

LI CLEAN AIR WATER AND SOIL, LTD.

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
CASE NO. 16-W-0259

PROCEEDING ON THE MOTION OF THE COMMISSION AS
TO THE
RATES, CHARGES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
NEW YORK AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR
WATER SERVICES

**Direct Testimony of
DONALD DAVIDSON**

September 1, 2016

LI CLEAN AIR WATER AND SOIL, LTD.

1 **Background**

2 **Q-1. Please state your name, title, organization and your address.**

3 A-1 My name is Donald Davidson and I live at 985 Little Whaleneck Road, North
4 Merrick, NY 11566. I am co-director of LI Clean Air Water and Soil, Ltd. (“CAWS”), a not-
5 for-profit organization, established on Earth Day 2016 to act as stewards for Long Island’s
6 natural resources.

7 **Q-2. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

8 A-2. I intend to show the Public Service Commission the disparity between public water and
9 private water. I live in the unincorporated hamlet of North Merrick in the North Merrick
10 School District in the Town of Hempstead. But unlike my neighbors that also live in the same
11 unincorporated hamlet to the south, the same school district in the same town, the Town of
12 Hempstead provides me with water at a fraction of the price that my neighbors pay to a private
13 corporation for their water.

14 **Q-2. Please state which municipality supplies you with your water.**

15 A-2. Hempstead Water Department – East Meadow District.

16 **Q-3. Please indicate how many households are served by the Hempstead Water**
17 **Department.**

18 A-4. The Town of Hempstead Water Department has 36,763 customers. NYAW’s
19 Merrick District has 44,713 customers. Although NYAW is larger than the Town of

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1 Hempstead Water Department, I argue that their size could be easily compared. In this
2 industry, when pricing water rates, NYAW's larger size would warrant a greater
3 savings to its customers than the Town of Hempstead as NYAW's expenses could be
4 spread out over a larger populace, reducing the cost of the individual customer.

5 **Q-5. Please tell us the date of your last water bill, the number of days in which it**
6 **covers and the amount and attach it as an exhibit.**

7 A-5. I'm attaching my January 27, 2016 water bill for \$34.14 for a 99-day period,

8 **Q-6. Please indicate how many gallons of water you used during that time**
9 **period.**

10 A-6. 24,000 gallons.

11 **Q-7. Please state in your own words your views on the cost of your water.**

12 A-7. My water bill has always been manageable. It is the smallest of my monthly
13 bills, clean and affordable. I am fortunate to live in the northern most portion of North
14 Merrick where I receive all the benefits from living in the North Merrick School
15 District, but am supplied with public water at a fraction of the price paid by people
16 living just a few blocks to my south.

17 **Q-8. Do you pay property tax through your water bill to Nassau County for**
18 **property utilized by the Hempstead Water District?**

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1 A-8. No. We pay for water usage through a separate water bill and am taxed for
2 maintenance and operation of the water system. See Exhibit CAS DD-1. My taxes are
3 tax deductible. Residents who receive their water from NYAW pay property taxes
4 through their water bill, but cannot claim those taxes on their income tax forms.

5 **Q-9. Do you pay property tax through your water bill to any school district for**
6 **property utilized by the Hempstead Water District?**

7 A-9. No.

8 **Q-10. Do you pay property tax through your water bill to any fire, library,**
9 **sanitation or any other taxing jurisdiction for property utilized by the Hempstead**
10 **Water District?**

11 A-10. No.

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