a number that is high enough to draw the attention of Albany, who says you know what, that's a large number of constituents, that's a large number of voters.

I truly hope that the Public

Service Commission looks beyond that. Please look at the substance and not the politics of this issue. And I think that you will see that your original decision was a valid one, and that you will continue this project.

Because folks also don't realize that, as I read it, the PSC said to United Water the moneys that you spend in researching this are recoverable to you through rate. I don't know that people realize it. I think that they feel that United Water is just looking for an increase to cover something that they weren't given permission to recover by the Public Service Commission. If I'm wrong,

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1	157 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	correct me, but if I'm correct I think that's
3	something that the people need to know,
4	because they don't.
5	So please, consider the substance,
6	which is your job, which you have done.
7	Don't consider the politics if in fact
8	politics is involved. And I thank you very
9	much for that.
10	(Applause)
11	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
12	The next speaker is Robert Dillon.
13	Following Mr. Dillon is Tim Michaelsa.
14	MR. DILLON: Good evening. Thank
15	you everybody for staying this late.
16	I'd like to also note for the
17	record that when we started here we had about
18	a thousand people here, that's the capacity
19	of the room.
20	Commissioners, Judge, thank you
21	very much. My name is Bob Dillon. I'm an
22	active party to this case. And I'd like to
23	thank the Public Service Commission for
24	reexamining Rockland's water needs.
25	I've been a resident of Rockland

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	since 1954. For the past ten years I've been
3	studying Rockland's water with special
4	attention given to the Hackensack River. I
5	will be submitting additional comments in
6	writing after tonight. My comments tonight,
7	however, relate directly to United Water's
8	August report to the Public Service
9	Commission.
10	There is new information and
11	evidence that needs to be considered. As our
12	applicant can testify, Rockland's water needs
13	couldn't be satisfied on the demand side. I
14	agree with them there. However, I'd like to
15	talk about supply side. First I want to talk
16	about the excess releases from Lake DeForest.
17	Excess releases from Lake DeForest
18	are my comments are based on over 50 years
19	of data from the U.S. Geological Survey.
20	From United Water's report, quote, "The
21	excess releases cited by the project
22	detractors occurred between May 27th, 2007
23	and September 22nd, 2007."
24	This is not true. That period of

time was a period of time that was studied

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	for this purpose, for this reason by the New
3	York State Department of Environmental
4	Conservation. And the New York State
5	Department of Environmental Conservation made
6	a determination that there were excess
7	releases during that period of time. They
8	did not render that decision until sometime
9	in January of 2008. What happened after that
10	period of time is additional water was sent
11	down river to New Jersey above and beyond the
12	permitted amount. And that amount for the
13	year of 2007, when Lake DeForest was not
14	spilling over the dam, when the water was
15	under the releases were under the control
16	of United Water, amounted to in excess of one
17	billion gallons of water. That's nearly
18	one-quarter of Lake DeForest storage, usable
19	storage capacity.
20	From 2003 to 2006, this is the same
21	time that the Public Service Commission was
22	making their original evaluation in this case
23	to determine whether or not there was a need
24	for additional water supply in Rockland.

Between 2003 and 2006, excess releases from

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Lake DeForest was below one hundred percent
3	capacity. And again, water is not spilling
4	over the dam, United Water is controlling the
5	release. Those releases averaged at those
6	times six million gallons a day, while the
7	Public Service Commission was considering
8	this application. I'm convinced that the
9	Public Service Commission, the DEC, the
10	Rockland County Health Department were all
11	unaware of these releases. The people that
12	became the parties to the Joint Proposal were
13	unaware of these releases, with the exception
14	of one party, United Water. They knew. They
15	didn't volunteer the information. They
16	didn't volunteer to call the DEC or the
17	health department to let them know they had a
18	broken valve. They had to be caught. And
19	then we know what happened.
20	Review of the water allocation
21	between New York and New Jersey. At the
22	request of the Rockland Water Coalition last
23	week, Rockland County Executive Scott
24	Vanderhoef wrote to the New York State
25	Department of Conservation to request that

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the 1952 Lake DeForest permit be reopened to
3	make a substantial adjustment to make a
4	suitable adjustment to the flow of the
5	Hackensack River from Lake DeForest. You've
6	heard testimony on that earlier this evening.
7	The county executive has also asked
8	the DEC in the past to examine the water
9	allocation agreements between New York and
10	New Jersey as part of DEC's review of the
11	desal project. The Rockland County
12	legislature has done so also, as I have. We
13	are all told that by DEC that this would be
14	done. It has not. Instead, New York State
15	DEC refuses to grant the issues conference
16	that is needed to address disputed facts.

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Bob Kecskes, the former New Jersey DEP water planner that testified earlier, had some things to say about passing flow. How much additional safe yield can be drawn from the Hackensack River, that change in the minimum passing flow that he referred to, which is essentially reducing the passing flow to less than half of what it is now. The 1952 Lake DeForest permit required a

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	passing flow of .291 billion gallons per
3	square mile. New Jersey uses the standard of
4	.125 million gallons per square mile
5	million gallons per day per square mile.
6	That standard for New Jersey hasn't changed
7	since 1952. It was their standard then, and
8	it's their standard now. And that
9	incorporates into it the ecology of the river
10	and the riparian rights.
11	Lake DeForest. A change in the
12	minium passing flow of the Hackensack River
13	could increase the safe yield of Lake
14	DeForest by 4.42 million gallons a day.
15	Lake Tappan. This is something
16	nobody talks about. We're going to talk
17	about it now. From Lake Tappan, the
18	possibility of outdating a share of safe
19	yield of Lake Tappan for Rockland County was
20	discussed at length in testimony given during
21	the May 19th, 1965 Lake Tappan hearing. In
22	its July 22nd, 1965 decision, the New York
23	State Conservation Department, which is now
24	the DEC, reserved to itself the right to
25	consider future applications for the taking

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of water by communities in New York state
3	from the Hackensack River for public water
4	supply purposes. And I'll quote from that
5	decision.
6	Paragraph 16. "Hackensack Water
7	Company reportedly" that's now United
8	Water New Jersey, and as you know, United
9	Water New Jersey owns United Water of New
10	York "Hackensack Water Company reportedly
11	has future plans for the installation of
12	pumps and transmission facilities which could
13	be utilized to pump water from River
14	Vale Reservoir" that's Lake Tappan "to
15	DeForest Lake in years such as the present
16	one when DeForest Lake does not fill from
17	snow melts and spring runoff. The
18	installation of such equipment is not part of
19	the instant proposal." So they're just
20	quoting what the United Water the
21	Hackensack Water people testified to, that
22	they had those plans.
23	Paragraph 17. "In view of the
24	above acts, the Commission will not reserve
25	to New York state any portion of the yield of

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the Hackensack River attributed to the River
3	Vale Reservoir. The Commission will,
4	however, reserve to itself the right to
5	consider future applications for the taking
6	of water by communities in New York state
7	from the Hackensack River for public water
8	supply purposes." This means that the New
9	York state DEC has the ability to make a
10	decision if an application is made to whether
11	or not there should be additional water
12	taking.
13	Together, Lake DeForest and Lake
14	Tappan could supply Rockland with over 11
15	million gallons of water using the passing
16	flows that I referred to. And I'm not sure
17	if I mentioned it, but the allocation from
18	Lake Tappan for Rockland County would be
19	approximately seven million gallons a day if
20	you use the passing flow at the state line.
21	Now, not withstanding the fact that
22	United Water New Jersey paid for the
23	construction of Lake Tappan, the citizens,
24	the ratepayers of Rockland County paid for

that project. But just as United Water New

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Jersey has an agreement with United Water of
3	New York to share in the costs of the
4	operations of Lake DeForest, if such a
5	withdrawal for the benefit of New York was to
6	be arranged, then there would obviously have
7	to be a cost sharing arrangement where the
8	water that's going to the benefit of New
9	York, which is our inherent right, would have
10	to compensate United Water New Jersey for the
11	operations of the Lake Tappan dam.
12	So again, together, between the two
13	reservoirs, with the change in passing flow
14	there would be over 11 million gallons of
15	water available to Rockland County right now.
16	It's clear to me that Rockland already has
17	the water that it needs.
18	Thank you very much.
19	(Applause)
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
21	Tim Michaelsa. Tim Michaelsa?
22	(No response)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Ken Balban. Ken
24	Balban?
25	(No response)

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Steve Borton?
3	(No response)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Keith Kelly? All
5	right, Mr. Kelly is coming forward.
6	MR. KELLY: Good evening. My name
7	is Keith Kelly. I'm an environmental
8	engineer who works for CDM Smith. We were
9	engaged by United Water of New York to plan
10	and design the Haverstraw water supply
11	project. I have over 30 years experience as
12	a professional engineer in the state of New
13	York. I've been working on this project for
14	over four years.
15	I was asked to review the
16	memorandum supplied to the Rockland County
17	coalition by Mr. Albertson Appleton.
18	While respecting Mr. Appleton as an attorney
19	and a consultant with some experience in
20	water resources, water management, and was a
21	former director of the New York Water and
22	Sewer System, Mr. Appleton's memorandum does
23	not reflect familiarity with this project in
24	the numerous studies on the issue of need
25	that have been performed since 2006. It is

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	unclear what if any scientific or technical
3	data or analysis Mr. Appleton's memorandum is
4	based on. The document is largely devoid of
5	references and doesn't contain a single
6	footnote.
7	Ag Mr. Apploton progented carlier

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As Mr. Appleton presented earlier and what he states on page two of his memorandum is he takes no position on whether there's an actual need in Rockland County for water. He does not acknowledge that there is any growth that is planned or projected. Therefore, Mr. Appleton's memorandum basically looks at alternatives, all of which have been exhaustively evaluated in four chapters, 300 of the 1,500 pages of the DEIS that has been available for almost two years now, since January 2012. He specifically mentioned conservation, wastewater reuse, rainwater reuse, water main replacement and repair. Each of those alternatives were evaluated in the DEIS, among others. were studied and they are presented and they have been available for your review.

In addition, the memo ignores the

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1	168 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	demand side management issues that have
3	already been implemented and are explained by
4	United Water in a DEIS. These include:
5	Customer conservation programs,
6	Leak management programs, and.
7	Summer winter rates, which
8	encourage conservation.
9	It is clear to me as a professional
10	engineer that Mr. Appleton did not review the
11	data relevant to Rockland's need or any
12	information specific to this project. His
13	recommendations are not new. They have been
14	studied, they have been presented in the DEIS
15	in-depth.
16	The fact is, this issue has been
17	under intense study since 2006. The DEC, the
18	PSC, Rockland County elected officials, the
19	water experts, economists and more have
20	looked at this issue. Experts like
21	Dr. Daniel Miller from the Rockland County
22	Department of Health, whose duty it is to
23	analyze the need and demand for a long term
24	water supply project on virtually a monthly
25	basis, continues to conclude, correctly, that

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1	169 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	a long term water supply project is needed
3	for Rockland County.
4	Thank you.
5	(Applause)
6	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
7	Rachel Miller. Excuse me, Rachel
8	Hiller?
9	(No response)
10	ALJ CASUTTO: Gale Pisha?
11	(No response)
12	MS. HILLER: I'm Rachael Hiller.
13	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay, very good.
14	MS. HILLER: Good evening. Welcome
15	to Rockland County. We're so happy you could
16	be here.
17	My name is Rachel Hiller. I am
18	just a regular citizen and homeowner here in
19	Rockland County. I'm a member of the
20	Rockland Water Coalition. And I'm here to
21	present you with a gift. This. And I
22	apologize for the heft of my gift here. But
23	what's important about it is what this
24	represents. This is petitions signed by
25	residents of Rockland County, not just

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	against the desalination plant, but in favor
3	of sustainable water practices. This is
4	people in Rockland committing to use our
5	water properly to sustainable means and to
6	conservation. There's somewhere around
7	26,000 signatures in there.
8	(Applause)
9	MS. HILLER: This is mostly
10	collected by mostly collected by our
11	friends, partners in the Rockland Water
12	Coalition, Citizens Campaign for the
13	Environment. They collected these by going
14	door to door in Rockland and telling people
15	about this issue. And then if they agreed
16	with conservation really and other means,
17	they would sign. And also by just
18	volunteers. So here they are. We'll totally
19	get somebody to carry these to your car.
20	ALJ CASUTTO: That's fine, I'll be
21	able to take care of them. Thank you very
22	much. Thank you.
23	MS. HILLER: So you heard the will
24	of our elected officials. This is a
25	representation.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Please use the mike
3	so the stenographer can hear you.
4	MS. HILLER: Oh, I'm sorry. This
5	is the will of the citizens of Rockland
6	County. There are other options available,
7	and we have the will to do our piece of it.
8	Thank you.
9	(Applause)
10	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
11	Gale Pisha.
12	MS. PISHA: Good evening and thank
13	you, your Honor. I'm a life-long resident of
14	Rockland County. And I wanted to say that
15	well, they've done it again. United Water
16	has managed to put together another
17	misleading and incomplete report, designed to
18	further their goal of building a desalination
19	plant, regardless of whether it's needed or
20	not.
21	In their August 19th report, United
22	Water has gone into great detail, and you saw
23	it, to project population growth and water
24	demand well into the future, to show that
25	there will be a demand for more water. But

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	they've left out a really, what I think is a
3	really important piece of information.
4	Nowhere in their report, nowhere do they
5	mention, do they similarly project
6	precipitation amounts well into the future.
7	And do you know why? It's because the New
8	York City DEP predicted, among other
9	agencies, that there's a high probability
10	that there will be up to a seven and a half
11	percent increase in precipitation in the New
12	York City watersheds by the 2050s. And there
13	will be an eight percent increase in severe
14	rainfall events by mid-century, which are
15	likely to increase flooding. And we have
16	seen that happening already.
17	United Water doesn't want you to
18	know this, because it indicates that there
19	will be an increased supply of water in the
20	future from precipitation. United Water
21	knows this information; it's in their DEIS.
22	I suspect they intentionally left it out of
23	the August 19th report, because it does not
24	support their claim that it would be used for

a water supply project -- that there would be

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	_	10/1/13	_	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303	

a need for a water supply project.

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3 Now, I think projection and future 4 precipitation is certainly something a water supply project should consider in a 5 6 responsible report on need. And Rockland 7 County needs to take the time to plan for how we are going to deal with these increases, 8 9 especially the severe events. We need to plan how to capture this future precipitation 10 11 runoff to mitigate flooding and to replenish 12 the aguifer for short periods of short term 13 drought. We need to figure out where are we 14 going to put all that future water, 15 especially if we are also producing seven and a half million gallons a day of water from 16 17 the Hudson River.

So to sum up, United Water has used future projections of population growth and water demand to support their assertion that we need more water. But it has not included future projections of precipitation because these don't support the need for producing more water. This intellectual dishonesty I think is insulting to the public and to the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
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2	PSC. And I ask the PSC to consider this in
3	making your determination of need, and that
4	you put a hold on this project to give
5	Rockland County the time and the chance to
6	implement a water management program. We
7	still have the time and we'd better get it
8	right.
9	Thank you.
LO	(Applause)
L1	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
L2	Jan Dagenshein. Jan Dagenshein?
L3	(No response)
L4	ALJ CASUTTO: Peggy Kurtz. Peggy
L5	Kurtz?
L6	MS. KURTZ: Thank you very much.
L7	Okay. The recent headline in The
L8	Journal News summed our situation perfectly.
L9	It said Rockland's summing up the report
20	from United Water in August, and the headline
21	in the article said, "Rockland's Water Use
22	Drops, the Company Still Wants Hudson Plant."
23	The bottom line is that Rockland's
24	water use has dropped by ten percent since it
25	neaked in 2007. In fact, the drop in water

1	1' PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	use has been so substantial that United Water
3	has filed, as you know, for a rate increase
4	to make up for the lost income. United Water
5	calls this six year drop in water use
6	temporary, and attributes it to the
7	recession. But what United Water is not
8	saying, what they're not telling all of us,
9	and this is part of a pattern of just
10	endlessly repeating the same unsubstantiated
11	half truths. And it's, as Gale just said,
12	it's the same thing in the report, what
13	they're not saying is that Rockland's
14	declining water use is part of a very
15	significant nationwide drop in water use over
16	several decades.
17	Expert comments will be submitted
18	from an internationally renowned water
19	expert, Professor Upmanu Lall, who's director
20	of Columbia's Earth Institute and Water
21	Center. I know that in Professor Lall's
22	view, Rockland's decline in water usage,
23	despite population growth, is not a temporary
24	decline due to the economy, but rather it's
25	perfectly in line with national trends.

	15.
1	176 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	I am aghast, as Gale said, at
3	United Water's fundamental dishonesty in
4	omitting this very clear message of this
5	national trend over decades. A message that
6	you can see repeated in one trade journal
7	after another, that this decline has gone on
8	over decades and that it has nothing to do
9	with the economy.
10	United Water continues to
11	forecast well, I'm going to go back to
12	this. We have just been told that United
13	Water did an exhaustive analysis of
14	conservation. United Water continues to
15	forecast that the most we can reduce our
16	water use is by barely perceptible gains of
17	.1 percent per year. We simply cannot accept
18	that as a goal.
19	In contrast to United Water's goal
20	of .1 percent per year if you can call
21	that a goal California's vigorous
22	conservation program has set a target of 20

percent reductions in water use by 2020. Research by Columbia University students, as you heard about this evening, found that

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1	17 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Rockland could easily conserve ten percent
3	for residential use alone. Al Appleton has
4	told you about some of the cuts in New York
5	City use that cut New York City use from
6	between 35 and 40 percent. And there are
7	many other examples.
8	More important, given the
9	nationwide drop in water use, the trade
10	journals are full of warnings against
11	building expensive new water supply. Al
12	quoted this earlier, I think it bears
13	repeating, a typical warning, this is just a
14	typical water warning, from one of the most
15	respected water research organizations
16	nationwide, the American Water Works
17	Association, these long term reductions in
18	water use need to be taken into account by
19	the water planners to avoid costly and
20	avoidable overbuilding in water
21	infrastructure. Buyer beware. Despite these
22	warnings, United Water continues to insist

warnings, United Water continues to insist
that Rockland should foot the bill for
exactly those kinds of massive and avoidable

costs. We can do better than .1 percent

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 1 2 conservation in New York. 3 Will we follow the examples of 4 communities such as Brockton, Massachusetts, 5 or Tampa, Florida that have been saddled with 6 massive costs, paying for plants that have 7 become unnecessary but still must be paid 8 off? This is called risk demand. And it's 9 just not a bargain that any of us want, a deal that any of us want. Or will we choose 10 11 instead to follow communities like New York 12 City or Massachusetts, an example that 13 Harriet Cornell talked about earlier, which 14 wisely avoided spending billions of dollars 15 for similar desalination proposals through an extremely successful water conservation 16 17 program despite growing population. 18 Our water use is declining. Precipitation and flooding are increasing 19 year by year. Less water intensive 20 21 businesses are coming in. Businesses are 22 learning to make their operations more water efficient, just as they're making them more 23 24 energy efficient, and development is leveling

off, after decades of rapid growth. With 49

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	inches of rainfall, we need sound resource
3	management.
4	You have heard over and over again
5	from the citizens of Rockland County this
6	evening. There wasn't one of them, there
7	wasn't one person, who wasn't hired, paid to
8	be here, who did not tell you the same thing
9	Rockland does not want this project. Please
10	don't forget us. You have also heard from
11	the scientists, the researchers and the
12	policy people. We do not need this project.
13	As one speaker after another has
14	pointed out, exorbitant water costs is not
15	the way to attract either homeowners or
16	businesses. And as our community as our
17	economy begins to grow again, we can get it
18	right with:
19	Smart growth,
20	Water neutral development,
21	Water efficiency,
22	Repair of leaks, and,
23	A sensible rate structure that
24	encourages conservation.
25	One of the things that was not sai

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1	180 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	this evening is that the current rate
3	structure and this is under the control of
4	the PSC and United Water, it's for
5	conservation, it's very much under their
6	control the current rate structure
7	actually gives a discount for large
8	commercial users. This makes no sense. This
9	is very rare, increasingly rare nationwide.
10	You have heard from Chairwoman
11	Harriet Cornell that the county is laying
12	ground work for cost effective and forward
13	thinking policy that will use our resources
14	more wisely, rather than taking the risk of
15	massive new costs that would drive businesses
16	and residents away. We are asking the PSC to
17	put a halt to this divisive and expensive
18	process. This is a decision that will shape
19	the character of our community forever.
20	Rockland is ready to shape a water policy
21	that will be not only environmentally but
22	economically sustainable. It will promote
23	green jobs. It will keep Rockland
24	affordable, and will help protect the
25	character of our community.

	18
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Thank you.
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
4	Susan Gerard. Susan Gerard?
5	Following Ms. Gerard, Meri Torres.
6	MS. GERARD: Good evening. My name
7	is Susan Gerard, and I'm a United Water
8	employee, but more importantly, I'm a
9	customer of United Water.
10	My husband and I have lived in
11	Rockland for over 15 years, and we are
12	raising two children, who attend school in
13	Clarkstown. We love living in Rockland
14	County, and we want to ensure that it
15	continues to thrive.
16	But I have seen the county struggle
17	with water shortages. With the economy
18	beginning to recover, some businesses are
19	expressing an interest in Rockland. And
20	that's great because we need the jobs to have
21	more businesses will help the tax burden.
22	However, as Sameet Master showed us earlier
23	tonight, there's just not enough water to
24	meet demands based on population growth. And
25	there's certainly not enough to supply new

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	tax paying businesses. It will be difficult
3	for the county to attract and retain
4	businesses without a strong water supply.
5	And as a homeowner, these things concern me.
6	We heard a lot tonight about
7	conservation, and conservation is important.
8	But it alone will not solve our problems. We
9	have a chance to make this better. A new
10	water supply is fundamental to helping
11	Rockland solve its problems.
12	It gives the average family the
13	water they need.
14	It gives firefighters the water
15	they require.
16	And it gives businesses confidence
17	that our infrastructure can support their
18	success.
19	The Haverstraw water supply project
20	is the solution to our water needs. It's the
21	least expensive, it's sustainable, and it
22	will provide a high quality drinking water
23	that, by the way, my family and I will be
24	drinking. It's a real solution for real
25	problems facing Rockland.

	18
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Thank you.
3	(Applause)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Meri Torres.
5	Following Ms. Torres, Steven Reich.
6	MS. TORRES: Good evening. My name
7	is Meri Torres. Thank you for this
8	opportunity to comment on Rockland's water
9	needs.
10	I am the manager of a plant for
11	United Water New York. It is my job to plan
12	and schedule all preventive maintenance work
13	to people in United Water New York.
14	There is an old saying. Those who
15	fail to plan, fail. I have seen first hand
16	what happens when people fail to plan and to
17	act on water supply needs. I recently
18	visited my family in Spain, where water
19	shortages have become a significant problem.
20	There are proverbial water works in Spain
21	just like there are in the American West. I
22	fear that if we do not act soon, Rockland
23	will have the same problems that we see in
24	Spain and the American West.

On a personal note, I am the mother

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of two small children. Like many of you, I
3	am already planning on how to send them to
4	college. I know if I fail to plan, their
5	education may be in danger. While it is
6	years until they go to college, I know that
7	it will be here in the blink of an eye.
8	Rockland's water shortages will
9	also be a reality in the blink of an eye.
10	All the recent data confirms the need for
11	more water. That was established by PSC
12	orders in 2006 and 2010, the Rockland County
13	Master Plan in 2012, the head of Rockland's
14	Water Supply in 2015. There is a real need
15	for more water in Rockland. The Haverstraw
16	Water Supply project is the best solution to
17	a real problem.
18	(Applause)
19	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
20	Stephen Reich?
21	(No response)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: I'll try to pronounce
23	the last name, Michael, it looks like
24	Publicse. Michael Publicse?
25	(No response)

	1 0 5
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Kevin Leyden, is
3	Kevin Leyden present?
4	(No response)
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Barbara Porta
6	Hutchinson?
7	(No response)
8	ALJ CASUTTO: Dale Scott?
9	(No response)
LO	ALJ CASUTTO: Matt Pepe?
L1	(No response)
L2	ALJ CASUTTO: George Klein.
L3	MR. KLEIN: George Klein.
L4	ALJ CASUTTO: All right, Mr. Klein
L5	is coming forward.
L6	MR. KLEIN: Thank you to the two
L7	Commissioners and the Judge for being here,
L8	and the staff, we appreciate it. My name is
L9	George Klein. And I'm the chairman of the
20	Sierra Club's Lower Hudson group, which
21	includes thousands of Sierra Club members in
22	Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties. I
23	represent those members, and we are a part of
24	the Rockland Water Coalition.
25	We greatly value and respect the

1	186 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	work of the men and women of the Public
3	Service Commission. It's a great
4	responsibility presiding over the interests
5	of the public in the area of utilities.
6	On the question of need all of
7	this has been said before. I'm going to make
8	five very short points, and I will be
9	mercifully short. But I just want to
10	emphasize the Sierra Club's agreement on
11	these points.
12	United Water noted in its August
13	19th submission to the Commission that water
14	use over the last five years has fallen
15	considerably short of the demand projected
16	when the Commission first ordered a new water
17	source for Rockland. That's significant.
18	Two. In our country as a whole
19	demand for water is actually going down, even
20	as population goes up, because of tremendous
21	gains in efficiency.
22	Three. The USGS study of Rockland
23	County's groundwater resources concluded that
24	more water is available from the aquifers
25	than previously thought. And rainfall is

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	expected to increase in the future.
3	Four. Three simple changes in
4	water management could reduce demand by 7.5
5	million gallons a day. A lot more cost
6	effectively than a desal plant. The three
7	changes are conservation, fix the leaks, and
8	send less water to New Jersey from Lake
9	DeForest.
10	And my last point. And we're
11	talking about need, but it's impossible to
12	discuss and analyze need totally divorced
13	from price. It's likely that a dramatic
14	increase in water rates will just lead to a
15	marked decrease in demand. And, as we know,
16	we can see what happened in Brockton,
17	Massachusetts and in Australia. There's
18	plenty of time to study and plan for
19	Rockland's water future. Let's do that.
20	(Applause)
21	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
22	Tom O'Reilly. Tom O'Reilly. All
23	right, Mr. O'Reilly is coming forward. The
24	next speaker will be Eric Weltman.
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Good evening.

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1	188 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	MR. O'REILLY: Hello. My name is
3	Tom O'Reilly, and I've been in Rockland
4	County for 57 years. I'm an environmental
5	engineering professor, and a volunteer
6	environmental defender since 1976. That's
7	been over 37 years.
8	And yes, I've been a member of the
9	Rockland Water Coalition for the past six and
10	a half years. And in those six and a half
11	years, my mantra has been, regarding the
12	so-called droughts, and the true desal need,
13	here's a little twist on the facts that you
14	have heard tonight regarding the need issue.
15	Hence, my Santa Barbara desal story.
16	I lived in Santa Barbara in the

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1980s, where they get ten inches of rain per year versus our almost 50 inches of rain. Well, in the eighties Santa Barbara had a five year drought. A real drought, that is, not a drop of rain for five years. Not a drop of rain, and 90 degrees every day in January. I'll never forget going to the beach every day in January after work, riding my bike, because I love the ocean water. We

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	all love, water, yeah.
3	Santa Barbara had no water for five
4	years. So Santa Barbara then built a desal
5	plant. And then it rained. So it sat there
6	idle, running on idle, low energy
7	consumption, for eight years. And then very
8	wealthy Santa Barbara said this is too
9	expensive just to keep this thing sitting
10	there on mothballs running on idle. The
11	reverse osmosis equipment is so expensive to
12	maintain not even using it. So they finally
13	said we've had it. And they dismantled it
14	and sold it off and shipped it to Saudi
15	Arabia, where they have real droughts.
16	You know, desalination is only used
17	around the world for ocean cruise ships or or
18	desert islands or in deserts, for crying out
19	loud. This is just unbelievable, it's
20	unbelievable. Droughts.
21	We don't have droughts. We just
22	need water management, like we have been
23	saying. It was convenient when Lake DeForest

was low, make it look like we have a drought,

and then our coalition exposes two and a half

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1	190 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	years ago that hey, you're releasing six
3	the figures vary. Six to 19 million, I don't
4	know. Who knows how many million gallons a
5	day are released illegally whoops, by
6	accident, by a broken valve for at least a
7	year and a half. They have multiple check
8	valves from Lake DeForest to Lake Tappan to
9	the Oradell Reservoir.
10	Water is running, and it's our
11	Rockland County water, our Rockland County
12	money. United Water was giving the United
13	Water New Jersey, which is the parent
14	company, which is owned by Suez, right, the
15	broken valve. And our coalition exposes the
16	broken valve. We don't know long it went on,
17	we don't know the true amount of water, our
18	water, that was lost.
19	If wealthy Bergen County really
20	needs our water, why don't they build a desal
21	up in Bergen County, which is a wealthy
22	county.
23	(Applause)
24	MR. O'REILLY: Which is also much
25	further away from Indian Point.

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1	191 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(Applause)
3	MR. O'REILLY: It's not necessary
4	for New York. We get almost 39 inches of
5	rain, like the state of Washington. This is
6	not Southern California. And Santa Barbara
7	said we don't need a desal anymore, it's too
8	expensive and it rained.
9	So at any rate, my final remark is
10	about the great Hollywood movie Chinatown
11	with Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway. It
12	came out about 20 years ago. It's a story of
13	Los Angeles in the 1940s, and how it all
14	exploded, it was a big desert. And all the
15	politicians and the builders, they knew it

was coming, the Owens River Valley water

project from up in the Sierras. And they all

told their buddies, buy this land. What, are

you crazy, I'm not going to buy this desert

land. Buy the land for a hundred dollars an

acre, it will be worth ten thousand an acre

half years, I've repeated this story for six

I've been saying this for six and a

when they bring water in. So that's what

happened in LA. It's a great movie.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	and a half years at every one of these
3	hearings. And I just, I'm walking in the
4	parking lot tonight saying another evening
5	spent doing this, for free. And all the
6	sudden the coalition, we have 30
7	organizations now, how many man hours and
8	woman hours have we spent as volunteers in
9	the last six and a half years, versus the
10	highly paid, maybe overpaid, United Water
11	workers. It's something to really get my
12	Irish up. I'm Irish, German and Choctaw.
13	The German is the good engineering professor.
14	The Irish guy talks too much. But the
15	Choctaw it's all about love of the planet and
16	the people and doing I'm just an old Boy
17	Scout, and I'm tired and I'm talking too
18	long. But we're you know, it's a little
19	annoying walking across the parking lot
20	saying it's another evening spent doing this,
21	six and a half freaking years, pardon my
22	French.
23	So anyway, so I'm just going to
24	wrap it up with back to the movie Chinatown.
25	If you haven't seen it see it I've

1 PUBLIC HEARING - $10/1/13$ - CASE NO. 13-W-	-030	3
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2 mentioned it every time I've spoken in the

3 last six years. Harriet Cornell did steal my

4 line tonight because she mentioned Chinatown.

5 Usually Bob Dillon steals my line Chinatown.

6 He started doing that two or three years ago,

7 so we laugh about it.

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So anyway, build it and they will come, like the Field of Dreams. God forbid if this monstrosity is built, with unlimited population explosion and construction. I've seen big changes in 57 years here, a lot of them not so good. It used to be the country when we moved here from the city, from Queens. My grandfather was driving a moving truck, and me and my brother were moving to the country, growing up here. It's still beautiful, I want to stay here forever. My office is in my house, I teach at the university. Half an hour from the center of the universe, Manhattan. Half an hour from the Hudson Highlands, the most beautiful place in the world. I love the Rockies, the Sierras. I worked in Hawaii for four years doing ocean engineering for the defense

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	department. I've been to Ireland. But I
3	want to stay right here. But if this is
4	the I know that if the desal is built, it
5	will irreparably damage Rockland.
6	Many people have told me personally
7	if it's built, they're going to sell their
8	house and they're going to move. They don't
9	want to drink radioactive water. And then we
LO	wonder what the property value is going to
L1	be, how that's going to be affected. Who's
L2	going to want to move here? The Hudson River
L3	water is questionable enough. With
L4	radioactivity thrown in? You've got to be
L5	out of your mind. And how it's going to hurt
L6	businesses. The cost of business is going to
L7	increase by at least a third. Business is
L8	going to want to locate here? I can list
L9	restaurants, car washes, we could list all
20	the businesses that use water. They're going
21	to say hey, I would move there but the water
22	bill is going to be too high. This is going
23	to hurt commercial and residential, it's
24	going to hurt everybody on every level.

So I'd hate to move from here, but

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	I would if that's built, God forbid if this
3	thing's built, against the wishes of the
4	people. Twenty-five signatures, twelve
5	villages, four of the five towns.
6	The people of Haverstraw, they're
7	being misled. Yeah, the ratables. They said
8	it will lower their property taxes. Well,
9	it's going to be offset by increases in the
10	cost of the water. And United Water started
11	out, you know, six years ago, 79 million,
12	then it got up to 139 million, now it's up to
13	189 million, and they keep just quoting it
14	now at 130 million. We know it's up to 189.
15	God forbid, it could be 200, 300, 400
16	million. That's like huge construction
17	projects like the Palisades Mall. So we
18	don't know what the effect on water bills
19	would be for residential and commercial.
20	Anyway, I'll wrap it up here. If
21	this insane, ludicrous travesty is built,
22	then I'm going to move, and I know a lot of
23	people that will move. And I don't know
24	what's going to happen to this county of

ours. And I love this county. I mean I'm a

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	trustee on the board of directors of
3	Historical Sites in Rockland County. The
4	history here with the American Revolution,
5	the Native American history here, just the
6	sheer beauty of the Hudson Highlands. I've
7	traveled a lot in my life. The Bear Mountain
8	Bridge, the Harriman Bear Mountain and
9	Sterling Forest state parks, that's a 72,000
10	acre nature preserve, no hunting allowed,
11	it's like paradise, it is. There's 42 lakes
12	in that park on Seven Lakes Drive. I'm on
13	the board of NUCAM, American Canoe and Kayak
14	Association camp. There's a lady naturalist
15	in the park. I mean this is a and when I
16	lived in Santa Barbara I loved Santa Barbara,
17	but I always missed the Harriman Bear
18	Mountain Park and the Hudson Highlands. I
19	don't want to have to move from here. It's
20	really a
21	So anyway, this is why we need an
22	issues conference. And United Water has
23	been they're deathly afraid of an issues
24	conference where they have to swear under
25	oath to facts And there's we need an

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1	19 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	issues conference to address the two issues
3	of the true need and the true cost.
4	Thank you very much.
5	(Applause)
6	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
7	All right, this is Eric Weltman?
8	MR. WELTMAN: That's me.
9	Thank you for the opportunity to
10	testify about why Rockland County does not
11	need United Water's proposed Haverstraw
12	desalination plant.
13	My name is Eric Weltman, and I'm a
14	senior organizer with Food & Water Watch, a
15	nonprofit consumer organization with offices
16	across the country, including Brooklyn.
17	We're a proud member of the Rockland Water
18	Coalition.
19	We want to use this hearing to send
20	a message to Governor Cuomo, please join us
21	in saying no to United Water's costly,
22	dangerous and unnecessary proposal. Governor
23	Cuomo, defend the interests of New York
24	consumers, communities and environment
25	against the demands of this powerful

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	multinational corporation.
3	United Water, owned by Paris based
4	Suez Environnement, proposes to build an

Suez Environnement, proposes to build an exorbitant desalination plant that would impose an unnecessary financial burden on the consumers. To rationalize it, the company appears to have overstated the county's water needs by ignoring trends and consumption and the promise of conservation.

United Water's forecasts do not reflect reality. In the company's service area, water demand has actually fallen by ten percent since peaking in 2007. While no one expected United Water to predict the housing market crash in its 2006 forecast, we do expect a prudent company to adjust those figures to account for the economic realities of today.

United Water in fact does provide a more realistic short term projection in its latest rate case. Based on that, in 2015 water demand will be about 15 percent less than the available supply. So, contrary to United Water's claims, there is no need to

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	rush into its costly desalination proposal.
3	Households are already conserving
4	water. The average residential customer used
5	12 percent less water in 2012 than 2000.
6	United Water ignores this trend, and assumes
7	that increased water conservation will not
8	occur, despite improving technology,
9	toughening regulations, growing water
10	awareness, climbing water prices, and our
11	changing climate. Just because of
12	improvements in fixtures and appliances, all
13	else equal, a home built in 2011 uses 35
14	percent less water indoors than a home built
15	before 1994.
16	Meanwhile, United Water is becoming
17	increasingly wasteful, losing more and more
18	water each year. The company lost 28 percent
19	more water in 2012 than lost in 2000. That's
20	nearly an extra half a billion gallons a year
21	lost to leaks and other errors. This is
22	unacceptable.
23	(Applause)
24	MR. WELTMAN: The best option
25	the best option is to maximize existing

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	supplies through conservation and improved
3	system upkeep. Former New York City DEP
4	Commissioner Al Appleton recently detailed
5	how United Water can use demand management to
6	meet the county's future water needs.
7	Compared to desalination, these strategies
8	will be far more cost effective and
9	environmentally sustainable.
10	In sum, United Water's desalination
11	project will saddle customers with decades of
12	excessively high bills to pay for water they
13	do not need. It is imprudent, it is
14	unnecessary, and it is unjust.
15	We urge the Commissioners to act in
16	the public's interest and stop its profligate
17	plans. And we urge Governor Cuomo, we urge
18	Governor Cuomo to defend New York's
19	consumers, communities and environment
20	through United Water's drive to make money
21	off of our backs.
22	Thank you for your time and
23	consideration.
24	(Applause)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.

1	201 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	The next speaker is Frank Drill.
3	Frank Drell?
4	MR. GREHL: Good evening, everyone.
5	I'm 81. Oh, I'm 83. I've aged two years.
6	While I was out, everybody was talking about
7	their credentials, so I felt kind of
8	embarrassed. So I opened my wallet. I have
9	a driver's license, I have an AADA card, and
10	a card for the library. That's all I could
11	give you.
12	But what I do have to give you is
13	my look at what happens if you don't have
14	water. I have lived in the desert, thank you
15	Uncle Sam. You can live without food for a
16	while, we didn't have electric. But boy,
17	when that water truck didn't come by, you
18	were hurting. And everybody said well, the
19	precipitation rates are going to be higher in
20	a couple of years. You can't even tell from

24 But all I know is I would like my children who live here now, and my 25

don't know.

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the weather man what it's going to be in two

days. So how they could predict that, I

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	grandchildren, and children that I'm not even
3	going to see in the future, to please have
4	water. And the only way to have it is by the
5	water project in Haverstraw, because you'll
6	never run out of the Atlantic Ocean. And
7	I've heard so many conflicting stories. And
8	the politicians that were here tonight, it
9	sounded like everyone was running for office
LO	again because they said whatever most people
L1	wanted to hear. The facts were repeated over
L2	and over. And a lot of the facts, I'm quite
L3	sure you folks when you get all the reports
L4	you'll find a lot of them are misleading, and
L5	I hope you can ferret it out and give us the
L6	best deal that we can have, I think.
L7	(Applause)
L8	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
L9	Bradley Ashford. Bradley Ashford?
20	(No response)
21	ALJ CASUTTO: Sheila Schneider.
22	Sheila Schneider?
23	(No response)
24	AUDIENCE MEMBER: What number are
25	you up to?

	200
1	203 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Forty-four.
3	(Audience participation)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay, raise your hand
5	if you're present then and you'll come
6	forward.
7	Patsy Wootens.
8	(No response)
9	ALJ CASUTTO: Jocelyn DeCrescenzo.
10	AUDIENCE MEMBER: How about anyone
11	who raises their hand and wants to speak?
12	(Audience participation)
13	MS. DeCRESCENZO: I'm Jocelyn but
14	I'm going to pass for right now.
15	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay. All right.
16	Well, then who would like to speak? Well
17	(Audience participation)
18	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay, I'll continue
19	calling the names then.
20	Kathleen Rumsey.
21	(No response)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Bob Jackson.
23	(No response)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: Sister Dorothy
25	Maywell

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(No response)
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Margaret Terry.
4	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Margaret Terry.
5	Wait, what number is it?
6	ALJ CASUTTO: Terry, T-e-r-r-y.
7	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay, it's not
8	me.
9	ALJ CASUTTO: We'll get there.
10	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.
11	ALJ CASUTTO: Lynda DiMenna. Okay,
12	Ms. DiMenna is coming forward.
13	MS. DiMENNA: Good evening. My
14	name is Lynda DiMenna. I would like to thank
15	each of you for the opportunity tonight to
16	speak on behalf of Rockland's needs for more
17	water.
18	I have been living in Rockland
19	County my entire life. I am a mother of two
20	small children, and my husband and I will be
21	raising them here in Rockland County. I wish
22	that one day that they will also have the
23	opportunity to raise their families here. So
24	I too have a very personal investment in this
25	project.

	205
1	205 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	I would like to say also that I am
3	not only a customer, a ratepayer, but a proud
4	United Water employee. As a life-long
5	resident, and an employee, I have a
6	well-rounded perspective of Rockland's water
7	needs. I have seen this county thrive. I
8	have also seen it struggle with their water
9	shortages. I have seen dedicated United
10	Water employees work hard to bring small new
11	sources of supply on-line. But,
12	unfortunately, this is not enough.
13	The most recent data, including the
14	U.S. census figures released back in June,
15	shows that this county's population is
16	increasingly growing. There's just simply
17	not enough water to sustain the needs for the
18	future. The head of Rockland County Water
19	Supply Bureau, Dr. Daniel Miller who is a
20	hydrogeologist and an expert in his field,
21	has actually confirmed this back in March.
22	Some people have spoken about

demand side solutions, like better

conservation, as well as the different rate

structures. While this is helpful and the

23

24

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	company is a huge proponent of this,
3	conservation alone is not enough.
4	We have heard tonight a lot about
5	conservation. Rocklanders are already
6	conservation leaders, because demand side
7	solutions have been in effect for decades.
8	They include the widespread use of low flow
9	fixtures, discounted conservation kits, as
10	well as pioneering weather based lawn
11	watering programs and summer-winter rates.
12	I would like to reiterate something
13	that Mr. Pointing stated earlier today.
14	Rocklanders use 66 gallons of water per
15	person per day. Compared to the national
16	average of a hundred gallons. Comparison in
17	New York City, 130 gallons per person per
18	day. That's without lawn watering. We're
19	conserving. We're really conserving, if you
20	really look at the facts. But it is not
21	enough. It's not enough for our future.
22	Our Environmental Impact Statement
23	examines demand side management in whole and
24	in part. It determines small incremental
25	gains would not be enough to head up the

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	water supply shortages that we are facing.
3	In order to maintain the quality of life for
4	my family, my children and their future
5	growth, Rockland needs a new long term water
6	supply project. The Haverstraw water supply
7	project is the solution. And there is a need
8	for more potable drinking water in this
9	county. It is cost effective, though I see
LO	many of you say it's not. It is very
11	sustainable, and it will provide high quality
L2	drinking water for myself, my family and each
L3	one of you.
L4	Thank you for your time tonight.
L5	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
L6	Meaghan Colligan. Excuse me,
L7	Colligan.
L8	MS. COLLIGAN: Good evening, your
L9	Honor, Commissioners. My name is Meaghan
20	Colligan, and I am here on behalf of the Pace
21	Environmental Litigation Clinic, who
22	represents Riverkeeper. We support and
23	incorporate all of Scenic Hudson's comments,
24	as well as the comments made by the experts
25	retained by Rockland Water Coalition,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	including Al Appleton, Charles McLane, and
3	Robert Kecskes.
4	This proceeding was instituted so
5	that United Water would take a fresh look to
6	determine whether or not there is a need for
7	more water in the future. This is not about
8	generations in the future. The regulations
9	require the Public Service Commission to look
10	at a ten year outline, ten years long. The
11	facts that have been put forth by the experts
12	have shown that the ten year supply is
13	enough. We do not need more water.
14	In order to meet this requirement
15	for United Water to take a fresh look, United
16	Water is required to file a report that
17	contained the most recent information.
18	However, United Water's August 19th, 2013
19	report did not produce a fresh look at need.
20	United Water's report reiterated the same
21	results that it had in the past. The
22	additional information that had been set
23	forth between 2006 and the present were
24	brushed aside in the report.
25	United Water's report failed to

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	address this most recent information and
3	failed to give the public the answers that
4	they deserve. I'm not going to go through
5	all the examples as to why the report was not
6	accurate because it's gone over and over
7	again tonight. Basically the examples that
8	have been set forth today, including:
9	The fact that economic theory of
LO	elasticity showed that when costs increase,
L1	demand decreases.
L2	That the aquifers have recharged.
L3	That ratepayers have used less
L4	water than projected.
L5	That this is not that this is a
L6	national trend.
L7	That United Water report uses an
L8	inflated number regarding projected
L9	population growth.
20	And, finally, that Rockland
21	County's executive recently created an
22	executive task force committee.
23	And besides the examples that
24	United Water it's been shown that United
25	Water does have the ability to put forth

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	conservation measures, Rockland County has
3	shown that they will work with water experts
4	to develop incentive programs, that they will
5	work together with these water experts to
6	develop local ordinances. So Rockland County
7	has shown that they will do that. United
8	Water said well, we can't control that so
9	we're not going to take that into account.
10	Also, one other thing I want to
11	address is that it hasn't just been
12	conservation that's been brought up tonight.
13	It's conservation plus the permit, reopening
14	of the permit. It's not just conservation.
15	We have been looking at all of the different
16	water supply sources that are available in
17	Rockland County, that already give us enough
18	need.
19	Based on these examples, and there
20	are more, United Water's report fails to
21	adequately address all of the information
22	which it was required to do. United Water

which it was required to do. United Water should have addressed all of this information and should not have just pushed it to the side.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	It is incumbent upon the Public
3	Service Commission to protect the public. We
4	urge the Public Service committee
5	Commission, excuse me to determine that a
6	need has not been established in United
7	Water's report. After we have established
8	that, that's when we get to the next part. I
9	don't even know why we are talking about a
10	desalination plant here today. The point is
11	that a need was not established in United
12	Water's report. And that's why we are here
13	tonight, and that's why there are all these
14	comments showing that United Water's report
15	was insufficient to show need. And that was
16	what you asked them to do.
17	Thank you.
18	(Applause)
19	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
20	William Herguth. William Herguth?
21	(No response)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Gaylord Holmes.
23	(No response)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: Bob Terry.
25	(No response)

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1	212 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Richard Ofelot.
3	(No response)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Margaret Turrin.
5	MS. TURRIN: My name is Margaret
6	Turrin, and I'm a resident of Rockland
7	County, and a member of the Rockland Water
8	Coalition.
9	Thank you for providing this
10	opportunity for the public to testify about
11	why Rockland County does not need a new long
12	term water supply project. Instead, there is
13	a need for better water management and
14	repairs in the water delivery system.
15	Leaking valves, leaking pipes, excess
16	releases. If our households were managed in
17	the way that United Water has managed our
18	water resources, we would also be looking for
19	a new influx of the water. But the truth is,
20	a new source of water is not needed. Demand
21	is currently down millions of gallons a day.
22	And with resource efficient appliances, broad
23	based education, and applying demand side
24	approaches to water management, we will
25	continue to see water use stay down.

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1	213 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Rockland County's 2011
3	Comprehensive Plan recommended developing a
4	comprehensive county water policy and
5	promoting water conservation. And the county
6	has begun on that. They have organized
7	around that plan, and they will continue.
8	Population growth does not equate directly to
9	water use, especially when prices for water
10	continue to jump in large increments.
11	We certainly have enough water for
12	Rockland for the next decade, allowing us
13	time to develop a fully comprehensive look at
14	water management, something that should have
15	been done at the very outset of this proposed
16	project. You've heard recommendations from
17	several experts on how we could easily reach
18	the 7.5 million gallons per day being
19	proposed by United Water with the
20	desalination plant. And this could be done
21	with minimally restricting summer watering,
22	limiting nighttime watering, system-wide
23	improvements to the delivery system, and all

the other reasons that we have heard earlier.

So we need to focus on this.

24

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303

I wanted to close by sharing a few
points from my colleague at Columbia
University, Dr. Upmanu Lall, the director at
Columbia Water Center. And Peggy already
mentioned that he's going to be submitting a
report. But I wanted to just give you a few
of his summary points.

A better demand study that includes more rigorous economic and regional planning considerations, including potential changes in consumption patterns given pricing structures, that assure positive net revenue for United Water, premium changes -- excuse me, premium charges for new construction and for reviews are one of the first things that's needed. In addition, we need a more comprehensive long term water plan, including:

A capacity expansion strategy that considers both county and surrounding system water sources;

Assistance analysis of potential designs that consider a mix of potable and non-potable water generation and use, with

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	climate informed management of the surface
3	reservoirs, groundwater, rainwater storage,
4	and aquifer recharge; and,
5	Active demand management to
6	increase the system load factor.
7	We would include economic and
8	environmental impacts of what's proposed be
9	integrated into county and regional planning
10	It would be nice if the state and the
11	county's subscribed to a formal water
12	planning process that was updated on a
13	regular basis. And we need an informed
14	engagement of the public in their water
15	future to provide guidance to United Water,
16	Rockland, and New York state governance
17	groups as to preferences. This could be
18	accomplished through cooperative efforts
19	between United Water, Rockland County, and
20	appropriate scientists and economists.
21	Thank you.
22	(Applause)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
24	Jacquelyn Drechsler. Jacquelyn
25	Drechsler?

	216
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(No response)
3	ALJ CASUTTO: John Lipscomb.
4	(No response)
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Carol Donnelly.
6	(No response)
7	ALJ CASUTTO: Natalie Patasaw. Is
8	Natalie Patasaw present?
9	AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's right here.
10	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay, we'll wait a
11	moment for you.
12	MS. PATASAW: Good evening. My
13	name is Natalie Patasaw. And I really do
14	appreciate the fact that you are here, that
15	you are listening to us, and it is 11:35.
16	And there are so many people that have stayed
17	here.
18	So thank you very much for this
19	opportunity to hear the concerns of the
20	residents and business owners who are
21	ratepayers of United Water regarding this
22	application to construct a desalination plant
23	in Haverstraw.
24	I am the chairperson of the
25	Rockland County Environmental Management

1	217 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Council, and an adjunct professor of
3	environmental science at a local college.
4	The EMC is an advisory council to the local
5	legislature and a liaison to the general
6	public on its behalf, representing the entire
7	county. I'm appearing here as a private
8	citizen, as a resident of this county, and a
9	ratepayer of United Water New York.
10	I am most appreciative of the work
11	of the Rockland Water Coalition, their
12	professional consultants and the local
13	elected officials in their yeoman's job,
14	tirelessly pursuing transparency and
15	substantiation of the decision making process
16	by United Water for the need for this plant
17	in Haverstraw.
18	Over the past few years the EMC has
19	heard many of the concerns of residents
20	regarding the construction of a plant at our
21	meetings, at public forums and before the

S legislature. Its members have found that there are far too many unanswered questions. Governor Cuomo, nor any regulatory authority, should approve a permit with these issues

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	unanswered and unaddressed. The major issue
3	is that there is no hydrologic need in the
4	county for this project. And the reasons
5	are:
6	Incomplete criteria for decision
7	making;
8	A lack of an updated, county-wide
9	aggressive water conservation program as a
10	first step;
11	Plant's energy use and cost; and,
12	Its siting on a floodplain, which
13	the trial project was damaged, severely
14	damaged.
15	It has been widely reported that
16	demand for water will not outstrip the supply
17	with the current trends until about 2025.
18	United Water overestimated the demand. In
19	2013 demand projections were stated at 33.6
20	MGD to 34.3 MGD, but the actual demand was 29
21	MGD between 2008 and 2012.
22	Additionally, we live in a
23	temperate deciduous forest biome of this
24	country with an average rainfall of 50.31
25	inches. By definition, its annual

	219
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	precipitation is evenly spread year-round,
3	with an abundance of rain and snow. Although
4	it is a coastal estuarine county, it does not
5	have salt water incursion in the groundwater
6	supply, a condition that, if it existed,
7	might necessitate a desalination plant.
8	There is no need for this technology in this
9	region at this time.
10	Too much of Rockland's water from
11	Lake DeForest is allowed to augment New
12	Jersey levels. Since you've already heard
13	the reasons for that, I am going to skip over
14	that portion. So I'm not going to reiterate
15	all the points made, but it does bear further
16	study.
17	Additionally, applications for
18	building permits have dropped from 700 in
19	1999 to below 100 in the year 2009. And then
20	it rose this year, 2013, to approximately
21	100. This shows a great drop in projected
22	demand. Most, but not all, of the new
23	construction is for multiple dwellings, which
24	do not use the same amount of water for

irrigation as do single family homes.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Irrigation is one of the largest uses.
3	Again, without the first step being
4	an up-to-date aggressive conservation plan,
5	the need for this plan is not justified.
6	United Water New York and New Jersey must be
7	required to fix the leaks in the distribution
8	system. It has been reported that United
9	Water does not believe that conservation will
10	obviate the need for a new water supply
11	source. The programs they do have are not
12	being widely publicized.
13	There are examples of
14	municipalities in the United States that have
15	saved a significant percentage of their water
16	through aggressive conservation programs.
17	This reduces the demand. A five, ten, or
18	even fifteen percent reduction or even higher
19	reductions may be achievable by incorporating
20	methodologies and incentives proven
21	successful in other jurisdictions. After the
22	three year severe drought in southeast United
23	States, new programs were implemented and

water sharing agreements were implemented in

Georgia, Florida and Alabama. After speaking

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1	22 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
Τ	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	with the staff in Atlanta, Georgia of the
3	water conservation program they have there,
4	they reported to have the best conservation
5	program in the country. It is worth looking
6	at transferable programs.
7	And an additional course of wasted

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And an additional source of wasted water are the millions of gallons of water that flow out to the Hudson River that could be recaptured according to USGS report on the Rockland water status, the Heisig report. aggressive recapture program needs to be developed and implemented.

The plant is energy intensive. The cost of the energy and the emissions from using more fossil fuels will add pollution to the ambient air. This is not in compliance with the federal government or the state government goals to reduce its collective energy use. It will violate the regional greenhouse gas initiative goals as well. Energy use is where we all must adhere to the axiom, think globally but act locally.

The construction and operating costs are an ever escalating figure that have

PUBLIC	HEARING	- 10	/1/13	- CASE	NO.	13-W-	0303

gone from the low \$100 million mark to as high as \$187 million. By the time this project is completed, it may end up being more than this. We, the ratepayers, will end б up paying for this plant that is not needed. There have been other public utility projects that ratepayers paid for that have not produced the projected service. We do not want this to be added to a list that includes the mothballed Brockton, Massachusetts

desalination plant.

The trial plant was cited on the Haverstraw Bay shoreline. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, this plant was rendered highly damaged, inoperable and never reopened. Perhaps this could be addressed with better construction for the permanent plant. However, the permanent plant needs to be sited in the same place and may well be subject to the same damage in the future as storms get more frequent and more severe. All major coastal regions in the world are preparing resiliency plans to manage the more frequent severe weather events. Yet, United

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Water is planning a major project in harm's
3	way.
4	In conclusion, I would like to say
5	that these issues are serious and in need of
6	more substantive answers than are available
7	now. The Governor, the Public Service
8	Commission, the Department of Environmental
9	Conservation have a fiduciary responsibility
10	to render a much better level of professional
11	service to the citizens of Rockland County
12	regarding its water. Prudent public resource
13	planning requires a thorough reexamination of
14	a variety of issues raised at these meetings
15	prior to permitting the energy intensive,
16	financially expensive, precariously sited,
17	proposed desalination plant. Rockland does
18	not need this desalination plant at this
19	time, nor in the foreseeable future.
20	Thank you very much.
21	(Applause)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
23	Andrew Lazaro.
24	(No response)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Phillip Bosco.

	204
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	MR. BOSCO: Here.
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Is Mr. Bosco present?
4	All right, please come forward.
5	MR. BOSCO: Thank you for your
6	patience. I'm just going to try and run
7	so many things have been said already that I
8	could have said. I'm just going to try and
9	highlight things I could.
10	Quarries for storage. We have a
11	number of them in Rockland County. We have
12	the one that Pat Withers mentioned in
13	Suffern, which was I know as the Sam Brain
14	Quarry, because I've been around here a
15	little while. And there's another one in
16	Tompkins Cove, which I think is just about
17	mined out, which would hold enough water for
18	all of our summer needs in Rockland County.
19	And there's one in West Nyack that has maybe
20	30 more years of mining to do, and there's
21	another one in Haverstraw. These all could
22	store water for our water needs. I don't
23	have a figure of the actual gallonage that
24	they could, but I can forward that to you.

The question on this valve that was

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

2 broken, I was working along with Bob Dillon

on that situation. But I'd just like to

4 point out that there was no problem with

5 measuring the water because there was a gauge

on the Hackensack River that the USGS, United

7 Water New Jersey, United Water New York and

8 Nyack Water Company all sponsored, which is

9 measuring the water that runs by there on the

10 Hackensack River. And any person who knows a

11 little bit of mathematics can calculate the

water flow and how many gallons it is. So

they knew exactly what was going on at all

times, valve or no valve.

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The Lake Tappan thing that Bob spoke about, Old Tappan, New Jersey, prior to the construction of the Lake Tappan dam, which stores all of its water in Rockland County, and it all gets used in New Jersey, that flooding in Old Tappan, I think they had two floods in them, I don't know, some 20, 30 years before the dam was built. And now because the -- actually it's a foot and a half higher there than it is in West Nyack. They have every flood that we have in West

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Nyack on a regular basis, so that's been
3	since about 1968, '69. The dam the
4	hearings were in 1965.
5	I should mention to you that myself
6	and my high school buddies used to fish in
7	what is now Lake DeForest back when it was a
8	bunch of streams. So that kind of dates me a
9	little bit. And I think that oh, New
LO	Milford having a problem with selling off
L1	watershed forever. We have watershed in
L2	Rockland County that was owned by United
L3	Water that was supposed to be watershed
L4	forever. And after four years they came and
L5	said since we're now sewered we don't need it
L6	for watershed anymore, and they sold it all
L7	off for more development.
L8	And that's it. Thank you very much
L9	for listening tonight.
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
21	Kim Termine.
22	(No response)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: George Potanovic
24	Junior.
25	MR. POTANOVIC: Good evening. My

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	name is George Potanovic Junior, and I am
3	president of the Stony Point Action Committee
4	for the Environment in Stony Point, New York.
5	I'm a resident of Rockland County. And I'm a
6	member of SPACE is a member of the

Rockland Water Coalition.

When the New York State Public
Service Commission reached its determination
in 2006 that Rockland County had an urgent
need for an additional water supply, there
were a number of important factors that were
not known and possibly even withheld from the
knowledge of the Commission at the time of
its determination. At the time, the County
of Rockland was reacting to recent drought
conditions in 2002 and questions in 2004 as
to whether or not letters of intention to
serve, routinely issued by the United Water
company to prospective home developers, were
even substantiated by an adequate supply of
available drinking water.

It was with these concerns in mind that the County of Rockland in 2005 entered into a five year groundwater study that was

1	228 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	conducted that was to be conducted by Paul
3	Heisig of the U.S. Geological Survey in
4	partnership with United Water and the County
5	of Rockland's Department of Health. However,
6	data from that study was collected through
7	2010, and the final report with
8	recommendations were not even available until
9	2011. Meaning that the findings of the USGS
10	report were not even considered by the PSC
11	until it had already reached its
12	determination that Rockland County needed an
13	additional water supply some five years
14	earlier.
15	Also unbeknownst to the Commission
16	in 2006, United Water had also been receiving
17	its permitted transfers of water to New
18	Jersey for some 18 months prior to being
19	discovered and the company being fined by the
20	New York Department of Environmental
21	Conservation in 2007 for violating its
22	permitted releases from Lake DeForest to New
23	Jersey. A problem that the company had
24	reportedly blamed on a malfunctioning valve.
25	T suppose it can be grateful that we are not

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	discussing a malfunctioning valve on the
3	Hudson River desalination plant this evening.
4	Coincidentally, the water sharing
5	agreement between United Water New York and
6	its parent company, United Water of New
7	Jersey, is apparently up for renewal, and the
8	terms of that agreement have been a hotly
9	debated issue of contention with many
LO	Rockland County residents, businesses and
L1	elected officials. In fact, the Rockland
L2	County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef has
L3	argued since 1999 for reconsideration of the
L 4	sharing agreement. In his most recent letter
L5	to the DEC Commissioner Martins, dated
L6	September 23rd, 2013, the county executive
L7	formally requested and strongly urged, as
L8	other elected officials have done, that the
L9	DEC open the permit for Lake DeForest,
20	WSA-2189. SPACE supports the county
21	executive's request that the DEC conduct a
22	detailed analysis of water allocation within
23	the county, and that water sharing agreements
24	with New Jersey be explored in depth, an
25	agreement that should produce a four MGD

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2 benefit for Rockland County.

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3 When you consider the excessive 4 water releases to New Jersey, known and 5 unknown, the questionable terms and б conditions of the water sharing agreement 7 between what amounts to two arms of the same 8 company, and the fact that United Water of 9 New Jersey has an undetected leak rate of 10 almost 25 percent, Rockland County ratepayers 11 are extremely concerned that United Water's 12 proposed Haverstraw water supply project 13 would have Rockland County residents paying 14 double their current water rates to pay for 15 the building of a desalination plant to drink Hudson River water, while United Water sends 16 17 more of our fresh water from Lake DeForest 18 reservoir to New Jersey.

Super Storm Sandy hit Rockland

County just one year ago on October 25th,

2012. This was an unexpected and violent

weather pattern, but one that seems to have

become more typical over the past few years,

leaving many waterfront communities along the

Eastern Seaboard and along the Lower Hudson

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River shoreline, including the towns of Stony

Point and Haverstraw, with devastating damage

to home and property. In fact, the intake of
a pilot plant for the proposed Haverstraw

water supply project was destroyed.

Super Storm Sandy highlights the issue, the issue of not only the pending climate change, but also adds concerns to the questionable reliance and expense of utilizing an energy intensive desalination plant on the Hudson River as a drinking water source. While I understand that the purpose of the public hearing tonight is to examine the specific question of need, it is being suggested by me and effectively demonstrated by other, more expert testimony tonight, that the question of need includes a thorough examination of United Water's water resource management policies, identification of under-utilized or water wasted resources, including the real cost, because you cannot uncouple the cost and need of water from the equation.

The issues I and others have

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	mentioned tonight underscore our concerns
3	that Rockland County's existing water
4	resources need to be better understood, and
5	more effective water management and
6	conservation policies developed and
7	implemented before the Public Service
8	Commission and the Department of
9	Environmental Conservation allow such an
10	energy intensive desalination plant that
11	could impose such a long term unsustainable
12	environmental and economic burden on the
13	residents of Rockland and its businesses. To
14	do otherwise would segment a process that
15	should be viewed and must be viewed in total.
16	I thank the Public Service
17	Commission for holding this hearing tonight.
18	And it is our expectation that the PSC will
19	use its authority on behalf of the public to
20	explore, examine, analyze, evaluate and
21	recommend the most sustainable means for
22	meeting those long term needs.
23	It's a different world than it was
24	when the PSC seven years ago reached a
25	determination, original determination in

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	2006. We cannot just base this decision on
3	trending forward and projections based on
4	past patterns, ignoring the dynamic
5	interaction of many factors that shape water
6	demand, which is decreasing steadily.
7	Rockland County does not have a
8	water demand problem for at least the next
9	several years. We have the time to look at
10	this problem in total. And I urge the PSC to
11	recommend that the process the time we
12	have now is used to examine more efficient
13	water management practices on the demand
14	side, in order to avoid the need for a
15	desalination plant and look for a more
16	sustainable resolution to Rockland County's
17	water needs.
18	Thank you very much for your
19	attention. We appreciate you being here.
20	(Applause)
21	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
22	Larry Vail.
23	MR. VAIL: Hi. I'm Larry Vail from
24	Tappan. And thank you very much for coming.
25	It has been a long process since 2006 or so,

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	but I think it's actually been worth it. And
3	I'd like to thank United Water too, because I
4	know you've been to every one of these
5	meetings, and they are very long.
6	And I guess I'm coming here
7	first of all, I'd like to endorse a lot of
8	the technical comments that were made. I'm a
9	technical expert here. But some of them were
10	very persuasive to me. They might not be one
11	hundred percent accurate, but I really would
12	like it if the Commission could really give
13	this information a real good fresh look,
14	because I think a lot of it is new
15	information. I learned a lot here. And I
16	think and I come here not only as a part
17	of the public, which you help defend
18	basically, but also as a customer of United
19	Water, from that perspective, not as an
20	expert.
21	But I would say that as a
22	scientist, you know, I have to always remind
23	myself to be somewhat skeptical of everything
24	I hear and to really track down. So when I

hear the water usage per capita in New York

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	City versus Rockland, the first question I
3	would ask and I think you should ask is well,
4	so does that include all the industrial use,
5	does that include all the tourists' use, does
6	that include all the community use. And when
7	Rockland empties out of workers and half of
8	them, the workers, go to New York City to
9	work, are they counting Rockland people in
10	that, you know? So those but dividing by
11	the population of New York, rather than the
12	population that's there every day, you have
13	to really look at some of these numbers.
14	I don't believe those numbers, I
15	think they are self-serving. And I think
16	it's unfortunate. I work for a corporation
17	too, I know how demanding some of your bosses
18	can be that you achieve this objective, but
19	that doesn't mean that as a ratepayer I have
20	to accept it.
21	So I know that as a ratepayer here
22	I'm not and I understood a little bit more
7.2	about the way the Dublic Corvice Commission

works. It's still a bit of a mystery to me.

You may not have control over conservation or

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2 you may, but I hope you consider it if it is

3 within your scope. You may not have

4 consideration over environmental factors, but

5 I hope you consider it if it's part of your

6 scope.

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But I know you have control over And as a ratepayer, I don't want to rates. pay for this boondoggle. And I know that there are 25 people on my block who are not at this meeting, probably have never signed one of those petitions, they don't want to pay for it either. We pay one of the highest rates going here. I don't blame you, you probably weren't on the commissions that have approved these rate increases before. don't know how we got here. We pay exorbitant rates now. And to think that a proposal to put something suitable for a desert in a place that gets rain and precipitation 12 months a year would even be given serious thought, the only way that can happen is when somehow the technical experts for the company that just happens to be making a profit on this, is taken as the only

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	fact at hand. I think we have seen a lot of
3	new facts tonight, and I think we've seen a
4	lot of reasons why we should really question
5	this, just from 30,000 feet. How is it
6	possible that this technology is the only one
7	that can be used here. It just can't be
8	true. And I think you heard tonight a lot of
9	reasons why it doesn't even have to be
LO	considered.

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So, you know, in kind of closing from that, I really would like to say that whatever was considered now is abandoned. will have other droughts. This was taken into consideration during a drought period. It's very important to plan for droughts. A lot of water has gone over the dam since that day. And a lot of pipes have leaked since that day. A lot of things have happened since then, including all the information. This could have been something that happened in two or three years, like a lot of cases you probably see. Fortunately, it was a very long, drawn out process and I think you understand that a lot of things have changed,

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2 including the attitude of the ratepayers and 3 the public people within Rockland County.

4 Now, you know, I don't want to ge

Now, you know, I don't want to get too optimistic. I think there's two paths that can -- maybe this is the first step towards the path, two possible paths, that might be tonight. One, the Commission can say well, we approve this, we're going to go down that road, it's a slippery slope, you just can't go back, and Rockland County will be saddled with a white elephant that won't be used.

Remember, the trends in population here are not necessarily extrapolation from the past. The trend -- I'm glad that somebody from the Pace Environmental Law Center was here today and talked about it. I went to a talk there, and they projected population for the New York metro area and places like Westchester and Rockland. And they were talking about utilities like electric utilities and what the demand would be. They said, you know, the trends through 2030 to 2050 are going to be for more

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	intensive, smaller units, more retired
3	people. We all know the demographics of our
4	generation. And it won't be for more
5	suburban, single housing. Of course there
6	will be large houses that are built, of
7	course we will continue to make McMansions in
8	Rockland County. But in general we are going
9	to be using our land, our resources, our
10	water, our utilities in a much different way
11	over the next 20, 30, 40 years. And that was
12	very evident from this. And I think you
13	should look into those if you haven't
14	already. I imagine you have.
15	And obviously, you know, my
16	supplier of utilities has to look into that
17	too. But let's assume that it goes down the
18	road where this gets built. This will just
19	be a disaster.
20	There is another path, and maybe
21	we're making that first step now. That first
22	step is that a utility doesn't increase their
23	capital employed so they can make even a

percentage -- a higher amount of money based

on the percentage of that capital employed.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	And the only way to make more money is to buy
3	more goodies. You know, that just is not
4	necessarily the future of our relationship.
5	It's possible that United Water has
6	a mission statement. You might have to
7	translate it from French some day. But it
8	probably talks about stakeholders, and it
9	probably talks, like it does in my company,
10	about satisfying customers. I am a customer
11	and I am not satisfied.
12	Thank you.
13	(Applause)
14	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
15	Ronald von Autenried.
16	MR. VON AUTENRIED: Good evening.
17	My name is Ronald von Autenried. I'm
18	president of Buck, Seifert & Jost. I'm a
19	professional engineer in the state of New
20	York and a consulting engineer, specializing
21	in water and waste water.
22	It's heartening to see all the
23	impassioned discussion this evening something
24	I've dedicated my life to, because I think
25	it we all recognize the value of water and

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the fact that it's life giving.
3	It's important to state that the
4	water that is rightfully in Rockland County
5	and belonging to Rockland County be available
6	for Rockland County residents and businesses.
7	That's without a doubt. Water is
8	increasingly becoming a regional concern
9	beyond the municipal, county and state
10	boundaries. We have to recognize that.
11	Rockland County must exercise every right it
12	has to conserve and make the beneficial use
13	of water for its residents and its
14	businesses.
15	But in the long term I think we
16	have to recognize that our population and the
17	need for water will increase. The Haverstraw
18	water supply project is one of several
19	resources and tools available to meet that
20	demand. The Hudson River source is a drought
21	resistant and reliable source of water.
22	As proposed, the project itself is
23	scalable with an initial 2.5 million gallons
24	per day, and intermediate value of five

million gallons per day, or a potential final

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	value of seven and a half million gallons per
3	day, depending on what and when the actual
4	demand for water will require. Only the
5	capacity needed will be constructed, if and
6	when it's needed.
7	More than 60 years ago there was
8	opposition to Lake DeForest. Our firm
9	designed Lake DeForest dam and the water
10	treatment plant. And it has become an
11	indispensable resource to the county. As
12	part of that, of the comprehensive water
13	supply planning for the county, the
14	development of innovative supplies, like the
15	Haverstraw water supply project, are
16	essential, and I'm sure will later be viewed
17	as indispensable.
18	(Applause)
19	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
20	Robert Paone.
21	(No response)
22	ALJ CASUTTO: Orrin Getz.
23	(No response)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: Robert Greenblatt.
25	(No response)

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Compton Maddux.
3	(No response)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Jonathan Ramirez.
5	(No response)
6	ALJ CASUTTO: David Refkin.
7	(No response)
8	ALJ CASUTTO: John Moolick.
9	MR. MOOLICK: Thank you. My name
10	is John Moolick. I'm essentially a life-long
11	resident of Rockland County and Clarkstown.
12	This happens to be my school district. I'm a
13	licensed professional engineer in the state
14	of New York. I hold a bachelors degree in
15	civil engineering, and a masters degree in
16	environmental engineering.
17	I'm also United Water New York's
18	manager of transmission and distribution,
19	essentially the pipe network. This includes
20	oversight of operation and maintenance of
21	over a thousand miles of water mains, 6,000
22	fire hydrants, and 14,000 valves.
23	In this capacity, and as a Rockland
24	resident, I follow closely the comments

regarding the Haverstraw water supply

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	project, particularly those relating to the
3	pipe network. It's been suggested on a
4	number of occasions that repairing the leaks
5	in the distribution system will be an
6	alternative to the project. This simply is
7	not true.
8	Our distribution and construction
9	personnel consist of a dedicated group of
LO	hard working men and women who take great
L1	pride in what is a well-maintained
L2	distribution system. In addition to a
L3	continuous leak survey program, it's standard
L4	procedure for all distribution system
L5	personnel to sound for leaks any underground
L6	asset that they work on throughout the course
L7	of their day. The majority of leaks that are
L8	detected are repaired within one day.
L9	Due to these practices, and an
20	annual PSC approved underground
21	infrastructure replacement program, the
22	United Water distribution system ranks among
23	the best run water distribution systems when

measured against water loss guidelines

supported by the American Water Works

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PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 1 2 Association. 3 Thank you. 4 (Applause) 5 ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you. 6 Perry Dentico. 7 MR. DENTICO: Thanks very much for 8 hearing all of us. 9 I prepared a statement tonight, but 10 I took notes along the way and I'm trying not 11 to repeat things that were already said, just 12 to make some points about things that concern 13 us all. 14 I live in West Nyack, New York, 15 directly south of Lake DeForest. And one 16 point I'd like to make clear is that after 17 Hurricane Irene, we were not flooded at our 18 property. Our property was completely dry 19 the next day. But in celebration of 20 surviving the storm, shortly after United 21 Water opened the dam and flooded our entire 22 hamlet. We were under three feet of water within two hours. The fire department came 23 24 and took people out on boats. And we had

damage that took us over five months to

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	repair. Thank goodness we were insured.
3	I was dumbfounded by the idea that
4	United Water, who claimed to have
5	professionals on site 24/7 watching Irene
6	come through, I was just shocked that they
7	couldn't release water in small increments of
8	an inch or two on the street, allow the
9	sewers and ground to absorb the water, and
LO	then release more and do it incrementally so
L1	not to destroy the village. But that's
L2	exactly what they wound up doing. They put
L3	the entire village in turmoil for a long
L4	period of time. So there's a question of
L5	responsibility there.
L6	In addition to that, or I should
L7	say since then, there was a report on the
L8	local news station, News 12, about misuse of
L9	fungicides in the Lake DeForest reservoir
20	that, if I'm not mistaken, the DEC actually
21	fined them for and also fined them for not
22	reporting it properly.
23	And more recently, earlier this
24	summer, there was another report on that same

news station, as a storm was heading our way,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	that United Water had, through email, made a
3	statement that they were not planning to
4	release any water to protect our area from
5	the coming storm because they feared that
6	later in the season there might not be enough
7	water to serve their customers. So even if I
8	were in favor of the desalination plant, I
9	would have to say United Water is not the
10	company to manage that. We
11	(Applause)
12	MR. DENTICO: We need stewardship
13	of water that we already have. Excellent
14	stewardship. Constant attention to what goes
15	on, and concern for the communities they
16	serve.
17	It seems insane, whether the
18	leaks whether fixing leaks, for example,
19	would provide enough water to supply the
20	county, it seems ridiculous to not fix them.
21	That's like having bad windows and turning
22	your air conditioner up more and more and
23	more to cool your house because air is
24	escaping.
25	What's wrong with the world is

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	man's fault, myself included, and we need to
3	take a look at sustainability as a whole and
4	begin to fix all the damage we've done. But
5	in the case of United Water, I just cannot
6	see, after clearly seeing this sequence of
7	what I consider irresponsible actions, taking
8	over responsibility for my water.

from the Hudson River, an area three miles away from a forty year old nuclear plant, and in a section of the Hudson River that the DEC itself states every year in their hunting and fishing guide that pregnant women and children 15 or 14 and under should not eat fish south of Carnes, New York, frightens the heck out of me. And I found out tomorrow that more water was coming from that plant, every glass of water I lift up to my mouth I would be concerned about how it's going to affect my health negatively.

(Applause)

MR. DENTICO: The idea that people come up here representing United Water and speaking to us about these assurances that a

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	quality, clean, safe product can be provided
3	to us is their dream, their hope, their plan,
4	but they cannot guarantee it, they cannot
5	promise it. And if pollutants were to get
6	into the system, it would already be
7	introduced to homes before it was found. And
8	once that happens, the entire system can no
9	longer be trusted, and people will demand
LO	that the plant be shut down.

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So as a resident of Rockland County for 35 years and living in West Nyack at the same location for the last 25 years, I can tell you this. Whatever water restrictions have come along have been minor and short-lived. We recently had our sprinkler system serviced, and we shut down bush sprinkling heads and set our timer to water our lawns at 4:30 in the morning. Two months passed before we realized our lawn hadn't been watered. And we realized this by some minor browning of the grass that didn't match the grass in the park across the street. we basically went two months through the summer on rainwater with very little damage.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	So if there were a serious water shortage,
3	heaven forbid we don't water our lawns and
4	wash our cars for a period of time to wait
5	for some rain to come around. And the rain
6	always comes around. Mother Nature always
7	wins. And we need to learn to work with her,
8	not try to combat the effects of what goes
9	on, especially that we are the cause of the

problem.

So without the desalination plant,
United Water, show great responsibility,
great stewardship, and make yourselves
strong. You have a reputation, not just in
Trenton but evidently Atlanta and other areas
of failures. And you serve the public. So
instead of looking for another project that
could put you in an even more horrible light,
brush up your act on what you're doing right
now and turn the pro, because you're serving
a lot of people, and what you do you're going
to be judged by directly.

One other thing I'd like to say is, there are actually two things. Mr. Appleton said earlier sustainability, you make the

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE	NO.	13-W-	0303

environment pay for itself. And that is such a simple statement. That tells us what we need to do, that we can function with what we have, we just need to rework our plans. It's happening in other countries. Some countries have great head starts on these, you know, energy production, water and so on and so forth. And we just need to say you know what, the current situations aren't working, we need to change them. We need to take the steps and be daring and make these changes.

And another thing that I'd like to say in closing is, if we live in an environment where government is for the people and by the people, I think the people have clearly spoken here tonight. Certainly the people of Rockland County have, about what they want and what they don't want.

Everyone who spoke in favor of this plant, I can't help thinking it's some kind of monetary gain or exposure of some sort that will benefit them and not the greater picture. So please take into consideration what you heard earlier. There was a full

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	auditorium here, and pretty much everyone is
3	down on the building of this plant.
4	Thank you very much.
5	(Applause)
6	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
7	The next speaker is Ed, K-n-y-f-d,
8	I believe it is. I can't pronounce the name.
9	MR. KNYFD: My name is Ed Knyfd,
10	and I'm a resident of Rockland County. I
11	have recently been involved with the Rockland
12	Water Coalition. And I want to put my hand
13	out to them for the effort that they have put
14	together here to try and get this issue
15	brought back out so that you could hear it
16	and we could actually look at the real issues
17	involved.
18	I'm a geologist by training, a
19	resident of Rockland County. I work and used
20	to live in Bergen County in New Jersey, and I
21	work with an environment consulting firm.
22	I'm familiar with water issues, I'm familiar
23	with groundwater, and some of the things that
24	we have heard here tonight.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: And a member of

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 2 the EMC. 3 MR. KNYFD: And a member of the 4 EMC. Thank you, Natalie. 5 What I would like to say is a lot 6 of other speakers -- I want to thank all the 7 speakers who spoke, especially those that are 8 the expert witnesses. Being a scientist I 9 have kind of thrown my judgment into science, and I tend to believe the things that we can 10 11 observe and we can measure. And if you look 12 at any time in the recent past, we have been 13

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receiving consistently 40 to 50 inches of rainfall. We get enough water here. need that we have, as it's been said, is that we need to manage the water that we do get

Since a lot of the topics that I wanted to talk about have been discussed by other people, I would like to touch on a few things that I think pertain to need, but are as clearly based on need as some people have said.

more appropriately.

It had been said earlier by Professor Appleton that you can't consider

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	need for more water without looking at the
3	financial side of it. You also can't look at
4	the need for more water if you don't look at
5	the land use issues that drive those
6	decisions. We heard a little bit about this
7	tonight from United Water in their
8	presentation in terms of the projects that
9	they have committed to serve. And we have to
10	ask ourselves as residents of Rockland County
11	at what point do we want to or to what extent
12	do we want to develop this county. Is it
13	consistent, you know, do we have the ability
14	to just endlessly build here provided that we
15	have water? Or do we have to look at our
16	building and our expansion and taper it down
17	to the natural resources that we have.
18	They talked about the projects for
19	the Bloomberg data center. I think they're
20	also committed to the project for Patrick
21	Farm. Now, anyone who is familiar with
22	Patrick Farm will understand that it's
23	sitting next to a sole source aquifer to an

area that supplies water to wells that United

Water relies on. And that the community is

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1	255 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	in an area that was rezoned and rezoned it
3	doesn't exist yet and rezoned until the
4	developer could get the density housing that
5	they desire.
6	It's an ill-advised project. It's
7	a project that is sitting next to wetlands.
8	It's not consistent with current land use in
9	the area. And it certainly doesn't
10	contribute to the character of the area. A
11	project like that, if it goes forward, will
12	impact not only people in the community, it
13	will impact the water supply wells in that
14	area, not only in Rockland County but also in
15	Bergen County.
16	There may be few people in the room
17	who are familiar with the way New Jersey has
18	taken an approach to managing water
19	resources. I think the folks from United
20	Water will be familiar with this. Those
21	speakers who have familiarity in New Jersey
22	will be familiar with it. And I'm going into
23	that a little bit here.
24	Back in 1992 the U.S. Forest

Back in 1992 the U.S. Forest Service described the natural resource and

1	25 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	environment that's called the Highlands. It
3	stretches from Northeast Pennsylvania through
4	Northern Jersey through the Lower Hudson
5	Valley and into Connecticut. It encompasses
6	probably three-quarters of Rockland County.
7	What New Jersey did is they took
8	that report, they evaluated their resources,
9	and they decided that there were so many
LO	communities acting individually to do
L1	construction and development projects, that
L2	they were threatening the water resources and

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the other natural resources that exist in that area. What they did is they enacted the Highlands Conservation Act. What that does is it highly regulates development in that area, but it forces communities to work together, not only for development but also with the goal of preserving the water resources that do exist in that area and preserving the way that that's managed so it's done properly.

I wouldn't be standing up here saying that that's something that we should consider in New York, but it certainly is

something that we need to consider in terms

of developing a more regional approach to how

we manage our water.

And this gets back to need. If the sole judgment of need is going to be well, we need more economic development and we need more development, then that's going to drive more impervious cover, that's going to drive more water out of the county through storm sewer systems, and it doesn't serve the purpose that we need here, which is to do the best and manage our water in the best way.

So I would think that the Commission needs to take that in consideration.

You know, as a general point, up to these hearings here, and maybe more specifically this hearing here and the one that will happen tomorrow night, you know, the residents of Rockland County are between a rock and a hard place. United Water is the only game in town when it comes to water supply. You know, Nyack has their little bit of water, Suffern, Spring Valley, they have some of their water supply through

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1	258 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	independent providers. But for the most part
3	all of us here rely on United Water. They
4	have the means to put forth a proposal that
5	they want to put out here to build a desal
6	plant.
7	Of ourselves, we don't have the
8	same means to be able to make our voice
9	heard. And that's why I wanted to call out
10	the Rockland Water Coalition, because they
11	have the foresight and they have the will to
12	put together a group of people and to beat
13	the pavement to bring this topic to your
14	attention. The Governor in Albany needs to
15	hear us. You need to hear us. The experts
16	that have spoken, you need to consider their
17	information. And we need to look at this as
18	a whole and make the best decision that we
19	can make for our county. And I think that's
20	what this county deserves and that's what the
21	residents deserve.
22	Thank you.
23	(Applause)
24	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.

Peter Kick. Peter Kick?

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1	259 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	(No response)
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Miriam Ruben.
4	(No response)
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Matthew Pepe.
6	(No response)
7	ALJ CASUTTO: Alan Levin.
8	(No response)
9	ALJ CASUTTO: Joseph Mirque, q-u-e.
10	(No response)
11	ALJ CASUTTO: I'm getting some
12	tough names now, this is rough. I apologize
13	if I don't pronounce your name correctly.
14	Vincent Abbatecola.
15	(No response)
16	ALJ CASUTTO: Susan Shapiro. Susan
17	Shapiro.
18	MS. SHAPIRO: Thank you very much
19	for staying here tonight and for reopening
20	your consideration regarding whether there is
21	a need in the 2006 decision that you made and
22	whether there is actually this need in
23	Rockland County for the desal plant or even
24	more a greater water supply, because I
25	understand you didn't order them to do a

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desal plant, that was their choice, they did

3 look at other alternatives. But the real

4 issue is what is the need.

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You know, water now is big business all over the world. And for United Water, which is really a subsidiary of New Jersey United Water, which is a subsidiary of Suez, which is an international, multinational company out of France that has a very bad reputation internationally, the question you have to look at is maybe their need isn't Rockland's need. Maybe the need that they presented to you for water, as you've heard tonight, there was a lot of false information given to you, you didn't know about or hidden information. They left out the fact that they were sending all this extra water to New Jersey that they weren't supposed to. couldn't have known that we didn't need the water because they basically reported to you -- they're self reporting what water was left here, and it looked like we didn't have enough water. But the reality is we probably actually did have enough water.

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2	So the question is whose need is
3	it. Is it the need for Rockland to have
4	water, or is it the need for New Jersey to
5	have water. Or is it the need for United
6	Water's shareholders to make a higher profit
7	on the water. So you really need to look at
8	what are the issues about need.

Things before you can really make that determination in Rockland County is what are our water resources in Rockland County.

Rockland County is one of the richest water counties in this area. We have hundreds and hundreds of lakes that have been -- you've heard about many of them. There are many more that you haven't heard about.

We have a lot of wetlands. One thing that needs to happen before you can -- before anyone, before you or the DEC can make any further determinations, is we need remapping of our wetlands. Our wetlands have not been mapped since 1987. All of the other counties in the Lower Hudson Valley in the New York metropolitan area have had remapping of their wetlands, amendments to their

PUBLIC HEARING	$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{10}{1}$	- CASE NO.	13-W-0303
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1 2 wetlands mappings. We haven't. And during 3 that time there's been a lot of changes and a 4 lot of over development and a lot of 5 destruction of our wetlands, and we really 6 need that before anyone can know what are our resources here in Rockland. 7 I believe you'll find that we have a lot more wetlands than 8 9 are mapped. We are finding that out as we go

along.

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The other thing is the USGS study, which wasn't available to you at the time in 2006, it turns out that that's a great study; however, it really only focused on the bedrock aguifers. And United Water tonight here actually said something that wasn't correct. They discounted the Ramapo Mahwah aquifer, which underlies the Patrick Farm as has been mentioned. It's one of the largest interstate aquifers in this region, and it's an EPA protected aquifer, and it's a very productive aguifer, it's a sand and gravel aguifer. And they claim that it only supplies a portion of a third of the water supply for Rockland County. Actually it

1	26 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	supplies a third of Rockland's water, plus it
3	provides to Passaic and Bergen County for
4	over 500,000 residents. It's a very
5	productive aquifer.
6	That was not what was studied in

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That was not what was studied in the USGS report. So before you can determine need, we need a real study of that sand and gravel aquifer and its rechargability and its capacity. Because it's substantially more than -- there are many wells on it already. Suffern draws from it. The Ramapo River. There's a lot of water coming down from Orange County now, increasing because of their increased development of water that's running through there. That's another source of possible water through Rockland County that needs to be looked at before the need is determined.

And I think, you know, part of the problem is the way the Public Service Commission structure is set up. It encourages a company like United Water to misrepresent the need of communities like Rockland County. Rockland County is a very

1 PUBLIC HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE NO	Ο.	13-W-0303
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small county, and we have a unique water

situation. And that we have to get all of

our water from within our county and export

some of it to New Jersey.

That number, as heard tonight, it is flexible. It's a paper decision. It's not -- a paper decision, oh, let's adjust that. It's not an actual let's build a desalination plant and spend millions and billions of dollars on something and increase rates. It's a decision of -- a legislative decision or a paper decision that can easily be made with some changes.

But it really is because the way
the whole thing is set up in New York state,
and I'm not -- it's not your fault, it's just
the structure, and maybe we have to look at
the way this is set up, but United Water
comes to you and says we want to build this
infrastructure project, we need \$54 million,
we need another 20, we have to keep
increasing our rates before it's even
approved, before it's built. And so there's
benefit to them to find the most expensive

public Hearing - 10/1/13 - Case No. 13-W-0303 way to increase our water or tell you that we need water when we might not need water, when we pretty much surely don't need the water. But it benefits them because they get the money up front. They get to increase our rates before anything is built. That's a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a Ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a		265
need water when we might not need water, when we pretty much surely don't need the water. But it benefits them because they get the money up front. They get to increase our rates before anything is built. That's a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	1	
we pretty much surely don't need the water. But it benefits them because they get the money up front. They get to increase our rates before anything is built. That's a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	2	way to increase our water or tell you that we
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money up front. They get to increase our rates before anything is built. That's a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a pronzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	4	we pretty much surely don't need the water.
rates before anything is built. That's a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a Ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	5	But it benefits them because they get the
pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	6	money up front. They get to increase our
Ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	7	rates before anything is built. That's a
disadvantage to the Public Service Commission because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	8	pretty good deal. It's like sort of almost a
because you can't you're being presented with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	9	Ponzi scheme, you know. So it's a
with stuff because it benefits them economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	10	disadvantage to the Public Service Commission
economically, but not necessarily that it benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	11	because you can't you're being presented
benefits the ratepayers. So it's very it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	12	with stuff because it benefits them
it's a challenge for you to separate those two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	13	economically, but not necessarily that it
two. And I want to point to, in April 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	L 4	benefits the ratepayers. So it's very
17 And I want to point to, in April 18 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	15	it's a challenge for you to separate those
18 2007 the Governor announced the goal to	16	two.
	L7	And I want to point to, in April
decrease our electricity use by 15 percent,	18	2007 the Governor announced the goal to
	19	decrease our electricity use by 15 percent,
the 15 by 15 plan. Now, the New York State	20	the 15 by 15 plan. Now, the New York State
21 Public Service Commission initiated a	21	Public Service Commission initiated a
proceeding to balance the cost impacts,	22	proceeding to balance the cost impacts,
research diversity, environmental effects,	23	research diversity, environmental effects,
like decreasing the state's energy use	24	like decreasing the state's energy use

through increased conversation efficiency to

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	-	10/1/13	-	CASE NO.	13-W-0303

2 meet the targets of the energy efficient 3 portfolio standard. But a system like 4 they're proposing is the most energy 5 expensive system that you can possibly put 6 together. It's not sustainable. And you 7 need to look at all of these projects 8 globally. You can't look at energy use 9 separately from water use. They're all 10 connected. And by separating that out you 11 can't find the right answer basically. We 12 need to come to a better -- you have to look 13 at it all together, that's what I'm basically 14 saying.

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So many people have raised many issues tonight, brilliant very good issues about the passing flow, adjusting the rule curve, all of these alternatives that weren't considered. Ambreys Pond, stormwater retention, augmentation of the Ramapo River, and all these other things. But one thing, you know, that what hasn't been raised that often or it's been mentioned in passing but I wanted to really bring it to your attention is that one of the concerns we have is that,

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	you know, I just really have to question,
3	like what engineer at United Water thought of
4	this brilliant idea, let's put a drinking
5	water desalination plant three miles across
6	from a leaking nuclear plant with 27,000 tons
7	of radioactive waste that isn't going
8	anywhere and has no plans of going anywhere,
9	and it's going to be there for hundreds if
10	not thousands of years. And apparently, as
11	you know, the AG's office has contentions
12	about the re-licensing.

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As of last Saturday, the license at Indian Point expired. And currently this is what the daily plume of radioactive heat looks like from Indian Point. Here's Indian Point. Here's where they're proposing to put the intake valves. This is the heat that's coming out of Indian Point. Every single day they're doing this. This is the billions of gallons of water that they suck into the plant and then they put it out superheated every day. And you're asking Rockland County people, by allowing them to say our option is a desal plant, that we are going to drink

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	this water. And once that water goes into
3	our system, it's tritiated water, you cannot
4	separate Tritium.
5	I'm sorry.
6	ALJ CASUTTO: Let me just stop you
7	For the transcript you'll have to describe
8	the image that you're holding.
9	MS. SHAPIRO: I'm going to submit
10	it.
11	ALJ CASUTTO: And explain
12	MR. TORMEY: Put it on textural,
13	talk it.
14	MS. SHAPIRO: Okay. So this image
15	what I'm showing is it's an aerial
16	photography, it's a thermal photography by
17	Lamont-Doherty, and it's showing the heat
18	plume in the Hudson River from Indian Point
19	to Haverstraw. It's red and yellow, I'll
20	just describe it. It would be a beautiful
21	picture if it wasn't what it is. And it's a
22	scary picture when you think about that's
23	potentially what you're going to have us
24	drink, because of United Water's

falsification of the records claiming that we

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	have this need for more water, and choosing
3	the most illogical solution. There are
4	better solutions than this. We have we're
5	in a very water rich area.

So here's another aerial photograph that just shows you how far away Indian Point is from the plant. It's only three miles down river. It's not -- it's right there. It doesn't make sense that this is an option.

And I want to point out, you know, a lot of people have talked tonight about misrepresentation and disingenuousness of some of the reports that United Water has presented. In their pilot plant project description, it's a very interesting way they talk about the radioactivity that they found in the water. It's pretty unusual, I've never seen this before. It says results of radioactive sampling. And then you go to Strontium-90, and it says not detected in five out of eleven samples. That's an odd way to put it. That means that more than half of the samples had Strontium-90. But that's a little bit deceptive. Unless you

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	read that carefully, you really sort of think
3	oh, it's okay. So that's just an example of
4	a bit of deception. And you have to
5	understand and I have to tell you that
6	Supervisor Howard Phillips of Haverstraw is
7	concerned about this. I know he's pushing
8	for the desal plant, but he's very concerned
9	about it. And he's what people do not
10	understand is that if you drink radioactivity
11	every day it's cumulative, the impact on your
12	body is cumulative. Just because you
13	drink just because the levels maybe are
14	lower than what are allowed by the EPA, if a
15	child, if a baby, if an infant, a pregnant
16	woman drinks that, that child is the most
17	susceptible members of society will be
18	affected, their health will be affected.
19	The thyroid cancer rates in
20	Haverstraw in North Rockland are some of the
21	highest in the nation. Thyroid cancer is a
22	marker from already exposure to radiation.
23	If we are going to start drinking it, besides
24	what's already released in the air, we are
25	going to have a lot of health impacts. And

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	what's the cost of that. And I certainly
3	don't think Rockland County needs to be
4	sicker, or be a place that people don't want
5	to move to because of the fear of becoming
6	sick. That's certainly not going to help
7	business or our property values.
8	(Applause)
9	MS. SHAPIRO: You know, I think
LO	people have really covered a lot of issues
L1	tonight, and I will submit my comments in
L2	writing. But I really think that the Public
L3	Service Commission owes the public a
L4	responsibility to make sure that our public
L5	trusts our water is safe for us to drink.
L6	And that's our need, is safe, healthy water.
L7	We have our own water in Rockland County. We
L8	have so many lakes, we have so many
L9	possibilities, so many wetlands that could be
20	developed into storage areas or other
21	reservoirs or expanding reservoirs or
22	changing the passing flow rule curve.
23	There's so many other ways around this, that
24	we're asking you as the Public Service

Commission to take a leadership in this and

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	help United Water not to be a bad actor in
3	our community and help them provide healthy
4	water to our community.
5	What they took over was the Spring
6	Valley Water Company. Spring Valley water
7	was the best water in the world. I grew up
8	here, my family has been here for many
9	generations. Spring Valley water was like
LO	crystal clear spring water, it tasted so
L1	good. Since United Water has come in, the
L2	water in Rockland County doesn't taste as
L3	good anymore. And I have to tell you, I
L4	don't know what they do to it, but it's not

what it used to be.

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So if they need water for New Jersey, let them go build a desal plant in New Jersey. To build a desal plant on a briny river that's tidal, it changes salinity every day, is the most expensive energy intensive possibility they could possibly think of.

really do hope you'll consider our comments

and take them to heart, because we are very

So thank you for your time, and I

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	concerned about it.
3	Thank you very much.
4	(Applause)
5	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
6	The next speaker is Jonathan
7	Corbin.
8	(No response)
9	ALJ CASUTTO: Eileen Larkin.
10	MS. LARKIN: Good evening. Thank
11	you for this opportunity. I came here
12	tonight as a resident of Orangetown. I lived
13	41 years in Palisades, New York. And I came
14	here tonight with a very open mind well,
15	not really because I don't want to drink
16	Hudson River water but I learned an awful
17	lot here tonight.
18	I have to compliment all our
19	elected officials that spoke at the forum,
20	and their support for the residents not to
21	have the desal plant built here in
22	Orangetown.
23	As I said, I own my own business
24	for 27 years. I was an elected official here
25	in Orangetown.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	The people that spoke here tonight
3	as concerned residents really spent hours and
4	hours of looking into the reports that have
5	been filed by PSC and United Water
6	especially, the hours that they developed
7	into coming up with statistics to help you
8	make a decision.
9	I'm going to ask you, I asked one
10	person here, how close you live to this
11	facility. One gentleman lives in Rochester,
12	and if you'd be so kind as to tell me where
13	you live, the lady.
14	COMMISSIONER BURMAN: I live in
15	Albany.
16	MS. LARKIN: You live in Albany.
17	I have a house in Minerva, New York
18	in the Adirondack Park, and I go out and the
19	water is beautiful to drink.
20	I'm going to ask you another
21	question. Have you visited the site where
22	this proposed plant is being promoted, have
23	you visited Haverstraw?
24	ALJ CASUTTO: This is
25	MS. LARKIN: Excuse me, you didn't

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	question other people.
3	ALJ CASUTTO: Just a moment. This
4	is a comment
5	MS. LARKIN: I know, but
6	ALJ CASUTTO: It's not a question
7	and answer.
8	MS. LARKIN: Well, I think it's
9	important. Excuse me, you didn't ask, I
10	repeat, you didn't ask other people that
11	point. Have you visited the site? Okay,
12	don't answer the question. You didn't point
13	that
14	ALJ CASUTTO: We'll take your
15	comments, but it's not a question and answer
16	during this process.
17	MS. LARKIN: Well, I know for a
18	fact that neither one of you have visited the
19	site. So what I'm saying is that before PSC
20	members make a decision on this proposed
21	site, that you actually visit the site.
22	Susan Shapiro just presented that
23	picture, which was astounding to me. Scary.
24	So I've been taking a lot for
25	granted living here in the southern part of

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the county in Orangetown, where we have a
3	very conservative method of developing our
4	properties.
5	Lastly, well, not lastly, but you
6	have to consider the tax impact on the
7	municipalities and the individuals.
8	Currently Rockland County imposed a four
9	percent tax on our electric bill to help
10	offset the hundred million dollars that
11	they're in debt.
12	There's brochures that were handed
13	out here tonight, "Not Worth the Salt," I
14	hope each one of you take it home with you
15	and look it over.
16	I don't know who owns United Water.
17	United Water Suez is a foreign owned company,
18	and in this day and age I think America has
19	to be very cautious about who provides us the
20	most important source I guess for us to live
21	is water. We are not well liked in Europe,
22	that's for sure, and we have to be very
23	careful about the threats to our security.
24	Maybe we should have a water strike
25	here in Orangetown, maybe the residents

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	should start not turning their water on as
3	often as they can and sending a message to
4	United Water.

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The other point is, the Hudson River is a source of the water for United Water to build a desal plant, and they're taking about seven million gallons of water a day times seven, that's 49 million gallons of water out of one week, times four, that's 200 million gallons a month, times 12, comes out to about 240 (sic) million gallons of water that might be taken out of the Hudson River, plus whatever the nuclear plant is taking I hope it can replenish itself, because with droughts and everything, I don't know where the water is going to come from. water that United Water uses, they do not They process it, but they do not make make. it.

How -- are they taxed? How are -- I don't understand how United Water can sell a product and not be taxed for it some way along the way.

I guess coming here tonight and

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	sitting here since what, six o'clock tonight,
3	I go home tonight thinking that it is so
4	imperative that the people at the Public
5	Service Commission do us a favor by coming
6	down and visiting the actual site that is
7	being proposed for the desalination plant,
8	because without doing that, you do not have
9	the moral and civil right to make a decision
LO	on what is to us one of the most important
L1	decisions in our life. I cannot afford the
L2	United Water rates that I get every month. I
L3	can't afford it anymore. I've lived here for
L4	41 years, and I'm looking at maybe I have to
L5	move from a community that I have put many
L6	years in as a civic leader, as an elected
L7	official, and just as community activist.
L8	And I resent the fact that I might be
L9	threatened to have to live with water that
20	could be contaminated with radioactive
21	materials. Higher rates that I cannot afford
22	anymore. I love Orangetown and I love this
23	County. And for United Water to propose
24	information that not be true. To give water
25	to New Jersey, against and not be

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answerable to our elected officials about
sitting down and discussing whatever they're
talking about between United Water New Jersey
and United Water New York, and they won't
allow a representative from Rockland County

7 to be part of that?

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I hope our Governor wakes up, because our community and the people in the community are so more versed and interested in the environment, a lot more than my generation was. This younger generation is more able and more interested in looking into these contracts and looking into the environmental impacts because they know full well that we now use more plastic, we need more energy, and they are concerned about their lives. So in my generation we took a lot for granted. But this new generation is very serious about water, energy, plastic, fracking, security, Homeland Security and everything else. As a Public Service Commission you are paid and you are appointed by the Governor. So you have a lot on your shoulders. And you will have a lot to answer

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	for with the future generations that are
3	coming into this country and to this county.
4	And I respectfully request that
5	each one of the members of the PSC visit
6	Haverstraw and see where the nuclear plant is
7	located.
8	And as an aside, I can understand
9	how Haverstraw would welcome a tax ratable.
10	However, I don't know how many years ago,
11	maybe five, the Rockland County Legislature
12	wanted to do a county re-val so that the
13	county taxes would be fair. The one county,
14	the one Haverstraw, the one town in
15	Rockland County that did not participate nor
16	contribute to I think the \$5 million fee to
17	re-val the county properties was Haverstraw.
18	Thank you.
19	(Applause)
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Kara Cressman. Kara
21	Cressman?
22	MS. TURNER: I would like to go.
23	AUDIENCE MEMBER: She has the baby,
24	she's been waiting. Could we switch places?
25	ALJ CASUTTO: I see. You're

	281
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Ms. Cressman?
3	MS. TURNER: I'm Deborah Turner.
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Okay. Come forward.
5	What is your name?
6	MS. TURNER: Deborah Turner.
7	I just wanted to say that it speaks
8	volumes that United Water could not be
9	bothered to stay and listen to all these
10	comments.
11	UNITED WATER REPRESENTATIVES:
12	We're right here.
13	MS. TURNER: Okay, excellent. I'm
14	sorry, I thought you since you weren't up
15	there.
16	So on the United Water Web site it
17	said that the infrastructure of the leakage
18	index was 2.29 in 2009. And according to the
19	World Bank Institute banding system, between
20	two and four is not good for a developed
21	country, it requires immediate attention. So
22	I wondered why United Water is only repairing
23	leaks at the rate of one percent. If they
24	doubled that to just a mere two percent, how

much more water we would have. I know that

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	United Water claims that fixing pipes would
3	be disruptive. But a whole new desalination
4	plant would be even more disruptive.
5	Also, Rockland's declining water
6	use is part of a larger trend, and if prices
7	do go up, the history in other communities
8	has shown that usage will go down.
9	And I find it disturbing that the
10	United Water speaker was so dismissive about
11	Brockton, Massachusetts. I do not see it as
12	an aberration but as a warning that we do not
13	go down that same deleterious path.
14	Further, in terms of the declining
15	water use, people may flee the county to
16	avoid serving their family water containing
17	Tritium served on the menu from Indian Point.
18	Even though my husband and I both have jobs
19	that are firmly entrenched in the county, I
20	do not see how we could stay and expose our
21	children to nuclear waste on a daily basis.
22	(Applause)
23	MS. TURNER: So as population
24	significantly declines, so will water usage.

So I strongly urge the PSC to remember that

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the P stands for public and not utility.
3	Thank you.
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
5	Chad Murdock.
6	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you let her
7	go next?
8	ALJ CASUTTO: Chad Murdock?
9	AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you let her
10	go next then?
11	ALJ CASUTTO: I switched the order
12	of the cards.
13	AUDIENCE MEMBER: So I'm number 104
14	now?
15	ALJ CASUTTO: Yes.
16	Liliana Connor.
17	MS. CONNOR: I'm a member of the
18	West Branch Conservation Association. That
19	is one of the environmental groups in the
20	Rockland Water Coalition. And I worked for
21	25 years at the United Nations.
22	And actually tonight the report had
23	some incorrect information, the report
24	submitted by United Water and the chart that
25	they showed. So I'm just going to read parts

PUBLIC	HEARING	-10/1/	/13 –	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303

of the report released by the United Nations
four days ago about climate change and the
studies that they have been doing the last
several years on precipitation and floods.

This map on their report shows that charts -- maps of the world, including the northeastern seaboard of the United States, and how the precipitation changed. For instance, the study went from the 1900s to 2000, and then it showed the comparison from 1951 to 2010. And you see the increasing precipitation in those years, starting in 1951 until 2010 for the Eastern Seaboard of the United States was almost 50 percent, between 25 and 50 percent. And there's some sectors, some small sectors, that are marked with points throughout the Eastern Seaboard, that show that these areas had an increase between 50 and almost 100 percent.

So in addition, FEMA, that has released a couple of months ago the new flood zone maps for New York, if you look at their map of the Lower Hudson Valley, you see that Rockland County was included and it was not

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

just because of Sandy, because they were

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studying the situation in the last few years.

4 And what they included of Rockland County is

5 the whole eastern part of Rockland County up

б to the center of Rockland County. So half of

7 Rockland is now in a flood zone, according to

the FEMA maps and the studies that their 8

9 scientists have done.

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In addition to the United Nations report that was put together by the inter-governmental panel on climate change, where in part of the report their charts of the Eastern Seaboard again, in different sections, and the projected precipitation between -- for the Eastern Seaboard of the United States between 2016 and 2035 will have a 50 percent increase over what we have now. So this is just a symptom of what has been happening with the increase of greenhouse gases and melting of Greenland, rising seas and -- the rising seas and melting of the Arctic sheet. It's also discussed in the report by which all the coastal areas will be flooded, so, including the areas that are the 1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

coast of the Hudson River. Which makes it

very inadvisable to build anything there, any

plant or any home as a matter of fact.

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And the World Bank, in conjunction with the UN report, has done their own studies with scientists and economists. And they put together a report that has been published. And all these reports have been covered recently by The Washington Post, The New York Times. And according to the studies of the World Bank, New York will be among the ten highest cities in the world with flood costs by 2050. And New York will be having by that time annual costs of \$2 billion per year for the floods that will occur around here because of the rising sea level waters and the annual precipitation that we are having with the climate change. So this is, you know, we're going to be really having a lot more water around us and flooding us than we have now.

The discussion had been going on until last week in Stockholm with the United Nations, so all these reports are available

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	from the United Nations and the press.
3	And in addition, for instance,
4	there were discussions about Tritium
5	recently. And I exchanged emails and in
6	phone calls with the dean of the College of
7	Cooperative Extension of the University of
8	Nevada who wrote a paper on reverse osmosis
9	with his team of scientists. And the
10	scientific studies that they made include
11	tables of what can and what cannot be
12	filtered by reverse osmosis. And there are a
13	number of 20 chemicals that cannot be
14	filtered by reverse osmosis. And of course
15	also the radioactive Tritium. And the reason
16	why it cannot be filtered first of all,
17	I'm going to read his statement that he
18	allowed me to read for this hearing.
19	So Dean Walker says: "Because
20	reverse osmosis is essentially
21	microfiltration, removal efficiency depends
22	upon the size of the molecule. Tritium is a
23	radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Tritiated
24	water has two atoms of Tritium and one atom
25	of oxygen. This molecule is too small to

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	remove by microfiltration. And
3	microfiltration by reveres osmosis won't
4	remove Tritium or tritiated water molecules."
5	And further on this subject,
6	there's a background of Tritium by the U.S.
7	Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and in this
8	paper it says that tritiated water is
9	chemically identical to normal water, and
10	that Tritium cannot be filtered out of the
11	water. Well, I won't go into that, but the
12	composition of the molecules of Tritium of
13	course are, in tritiated water, are 3H2O.
14	That means three atoms of hydrogen and two
15	atoms of oxygen. When water is H2O, two
16	atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen. So
17	that's why tritiated water is a radioactive
18	form of water where the usual hydrogen atoms
19	are replaced with Tritium. That's why it's
20	an impossibility to filter this out by
21	reverse osmosis.
22	Therefore, this will be given to us
23	through pipes, with the pipes leaking and
2.4	breaking. That's a common event for all

utilities. I mean there's not a utility that

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	has all its pipes in complete functioning
3	order, whether it's a problem of water
4	pressure or breaking pipes, you know, you
5	have broken pipes. And in New Jersey, for
6	instance, United Water, that it was quoted
7	today that they had 26 percent of the water
8	lost in 2011 from these leaks and broken
9	pipes. And I found out that that was
10	corrected somewhat in the next in the last
11	two years to 20 percent. Although New Jersey
12	is demanding that they do it by 15 percent,
13	and they're not reaching that at all.
14	Anyway, if we have any broken pipe
15	with contaminating Tritium that cannot be
16	filtered out of the water, this will
17	contaminate all the aquifers of Rockland
18	County. And who will be responsible for
19	allowing that to happen? New York state. I
20	think you have an enormous responsibility,
21	and you could create a health hazard in
22	Rockland by approving of this.
23	In addition to that, the Trustees
24	of the Hudson River put out in January of

of the Hudson River put out in January of this year a report on PCB contamination of

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1	2 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the Hudson River ecosystem. And in this
3	report they tell us that, unlike what it was
4	thought before, that only the upper Hudson
5	was contaminated heavily with PCBs, they
6	found heavy contamination of PCBs in the
7	entire 200 miles of the Superfund site. And
8	for instance, it says in their press release
9	I have the report anyway, that surface
10	waters, sediments, flood plains, soils, fish
11	birds, wildlife and other biota throughout
12	the 200 miles are all contaminated with PCBs
13	And out of my own curiosity I
14	contacted some of the trustees that cited
15	this that were doing these studies. And I
16	asked them informally what would you think
17	about this situation if it's in the entire
18	200 miles of the Hudson River, are you going
19	to continue with the cleanup and the
20	restoration. And they said absolutely, you
21	know, that this would be an ongoing process.
22	And we have the Natural Resources
23	Damaged Restoration group, and they look int
24	the whole cleanup of the river. And I said

nto the whole cleanup of the river. And I said what would it entail if a county of New York

1	293 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	on the banks of the Hudson built a
3	desalination plant where, you know, you
4	intend to clean up the Hudson River, and
5	especially the coastal areas where most of
6	these PCBs would be fallen upon, you know.
7	And they said it's a, you know, informally
8	they said to me this is a terrible idea, that
9	they wouldn't support anything like that.
10	Now, the three agencies that are
11	part of the Trustees, the Department of
12	Environmental Conservation, the National
13	Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and
14	the Fisheries, you know, so all the people
15	that I consulted said it was a bad idea from
16	these three agencies, federal agencies. And
17	Trustees of the Hudson River. So New York
18	state has a responsibility about this matter
19	that they should think about very carefully.
20	And, you know, the utility is in
21	the county, but it's a subsidiary of a

utility that is in New Jersey, as I said, and it belongs to a trans-national corporation from France. Would they have a -- you know, can they tell New York state what they have

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303					
2	to do and New York state accept what they					
3	say, you know, it has to be done? No, of					
4	course not. New York state has more power					
5	than this corporation. So all the residents					
6	of Rockland County count on New York state in					
7	the responsibility to protect the residents					
8	of Rockland County. That's all I want to					
9	say.					
10	Thank you.					
11	(Applause)					
12	ALJ CASUTTO: Theona Jensen.					
13	Theona Jensen?					
14	(No response)					
15	ALJ CASUTTO: Kara Cressman.					
16	MS. CRESSMAN: Hi. Thank you for					
17	staying so late and waiting until number 104.					
18	I just would like to say that I					
19	think more than ever it's very important that					
20	residents and commissions and corporations					
21	get in the same room together. These kinds					
22	of projects are very costly, there's a lot of					
23	things to consider. And I think they can't					
24	be taken lightly.					
25	You know, I have been doing a					

1	29 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	little bit of outreach to the community about
3	the desal plant. And it's apparent that a
4	lot of or at least some of Rockland residents
5	were not even aware of it I'd say a year ago.
6	And this has been going on, I can't remember,
7	six years now or something it's been in the
8	works, five years. So I feel like people
9	have a responsibility to hear residents.
10	So tonight, for instance, somebody
11	said that they wanted to apologize for the
12	Rockland residents and their behavior. And I
13	still live in a democracy I don't know
14	where he's living but in that democracy we

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all have a voice. And more than ever it's important for people to come together. And with corporations who have all the funds and the money and the backing and the lawyers and the money to do advertising and outreach, and it's left to small groups of people to defend against choices in their community.

So I would just -- I'm mostly up here to just say thank you for allowing everybody to speak for so long, until one o'clock in the morning. I think it's really

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	important what you're doing. And I would
3	urge you of course to really consider whether
4	or not Rockland County needs this. And I
5	think that there was a good indication from
6	the amount of people who were in the room
7	here earlier this evening that a lot of
8	Rockland County does not want to drink water
9	out of the Hudson. And they might have just
10	regular old feelings about that, they may be
11	on the side of the science, they may not be.
12	But I think when people are asked, do you
13	want to drink downstream from a nuclear power
14	plant, most people go I really don't want to.
15	So I also don't want to drink water out of
16	the Hudson. So I'm here to say that. And
17	thank you for taking the time to listen to us
18	for so long.
19	(Applause)
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
21	Henry Stewart. Henry Stewart?
22	(No response)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Laurrie Cozza.
24	(No response)
25	ALJ CASUTTO: Thomas Kyle.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	MR. KYLE: I'll even run. Which
3	for an old guy is tough.
4	ALJ CASUTTO: That's not necessary,
5	it's too late.
6	MR. KYLE: No, no, it's late, I
7	want to go home.
8	So my name is Tom Kyle, and I
9	stayed here to go on the record. I'm a
10	resident of Rockland since 1993. I'm a
11	compliance officer since 1989. And I'm a
12	technologist since 1978, and a physics and
13	math major.
14	So what I want to talk about is the
15	need and address the Commission. The first
16	thing I'm going to talk about is from the
17	compliance side.
18	You have a conflict of interest
19	between United Water New York and United
20	Water New Jersey. And allowing United Water
21	New York to engage in the study they did,
22	without outside supervision, et cetera, et
23	cetera, in my view is a procedural issue that
24	the Public Service Commission needs to look

at. And I think that having them pay for the

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	study is a good idea, particularly if the
3	ratepayer is going to have to pay them. But
4	the idea that they can do the study on their
5	own and that they're experts in the area just
6	boggles my mind. As a compliance officer I
7	would never allow my trader on a desk to tell
8	me whether it was inside information or not.
9	And effectively that's what we have done
10	here. That bothers me as a resident, it
11	brothers me just as a person, and it bothers
12	me as an executive of several of a
13	software company and a bunch of other
14	companies. I don't get it.
15	Let's go further than that, okay.
16	The Nuclear Regulatory Commission doesn't
17	regulate emissions of Tritium. And the
18	reason they don't is they can't measure it,
19	okay. So now we have a water company that's
20	supposed to know a lot about water, putting a
21	desalination plant three and a half miles
22	below a nuclear plant, and this is a good
23	idea? Not hardly. And asking the Public

Services Commission, okay, to approve that,

which apparently you did at one point, and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	really appreciate the fact that you even
3	considered it, just again boggles my mind.
4	Nobody new that Tritium can't be filtered out
5	of the water, and nobody considered that hey,
6	at least put the pipe above the nuclear
7	plant, which isn't that hard to do, it's
8	three and a half miles away. What's the real
9	cost of a three and a half mile pipeline,
10	United Water? I'd love to hear that, because
11	it doesn't make sense to me what was done.
12	Let's go on to talk about need, all
13	right. Need in my view comes in three
14	pieces, right. First, it's the quantity of
15	water. And we all agree that we might need a
16	greater quantity of drinking water in
17	Rockland. Okay, fine. Right now today also
18	of consistent quality. I have the misfortune
19	or the fortune I should say of marrying my
20	fourth wife. We lived in Manhattan. I could
21	go home every goddamn night, put my glass of
22	water under the faucet and drink it. I can't
23	do that in Rockland County, no offense. It
24	tastes like chlorine and crap.
25	(Applause)

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	- 1	0/1	/13 -	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303
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2 MR. KYL	E: So what did I do. I pay
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for in my house a whole house water system.

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I pay \$800 every three years to replace a

5 three stage system that filters every drop of

6 water in my house, whether it's the shower,

7 the laundry, or what I drink. Okay. That is

8 abysmal when Orange County, Putnam County,

9 Westchester County and New York City all have

10 better quality water. Why is it that

11 Rockland County doesn't? And I think that's

the question that needs to be asked.

The Public Services Commission in my view should really consider let United

Water be the transmission services and get us some water that tastes good. And great, New

York City is now 200 million gallons a day under their level? Well, we need seven and a half million of it. Hello, why not have

United Water negotiate with the City of New

York to get that water. Pay them for it.

Hell, they have leaks out of one of their tunnels at 20 million gallons a day, right?

So how much would it cost to fix the leak, and at what stage of that can we have some of

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	that water? It's great water. I don't get
3	it.
4	Let's go on to the third thing.
5	You can't change what you don't measure,
6	okay. If you don't measure the flow of water
7	going to New Jersey, and your rate system
8	doesn't have a consequence to United Water
9	New York, which is owned by United Water New
10	Jersey, of not fixing whatever it is that was
11	wrong, that's bad. Your rates and your
12	methods of applying profit to companies need
13	to measure and pay them for doing a good job,
14	and penalize them for doing a bad job.
15	Right?
16	(Applause)
17	MR. KYLE: That's how it's supposed
18	to work. That's what I have as a
19	businessman. I have service level agreements
20	with all my vendors. When Google screws up
21	and my email goes down, Google doesn't get
22	paid. When Verizon does the same, hey, they
23	don't get paid.
24	I'd like to see our water work the

same way. Suez, United Water New Jersey,

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	United Water New York, I want them to make a
3	profit. I want them to make a profit because
4	they gave me a good product when I wanted it
5	and when I needed it. That's what service is
6	about. And I want to see the Public Service
7	Commission enforce that. Incentivize them to
8	do their job and give us what we need: Great
9	water. Because we ain't getting it today.
10	Anyway, thank you for your time.
11	(Applause)
12	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
13	Alexis Starke. Alexis Starke?
14	(No response)
15	ALJ CASUTTO: Martyn Ryan.
16	MR. RYAN: Your Honor, members of
17	the Commission, thanks for the opportunity to
18	speak before you.
19	I've got to endorse a lot of the
20	comments that the Rockland Water Coalition
21	had made tonight and their experts. But I'm
22	going to talk about a couple of items that
23	they haven't really you know, pinpoint
24	some facts and around some of the discussions
25	that we've had.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	If you look at water conservation,
3	Rockland County is primarily a single family
4	residential, about 70 to 75 percent of the
5	water use is single family residential. So
6	that characterizes the water usages in
7	Rockland County. If you look at the American
8	Water Works Association, which is the trade
9	association for water providers throughout
10	the U.S., of which United Water and many
11	other water providers are subscribing members
12	of, they talk about conservation and they
13	talk about just indoor use in residential
14	homes, and they come up with the figure, in
15	conjunction with the U.S. EPA, of 45 gallons
16	per capita per day for indoor water use in a
17	conserving home. For a non conserving home,
18	they come up with 63 gallons per capita per
19	day.
20	So if you look at Rockland County,
21	which is an overall water use of about 66
22	gallons per capita per day, and an indoor
23	water usage of about 62, we're
24	non-conserving. Even with the reduction

that's happened over the last five years,

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	where water usage has dropped dramatically,
3	it's about ten percent below the projections
4	that United Water made in 2006, we're still
5	30 percent above the conservation threshold
6	for a conserving district. That's a huge
7	amount of water. That's a huge potential for
8	conservation within Rockland County.
9	Rockland County does not need more
10	water. We need better water management.
11	United Water is just one stakeholder in that
12	whole policy. Rockland County is a
13	stakeholder, the people are stakeholders.
14	All of those stakeholders need to be engaged
15	to work together to achieve the potential of
16	water conservation.
17	The Public Service Commission did a
18	great disservice to the people of Rockland
19	County in 2006 when they discounted
20	conservation from the decision that they made
21	in the rate case in 2006. Conservation was
22	distinctly discounted. United Water has been
23	discounting conservation ever since, and
24	merely states in all of their reports in the

DEIS that they have no mandate to mandate

	202
1	303 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	anybody to conserve.
3	That's not acceptable. That's not
4	the limit of water supply within Rockland
5	County. Water supply is for the whole
6	county, and there are many stakeholders other
7	than United Water New York.
8	It's funny, because Rockland County
9	does actually have mandatory water
10	conservation measures. Not a lot people know
11	about them because a lot of people think of
12	them as drought restrictions. But within the
13	Rockland County Sanitary Code, they're
14	actually called mandatory water conservation
15	measures. And I think the last time they
16	were brought in or the most recent time they
17	were brought in was in 2001 and 2002.
18	They're brought in when rainwater levels are
19	below certain levels for a number of months.
20	They were brought in in early 2002.
21	And if you look at water usage in
22	2002, the average water usage in 2002 fell by
23	20 percent. The peak summer usage with those
24	restrictions in place right through the

summer disappeared. There was no peak. So

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	water conservation in all of United
3	Water's reports they actually discount 2002
4	from the projections because they say water
5	usage was anomalously low because of the
6	drought restriction. It wasn't an anomaly.
7	It was water conservation. We don't have it
8	at any other time. We need water
9	conservation measures that work in Rockland
10	County, and there is no need for extra water.
11	These water conservation measures
12	need to be introduced on a continuous basis
13	as part of a water management plan. New
14	water is not required.
15	(Applause)
16	MR. RYAN: If you look at I'm
17	just going to briefly talk about investment
18	and infrastructure. Rockland County does
19	need investment in infrastructure. We need
20	investment in our leaking pipes. It's a
21	fundamental requirement. Replacing our aging
22	infrastructure will augment the current
23	supply and make it robust into the future.
24	People talked about economic need
25	tonight. Leaking infrastructure does not

1	PUBLIC	HEARING	_	10/1/13	_	CASE	NO.	13-W-0303

provide confidence to either the existing

businesses within Rockland County or future

prospective businesses. We need to fix our

existing infrastructure before we start

supplying new infrastructure.

Another thing that was brought up tonight was water need for firefighting is not linked to water availability or capacity. It is simply linking water management and pressure management within the system. The failure to keep our infrastructure up to the -- replacing it over a hundred years is not going to cut it. We need to improve that. It's one of the major downfalls in most public water systems within the United States is infrastructure aging. We haven't kept pace with the times. And we need to improve that.

Increasing pressure in an aging system and putting more water in it is just going to lead to more leaks, more waste.

That's not water management. It's not what the people of Rockland County need. We need to fix our existing infrastructure.

	306
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	And then I have one more thing.
3	Someone earlier talked about economic need as
4	the driver for this. The greatest inhibitor
5	to economic development are costs. The water
6	rates have skyrocketed in the last several
7	years. There are current rate cases before
8	the Public Service Commission which could
9	increase water rates in Rockland County by up
10	to 78 percent. A 78 percent increase in
11	water rates is currently before the Public
12	Service Commission from United Water of New
13	York. These costs are driving businesses and
14	small businesses out of Rockland County.
15	That's the greatest inhibitor to economic
16	development that you can get is rising costs.
17	We need to control our costs. We
18	need to better manage our water. We need to
19	use the water we have, because we have
20	abundant water in Rockland County.
21	Someone else mentioned earlier
22	about a tax revolt. There is a tax revolt.
23	Water rates are a self tax. You have to pay
24	them, you don't get a choice, we need our

water. There are no rates $\operatorname{--}$ the only rate

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	structure that's in Rockland County right now
3	is the summer-winter rate. It doesn't
4	provide for conservation. If you conserve,
5	you still have to pay the higher rate during
6	the summer. We need real rates that reflect
7	the water usage. And if we have that, you
8	see that water usage will come down. It's a
9	self tax. And there is a revolt. You've
10	seen the number of people that were here
11	tonight. They're revolting against these
12	taxes and these stealth costs that are being
13	driven and put upon the taxpayer and the over
14	burdened house owner within Rockland County,
15	and it needs to stop. We have abundant
16	water. We need to make better use of it. We
17	don't need a new water supply.
18	I think that's it. Thank you very
19	much.
20	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
21	David Stark?
22	(No response)
23	ALJ CASUTTO: Brian Cocolicchio.
24	Brian Cocolicchio?
25	(No response)

	308
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	ALJ CASUTTO: Edward Brophy.
3	(No response)
4	ALJ CASUTTO: Marvin Baum?
5	MR. BAUM: Good evening or good
6	morning, whatever it might be. Before I get
7	into my prepared comments here, I just want
8	to make a little suggestion before you leave.
9	If you haven't visited the
10	bathrooms here yet, please do so. Not so
11	much for taking care of business, but
12	actually to look at what is here. This is a
13	big facility that gets thousands of people
14	through here a day. I assume I think the
15	student population is probably 1,500 plus or
16	minus a couple hundred. You know, if you
17	look at the bathrooms, it's all 1970s
18	plumbing, early seventies plumbing. And it's
19	very inefficient. I had to go to the
20	bathroom a couple of times, and I was like
21	thinking wow, this is wasting water.
22	I would suggest our friends from
23	United Water to come in here and replace all
24	of these devices with high efficiency
25	devices, and compare what the water usage

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	would be here with that kind of
3	implementation, and then how can we possibly
4	extend throughout the county to all public
5	facilities, schools, religious institutions,
6	parks, recreation, government buildings, et
7	cetera.
8	(Applause)
9	MR. BAUM: It's very, very
10	inefficient here, and there's a lot of water.
11	They have the showers here for the kids, the
12	bathrooms. It's heavily, heavily used. And
13	it's wasting water, you know. Literally
14	tonight water has been wasted.
15	One of the issues that has been
16	touched on a couple of times is credibility.
17	We want to know if the people from United
18	Water are telling us we really, really need
19	this. We want to know that what they're
20	saying is credible. I decided to look at the
21	DEIS, just one small aspect, to see if the
22	information we were getting was correct.
23	Chapter 11 of the United Water DEIS
24	discusses infrastructure and energy.
25	The water treatment plant portion

	310
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	of the project, as shown in table 11-2, is
3	going to use a huge amount of energy. The
4	expected load at full build-out is projected
5	at 6.6 megawatts and the demand load is
6	projected at 5.05 megawatts.
7	The Haverstraw water project will
8	be one of Orange & Rockland's largest users
9	of electricity, and possibly the largest
LO	customer in their entire service territory.
11	While there may be enough electricity
L2	available to service the plant, the DEIS does
L3	not provide any detail as to whether the
L4	existing substation infrastructure can
L5	support the project.
L6	Section 11.4.4.1 simply states the
L7	intake site will get electricity from O&R's
L8	Stony Point substation, and that the water
L9	treatment plant site will get energy from the
20	West Haverstraw substation. It does not tell
21	us whether there is adequate power available
22	at the substations to support the operations
23	of the Haverstraw water project.

I do not believe this is an accidental omission, because the implications

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	are significant. The fact is, according to
3	O&R's own documents, there is no power
4	available for the Haverstraw water project.
5	Here is what O&R says about the area near the
6	proposed project: "In this region of
7	Rockland County, demand is outpacing
8	capabilities."
9	O&R goes further on to report,
10	referring specifically to the West Haverstrav
11	substation, as well as the nearby New
12	Hempstead and Congers substation, "The
13	existing substations can no longer supply
14	their local loads."
15	O&R's documents show that Tilcon,
16	another massive energy user, could have
17	"outage exposure", and that while the
18	existing substation, referring to West
19	Haverstraw substation, basically meets
20	Tilcon's needs, "residential and small
21	commercial/municipal customers will
22	experience a degradation of voltage and
23	decreased continuity of reliable service."
24	So how can a water treatment plant
25	with massive electrical requirements be

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	connected to a substation that O&R claims has
3	no more power available, even without the
4	addition of the Haverstraw project? To be
5	blunt, I believe this is a deliberate
6	deception, both by O&R and quite possibly by
7	United Water, in order to circumvent New
8	York's environmental laws and expedite
9	approval.
10	The quotes I have just provided
11	come from an O&R DEIS for a proposed nearby
12	substation, just south of the Haverstraw,
13	border, in the Town of Clarkstown.
14	O&R claims in its DEIS that the
15	substation is needed to provide safe,

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substation is needed to provide safe, reliable service to the residents of northern New City because of increasing demand, even they admit the area is almost fully built There is absolutely no mention of needing to shift customer load from the West Haverstraw substation to this new substation in order to make way for the water treatment plant. The only thing that is mentioned is that they say that they want to move the Tilcon, which uses far less energy than the

	21.5
1	313 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	proposed water treatment plant, to the new
3	substation to reduce so-called "outage
4	exposure" for Tilcon.
5	In essence, O&R wants us to believe
6	that some kid's ten watt iPhone in New City
7	is driving the need for the new substation,
8	and not a 6.6 megawatt water treatment plant
9	in Haverstraw.
10	O&R's DEIS states that if Tilcon's
11	transformer were to stay at the West
12	Haverstraw substation, electrical service
13	reliability in the area will decrease. So
14	even if Tilcon and residential load is
15	shifted to the Little Tor substation and
16	replaced by the water treatment plant, it
17	seems likely there might still be a need for
18	more substation capacity in the future.
19	Under New York state's
20	environmental law, SEQRA, if one project is
21	dependent upon another, now or in the future,
22	then they are from a functional standpoint
23	one project, even if portions are owned by
24	separate companies. As such, they should be

subject to a joint review.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	Obviously the two projects
3	together, with a possibility of another
4	substation or substation expansion at some
5	point in the future, begins to show the full
6	cost and full environmental impacts of the
7	Haverstraw water project. Just on cost
8	alone, we could easily be talking about \$20
9	to \$50 million in added short and long term
10	expenses for the substations. And who's
11	going to pay for the electrical upgrades?
12	The same people who will be paying higher
13	water rates, but not our neighbors to the
14	south in New Jersey who will benefit from
15	these facilities that will be charged to our
16	electric bills alone.
17	By segmenting the project to
18	multiple agencies, United Water and O&R have
19	made it easier to get approvals. When O&R
20	wanted approval of a temporary substation at
21	the location, they went to the Clarkstown

Building Department, claiming an emergency

situation under SEQRA, saying that northern

lines on New Hempstead Road, claiming that

New City would go dark during a switchover of

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1	315 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	power comes to that area from the New
3	Hempstead Road substation. They didn't
4	mention that this same area of New City also
5	gets its primary power from two other
6	substations, West Haverstraw and Congers,
7	because that would have eliminated the
8	emergency situation they were claiming. Yet,
9	in the DEIS they provided for the permanent
10	substation separately to the Clarkstown
11	Planning Board, they are forced to admit that
12	this area gets power from three substations,
13	not just one. After all, it is part of the
14	grid.
15	As the PSC knows, O&R's parent
16	company, Con Edison, was criminally convicted
17	in 1995 for knowingly withholding information
18	from the public in the Gramercy Park Case,
19	and they were fined and sentenced to three
20	years of corporate probation by Judge John
21	Martin to prevent the very kind of behavior
22	that I believe we are now seeing.
23	Based on the evidence that I'm
24	presenting tonight, it appears that we are

facing a situation with both the Haverstraw

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	water project and the Little Tor substation
3	project that calls into question the honesty
4	of each applicant's DEIS submissions. The
5	Office of Electric, Gas & Water at the
6	Department of Public Service either knew
7	about this dishonesty or should have known
8	about it.

In a letter to Shirley Thormann, chairperson of the Clarkstown Planning Board, from Thomas Dvorsky, director of that office, dated March 19th, 2013, he said, "Based on our review, the proposed Little Tor substation is driven by the reliability concerns and is being proposed by O&R so that adequate distribution system capacity is available to serve the electric load in New City and surrounding areas of north Clarkstown. He concludes the letter by stating, "I urge you to act on the need for the Little Tor substation or an alternative as soon as possible.

Mr. Dvorsky is in charge of both electric and water issues for the Department of Public Service. So if he really reviewed

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

the electrical needs of north New City, as he stated in his letter, he would have also

4 known the electrical needs of the water

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5 treatment plant and the inability of the West

6 Haverstraw substation to meet those needs --

7 I'm sorry, I just misread this here -- so if

8 he really reviewed the electrical needs of

9 north New City, as stated in his letter, and

10 also knew about the electrical needs of the

11 water treatment plant and the inability of

12 the West Haverstraw substation to meet those

needs, he had to have known more than anyone

else that the need for the proposed Little

Tor substation was first and foremost being

driven by the Haverstraw water project.

Why is a top PSC official urging quick approval by the Town of Clarkstown for the Little Tor substation on behalf of Orange & Rockland, when he knows it's needed for the water treatment plant. Mr. Dvorsky no doubt has sufficient knowledge of the State Environmental Quality Review Act to know that segmenting these two projects would be a violation of New York law.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	In July 2012, the acting New York
3	State Inspector General, Catherina Leahy
4	Scott, issued a scathing report about certain
5	activities within Mr. Dvorsky's department.
6	An investigation found that several
7	department employees, some of whom were
8	receiving various gifts, including meals and
9	rounds of golf, acted in the interests of one
10	of New York's regulated utilities, and
11	ultimately their own interests, rather than
12	the public interest.
13	So the question becomes why did
14	Mr. Dvorsky write this letter to expedite
15	Clarkstown's approval, and why did he not
16	point out the need to power the Haverstraw
17	water project as being a significant factor
18	for the Little Tor substation? If the
19	Department of Public Service is advocating
20	for the utilities, who will advocate for the
21	public?
22	Tonight, I am calling for a renewed
23	investigation of the Office of Electric, Gas
24	& Water by the New York State Inspector

General to see how this happened and to

	319
1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	determine what influences, if any, including
3	gifts or potential interest in future
4	employment opportunities which actually
5	was pointed out in that report drives the
6	decision making process by certain employees
7	of the Department of Public Service.
8	Certainly I would not accuse all employees,
9	but there was a history, a recent history of
10	this kind of activity.
11	Further, I am calling for the
12	Little Tor substation project and the
13	Haverstraw water project to be merged and
14	jointly reviewed as one project, since one
15	seems to clearly be dependent on the other.
16	Otherwise, both O&R and United Water need to
17	demonstrate how the Haverstraw water project
18	can move forward if the West Haverstraw
19	substation does not have adequate capacity to
20	meet current and future needs of existing
21	customers without the construction of the
22	Little Tor substation.
23	In my presentation I have
24	highlighted just one problem with just one
25	aspect of the Haverstraw water project. But

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	the apparent lack of honesty in both the
3	United Water DEIS and the Orange & Rockland
4	DEIS causes significant credibility issues
5	with the applicants that should raise
6	questions as to what else they might be
7	hiding from the public about their project.
8	And that's why we are talking about the need
9	for this plan. I want to make sure the
LO	information that we are getting is honest,
L1	accurate and complete.
L2	Thank you very much.
L3	(Applause)
L4	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
L5	All right, Dorice Madronero.
L6	MS. MADRONERO: Yeah.
L7	ALJ CASUTTO: Dorice Madronero.
L8	MS. MADRONERO: Before the homeroom
L9	bell rings we'd better get out of here.
20	Thank you for your indulgence in
21	giving us so much of your time.
22	Judge Casutto, in 2000 you rendered
23	an opinion on the Bowline Mirant case. I was
24	part of the intervenor team on the Bowline
25	Mirant case. One of the issues, ironically.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	that was raised was the need for water in
3	Rockland County. So this is not a new issue
4	for you I take it as far as being aware that
5	Rockland has had this so-called need for many
6	years. And 2000 was around the time that
7	United Water I'm sorry, Suez Lyonnaise,
8	they've had several iterations of their name,
9	acquired United Water. Although they say
10	they have been here for many, many, many
11	years.
12	But in that case, we had suggested
13	that Mirant, which had a high water usage,
14	intended for Bowline 3, it was one of the
15	last of the Article 10 cases, proceedings.
16	It did get permitted by the way; however,
17	never built. And in that case you and Judge
18	Lynch, and I'm doing this by memory recall,
19	when I heard your name
20	ALJ CASUTTO: You have a good
21	memory.
22	MS. MADRONERO: I'm thinking it was
23	in March or it was in the early spring or
24	late winter. We had been waiting for that.
25	And, like now, it was primarily citizens who

1 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

2 raised many of the issues.

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And we had proposed that Mirant

build a desal plant if it -- to meet its high

requirement of water. And at the time, and

I'm not arguing with your decision, but you

said, you know, basically -- oh, by the way,

Mirant replied that it would be too costly.

Now, this is an energy producing company

stating that it would be too costly to run a

desal plant. Let's get that through our

heads. An energy producing company said it

was too expensive to run a desal plant.

And at that point I believe your decision and Judge Lynch went to somewhat of the point where well, we can't make a particular customer produce its own water supply or, you know, it's got to be for the greater good of everybody. And I think there was even \$3 million given by Mirant to United Water at that time for infrastructure improvements so that -- piping and such, so that water could be drawn through the United Water case. But we go back many years on that. So I'd ask you to refresh your memory

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

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together.

on what Rockland County was pleading with the
Public Service Commission to do back then.

4 I think it was in '92 or '94 in the 5 rate case where the Public Service Commission б granted summer rate increases. And that was 7 a mechanism for so-called water conservation. And within that it stated also that there was 8 9 to be an independent audit and review of those rates and how efficacious those rates 10 11 really were in promoting water conservation. 12 I don't know that any independent review has 13 ever been done or studied, so the question 14 really goes to who puts all these pieces

The Public Service Commission, DEC, and here's another one for you, the NRC. You know, we've had this renewal process and we know that Indian Point is operating without a permit now. But the NRC did not include the proposed desalination plant in its renewal process. And I have had conversation with people at the NRC, and in fact direct correspondence with Chairman McFadden (sic) on the issue. And they said well, it isn't

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303

built, so we don't have to consider it. And in a more recent response from them, well, the DEC will have to keep a watch of what's

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5 going on with the radionuclides coming out of

6 that plant. And, as Susan Shapiro pointed

7 out, we do see radioactive material in the

8 Hudson River, which will be drawn by the

9 intake pipes. And another woman, Liliana

10 pointed out well, gee, what happens if

there's a leak in the pipe that's drawing

that radiated water into it even before it

gets processed, where does that go.

So, you know, here we go, it's like who's on first. Everyone is pointing to another department. And in the 2010 rate case, here's another one for you. The list goes on. In 2010 a deputy attorney in your department, when the County of Rockland of counsel was asking the Public Service Commission to consider the flow, the water flow going to New Jersey, at that time the deputy attorney said oh, no, we can't do that, it would be far too costly. That comes out September 13th was the date cited in that

PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303 1 2 rate filing. 3 So what has happened there. Why 4 would you leave that? I mean how -- in 2010 5 we knew that that problem existed, it was raised. Requests were done for audits. Who 6 7 in Public Service Commission actually has the 8 authority, it actually moves on this. 9 Listen, I worked in the insurance industry 10 for many years of my life. And I know what 11 it is to look at piles of paper, and I know 12 it's just another day and you move it. But 13 all those numbers and all those papers 14 reflect people. It reflects lives. And we're dealing with water discussion here, 15 16 which is a life blood of any community. It's 17 the life blood to the shareholders as profit, 18 we understand that part. But we could go 19 through and I would implore you to review the 20 transcripts of the environmental committee 21 legislative meetings where United Water gave 22 presentations on what their options were and what they were doing to improve the system. 23 24

And hang on there, we're going to put an aeration system. That was in 2006.

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1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	An aeration system in Lake DeForest to help
3	with the algae bloom. Oh, by the way, that
4	was pointed out by a private citizen, it was
5	a Mr. Englander who pointed that out. What's
6	happening, now we're dumping what, copper
7	sulfate and whatever else we see, algae
8	blooms all over. Where is that aeration
9	system? Did we pay a price for that?
LO	So when we hear about water
L1	conservation, we have been charged if you
L2	look at the promulgated rates, we have been
L3	charged for water conservation. They talk
L 4	about public outreach. They're going into
L5	kindergarten through sixth grade classes
L6	telling them you'd better save water. Those
L7	are not the decision makers who are fixing
L8	the leaky valves. And I'm all for working
L9	with the young children, believe me, for
20	general education. But those are not the
21	final decision makers.
22	The ratepayers are paying into a
23	system in their rates now for water
2.4	conservation and have routinely since 1992.

And what are we getting for it. We have two

1	32° PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	little piddly xeriscape landscape
3	demonstrations, one at Cornell Cooperative
4	and the one at their home office right up the
5	road. Now, we know, hordes of people, you
6	can't get through because of the traffic,
7	people dying to get to the home office of
8	United Water to see that xeriscape landscape
9	demonstration. Oh, please, we paid a lot of

money for that.

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Who is responsible for following up to say they're doing the right thing. \$3 million that was awarded by Mirant to United Water to help with the infrastructure for the plant that was never built, where is that money, has that been attended to, had they improved upon that? And Judge Casutto, you would -- as you acknowledge, you recall that case.

So I implore you to please look at the history of what has gone on in this county. It has been endless requests for water management. Not only of this body of the Public Service Commission, but the public officials.

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	And shame also on the public
3	officials at the county level and the state
4	level for not following through. Somebody
5	says something, oh, okay. Who's making
6	certain that it's accomplished and done. I
7	mean I could go on with other lists, as you
8	can probably say oh, my God, please no.
9	Homeroom is going to start soon, so I think
10	we'd better all call it a night. But we
11	could go on. And I will be certain to put in
12	written comment.
13	Thank you for your indulgence as
14	well.
15	(Applause)
16	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you.
17	And I have the 118th card here,
18	Maureen Rittel. Maureen Ritter possibly.
19	(No response)
20	ALJ CASUTTO: All right. Then that
21	would conclude this hearing for the evening,
22	or the morning as the case may be. I want to
23	point out that there will be another hearing
24	tomorrow evening at the Haverstraw Elementary
25	School 16 Grand Street in Haverstraw The

1	PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	schedule will be similar. Informational
3	forum at six p.m., Public Statement Hearing
4	starting at seven p.m.
5	In addition, if anybody wishes to
6	submit comments, you can do so as was
7	described in the notice for these Public
8	Statement Hearings.
9	Thank you very much, I appreciate
10	everybody's attention.
11	MR. TORMEY: Could we put the time
12	on the record?
13	ALJ CASUTTO: And your diligence in
14	staying until this hour.
15	It's now about ten minutes to two
16	in the morning.
17	MR. TORMEY: Thank you.
18	ALJ CASUTTO: Thank you very much,
19	have a safe journey home.
20	(Applause)
21	(Time noted: 1:50 a.m.)
22	
23	
24	
25	

	22
1	933 PUBLIC HEARING - 10/1/13 - CASE NO. 13-W-0303
2	CERTIFICATE
3	
4	STATE OF NEW YORK)
5) SS: COUNTY OF ORANGE)
6	
7	
8	I, KARI L. REED, a Registered
9	Professional Reporter (Stenotype) and Notary
	Public with and for the State of New York, do
10	hereby certify:
11	I reported the proceedings in the
12	
13	within-entitled matter and that the within
14	transcript is a true record of such
15	proceedings.
	I further certify that I am not
16	related, by blood or marriage, to any of the
17	parties in this matter and that I am in no
18	way interested in the outcome of this matter.
19	
20	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
21	set my hand this 8th day of October, 2013.
22	
23	KARI L. REED, RPR
24	
25	

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