Phelps Dunbar LLP Il City Plaza 400 Convention Street Suite 1100 Baton Rouge, LA 70802 225 346 0285

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Fragme Service Commission

# 37864-0002

April 13, 2021

## VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Brandon Frey **Executive Secretary** Louisiana Public Service Commission Galvez Building, 12th Floor 602 North Fifth Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802

#### Re: National Water Infrastructure, LLC First Revised Sewerage Services Tariff

Dear Secretary Frey:

Enclosed please find two copies (two each of clean and redline) of the First Revised Tariff (the "Tariff") of National Water Infrastructure, LLC ("NWI" or "Company"), to be effective May 1, 2021.

NWI's First Revised Tariff is filed pursuant to Section 1101.D of the Commission's Rules and Regulations applicable to water and wastewater utilities (as most recently amended by General Order dated July 26, 2017, Docket No. U-34120) (the "Rules and Regulations").

The First Revised Tariff adds a "Noncompliant Effluent Fee for Commercial Customers" at page 5, which is a non-recurring charge applicable to each instance where a commercial customer's effluent to the facilities of the Company exceeds 250 ppm (or mg/L) for Total Suspended Solids or 220 ppm (or mg/L) for BOD 5-d, 20°C. The Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall be assessed for each test performed by the Company that shows the customer's effluent fails to meet the foregoing standards.

When applicable, the Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall: a) be charged on the monthly bill of the customer, b) not be charged to any customer more than two times per month, and c) be in addition to any other fees and charges assessed pursuant to the Tariff.

Failure of the customer to timely pay the Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall be considered a nonpayment under the terms of the Tariff, and shall subject such non-paying customer to the other remedies available to the Company, including but not limited to, disconnection of water service by the serving local water company, pursuant to the terms of the Tariff.

The Noncompliant Effluent Fee for Commercial Customers shall be \$500 per failed test for up to six failed tests in any consecutive 12-month period. Each failed test exceeding six that occurs during the same consecutive 12-month period shall be subject to a Noncompliant Effluent Fee ferences 1-15day Commercial Customers of \$1,000 per failed test. RCUTETO

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April 13, 2021 Page 2

Pursuant to Section 1101.D of the Rules and Regulations, *NWI respectfully requests that notice of this filing be published in the Commission's April 16, 2021 Bulletin for a 15-day notice period*, and that the First Revised Tariff be reviewed and accepted by Commission Staff, subject to the authority of the Commission to make investigation and require changes it may legally find to be appropriate or reasonably necessary.

Should you have questions concerning this filing, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Guarisco

PFG:cd

Copy: Ryan King

### LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC LOUISIANA FIRST REVISED SEWERAGE SERVICES TARIFF

This First Revised Tariff ("Tariff") contains the descriptions, regulations and rates

This filing contains the following:

- 1) First Revised Title Page;
- 2) First Revised Page 1;
- 3) First Revised Page 2;
- 4) First Revised Page 3;
- 5) First Revised Page 4;
- 6) First Revised Page 5;
- 7) First Revised Page 6;
- 8) First Revised Page 7;
- 9) First Revised Page 8;
- 10) First Revised Page 9;
- 11) First Revised Page 10; and
- 12) First Revised Page 11.

ex Paulio Son de Casto da la

Received this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2021 Louisiana Public Service Commission

By: \_\_\_\_

Signature

Printed Name:	
Date:	
Time:	

#### LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC LOUISIANA FIRST REVISED SEWERAGE SERVICES TARIFF

This First Revised Tariff ("Tariff") contains the descriptions, regulations and rates applicable to the furnishing of service and facilities for sewerage services provided by National Water Infrastructure, LLC, ("NWI" or "Company") with its principal office at 400 Convention Street, Suite 1010, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. This Tariff applies to services furnished within the State of Louisiana. This Tariff is on file with the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business.

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#### LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC LOUISIANA FIRST REVISED SEWERAGE SERVICES TARIFF

#### <u>AVAILABILITY</u>

This service is available under the general terms and conditions of the Company to all customers of sewerage service within the area served by the Company in Subdivisions in Ascension Parish, Livingston Parish, Iberville Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, shown below on this Tariff.

#### <u>RATES</u>

Residential/Mobile Home Commercial Negotiated <sup>1</sup>	\$45.00 monthly flat rate \$55.00 monthly flat rate Addendum 1
<u>APARTMENT</u>	\$45.00 monthly flat rate
<u>TAP-IN FEE</u>	\$185.00 one-time charge

This charge will include all labor and materials and any other cost associated with initially establishing service.

#### <u>DEPOSIT</u>

 $2 \frac{1}{2}$  times the monthly bill.

#### CONNECTION FEE

This charge covers the administrative costs associated with re-establishing service upon a change of customer at a location where service was previously established, but severed due to customer vacancy. As indicated, the charge also covers the costs associated with performing camera work (e.g., using a camera to visually search the inside of a sewer line for damage and/or obstructions) on sewer lines. Camera work will be automatically performed where more than one year has elapsed since a vacancy. Camera work will also be performed - regardless of the time that has elapsed - on any connection where actual events indicate that camera work is needed, including, for example, customer complaints

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The rates reflected on Addendum 1 were negotiated and agreed upon between Ascension Wastewater Treatment, Inc. and certain commercial customers. As set forth more fully in the Memorandum of Understanding dated September 21, 2020, and attached to this Tariff as Exhibit "A", the Commission has agreed to allow National Water Infrastructure, LLC to include these customers in the tariff at the negotiated rate until the conclusion of the Company's first rate case. The Company and Commission Staff have agreed that including these customers in the tariff at the negotiated rates does not carry any precedential value as to the appropriateness of the rates or the methodology by which they were derived.

National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 2

of blockage/back-up; independent evidence of sewer blockage/back-up; or similar circumstances at nearby connections that indicate camera work is needed at the connection in question.

Where Camera Work Needed	\$100.00 one-time flat rate
Where Camera Work Not Needed	\$50.00 one-time flat rate

#### **RECONNECTION FEE**

This charge is assessed for re-establishing service after disconnection for nonpayment, failure to make deposit; and fraudulent or seasonal use.

In subdivisions where the local water company agrees to disconnect service, the charge shall be as follows:

Re-Connection Fee:

*\$125.00 flat rate per occurrence* 

In subdivisions where the local water company refuses to disconnect service and the Company has to disconnect and re-connect service by digging up the tie-in with heavy equipment, the charge shall be as follows:

Disconnection Fee:	\$375.00 flat rate per occurrence
Re-Connection Fee:	\$375.00 flat rate per occurrence

*NOTE:* The full disconnection fee is due when the crew leaves the shop to perform the disconnection operation, whether or not payment is made before the disconnection operation is completed.

#### SERVICE CHARGE

This charge shall cover the cost of sending a Company service man to a customer's premises, at the customer's request, when the trouble is found to be in the customer's private line (e.g., upstream of the tie-in).

During Normal Business Hours: \$75.00 per hour

On Weekends, Holidays, or After Normal Business Hours \$100.00 per hour

<u>NSF HANDLING CHARGE</u>	\$20.00 per occurrence
<u>TAMPERING FEE</u>	\$150.00 per occurrence
<u>CREDIT CARD CHARGE</u>	\$1.50 per occurrence

This charge shall be incurred only by those customers who choose to utilize the credit card payment option.

#### **DEFINITION OF PREMISE**

"Premise" -- A property which cannot be completely divided in its present utilitarian condition through sale, such as: a) a building under one roof, owned, leased, or occupied by one business or residence; b) a combination of residential buildings or of commercial buildings owned, leased, or occupied by one party in one common enclosure; or c) a building owned, leased or occupied by one party, having more than one internal division, such as apartments, offices, stores, etc., and which may have a common or separate entrance. This includes a commercial storefront.

#### LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: IRREGULARITIES AND INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE

#### MAINTENANCE OUTAGES

On occasion it may be necessary for the Company to limit or interrupt service on either a scheduled or unscheduled basis in order to perform repairs or maintenance. The Company's maximum liability shall be set forth in this Tariff.

#### ALLOWANCE FOR OUTAGES

When service or facilities furnished by the Company are out of operation to any cause other than the negligence or willful act of the customer, or the failure of the facilities provided by the customer, a pro rata adjustment of the minimum fixed monthly charges involved will be generated for the service and facilities rendered inoperative by reason of the outage during the time said interruption continues in excess of twenty four (24) hours from the time it is reported to the Company. For the purposes of administering this regulation, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.

#### SERVICE IRREGULARITIES

The Company's liability, if any, for its willful misconduct is not limited by this Tariff. With respect to any other claim or suit by a customer or by any others, for damages associated with the installation, provision, preemption, determination, interruption, maintenance, repair or restoration of service, the Company's liability, if any, shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportionate part of the minimum monthly recurring charge for the service period during which the service was effected. This liability shall be in addition to any amounts that may otherwise be due the customer under this Tariff as an allowance for interruption.

#### FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

The Company shall not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any cases where a claim is not presented in writing within sixty (60) days after the alleged damage or delinquency occurs.

#### <u>SUSPENSION AND/OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE</u> FOR NONCOMPLIANT EFFLUENT OF COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

The Company is obligated to accept only effluent of a customer that allows the Company to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. However, under no circumstances will the Company accept effluent of a customer that fails to meet quality requirements for treatment set forth herein.

In order to protect the Company's facilities and personnel and the services furnished to other customers by the Company from potentially harmful effects, the customer's operations and facilities shall be such as not to cause damage to the facilities of the Company. Any special connection facilities or equipment necessary to achieve the compatibility between facilities of the Company and the facilities of others shall be provided at the customer's expense.

The Company may, upon notification to the customer, at a reasonable time, make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that all requirements are being met regarding equipment and interconnections, including installation, operations and maintenance of customer-provided equipment and the connection of customer's pipes or facilities to Company-owned facilities.

If the customer does not meet protective requirements in connection with Customerprovided equipment, the Company may take such action as reasonably necessary to protect its own facilities and personnel, including the suspension and/or termination of service.

The Company may suspend and/or terminate a commercial customer's service due to the receipt of any effluent of that commercial customer that the Company reasonably concludes<sup>2</sup> may present an endangerment to the public health, worker safety, the environment, or the Company's facilities. Company will give to the commercial customer notice of intent to suspend and/or terminate within five (5) calendar days of the date of suspension and/or termination based upon the commercial customer's contact information available in the Company's records. Examples of conduct warranting suspension and/or termination of services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Failure to notify the Company of significant changes to the character, quality or volume of the effluent of the customer prior to discharge.
- 2. Failure to provide prior notification to the Company of changed conditions.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  The Company will accommodate effluent of the commercial customer up to 250 ppm (or mg/L) for Total Suspended Solids and 220 ppm (or mg/L) for BOD 5-d, 20°C, respectively. This accommodation actually exceeds the industry standards Set forth in Wastewater Treatment Engineering and Reuse, Metcalf & Eddy, 4th Ed. 2003.

- 3. Misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts in an application to the Company.
- 4. Tampering with monitoring equipment.
- 5. Failure to meet discharge limitations.
- 6. Failure to provide advance notice of ownership transfer of a permitted facility.
- 7. Violation of any pretreatment standard or requirement.

#### NONCOMPLIANT EFFLUENT FEE FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

In addition to the right to suspend and/or terminate a commercial customer's service for the reasons set forth herein, the Company may also assess a Noncompliant Effluent Fee applicable to each instance where a commercial customer's effluent to the facilities of the Company exceeds 250 ppm (or mg/L) for Total Suspended Solids or 220 ppm (or mg/L) for BOD 5-d, 20°C. The Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall be assessed for each test performed by the Company that shows the customer's effluent fails to meet the foregoing standards.

The Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall:

- 1. be charged on the monthly bill of the customer;
- 2. not be charged to any customer more than two (2) times per month; and
- 3. be in addition to any other fees and charges assessed pursuant to this Tariff.

Failure of customer to timely pay the Noncompliant Effluent Fee shall be considered a nonpayment under the terms of this Tariff, and shall subject such non-paying customer to the other remedies available to the Company, including but not limited to disconnection of water service by the serving local water company, pursuant to the terms of this Tariff.

Noncompliant Effluent Fee for Commercial Customers: \$500 per failed test for up to six (6) failed tests in any consecutive 12-month period. Each failed test exceeding six (6) that occurs during the same consecutive 12-month period shall be subject to a Noncompliant Effluent Fee for Commercial Customers of \$1,000 per failed test.

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National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 6

#### SEWERAGE SERVICES SUBDIVISION/SYSTEMS LIST

**Subdivision** ACADIANA OF ASCENSION ACADEMY HEIGHTS ANGELLE ESTATES **ARLINGTON PLANTATION** ASCENSION INDUSTRIAL PARK ASCENSION TRACE AUDUBON PLACE AUTUMN WOODS **BABIN COVE BAYOU ESTATES BAYOU GRAND** BEAVER CREEK ON THE PLAINS **BLUFF HERITAGE BLUFF MEADOWS BLUFF OAKS BLUFFS BRADBURY TRACE BUILDERS CENTER/HOBBY LOBBY** BULLION CROSSING/COMMERCE CENTER CARRIAGEWOOD ESTATES **CEDAR GROVE** CHASE COURT CHATEAU GALVEZ **CLOVERHILL** COBBLESTONE PARK **CORNERSTONE** CHERRY CREEK CHRISTINE APARTMENTS COURTYARD SOUARE CREEKSIDE **CRESTVIEW ESTATES CROSS CREEK** CYPRESS COVE CYPRESS GOLD CYPRESS POINT CYPRESS RIDGE DEER RUN MOBILE HOME PARK DRIFTWOOD ESTATES DUFF VILLAGE DUTCHTOWN ACRES DUTCHTOWN CROSSING DUTCHTOWN GARDENS **DUTCHTOWN HOLLOW** DUTCHTOWN LANE DUTCHTOWN MEADOWS

Parish Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension

National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 7

DUTCHTOWN VILLAS ERIN ESTATES ESSEN TERRACE FAIRMONT VILLAGE FONTAINBLEAU FOUNTAIN HILL FOX RIDGE FOX RUN FRANCOIS POINT GALVEZ GARDENS GATEWAY COVE GEISMAR INDUSTRIAL **GOLDEN MEADOW** GREYSTONE **GRAY'S CREEK** HENDERSON BAYOU HENDERSON BAYOU ESTATES HIDDEN POINT HIGH PLAINS/ PECAN HILL HIGHLANDS AT DUTCHTOWN HOO SHOO TOO LAKES HUNTER'S TRACE JAMESTOWN COURT JEFFERSON CROSSING JEFFERSON OAKS **KENDALWOOD PLACE KEYSTONE** LAMONTE LAKE BEAU PRE' LAKE CROSSING LAKE MEADOWS LAKE SUMMERSET LAKES AT ASCENSION LAKES AT ST. AMANT LAKE AT TWIN OAKS LAKES AT OAK GROVE LAKEVIEW ESTATES LANDING AT MALLARD LAKES LASALLE POINTE

Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension

National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 8

LEGACY HILLS LES CHENIERE LESSARD ACRES LONGWOOD MALLARD CROSSING MANCHAC CROSSING MANCHAC HARBOR 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> MANCHAC HARBOR CROSSING MANCHAC HARBOR 3<sup>RD AND 4TH</sup> MANCHAC LAKE APARTMENTS MANCHAC PLACE MANCHAC PLANTATION MANCHAC RESERVE MANSIONS AT IVY LAKE MADISON PLACE MAPLEWOOD ESTATES MEADOW OAKS MEADOW RIDGE MOSS POINTE MOSSY OAK NORWOOD LAKES OAK ALLEY OAK GROVE COURTYARD OAK PLAZA OAKLAND CROSSING OAKLEIGH OAK RIDGE OAK HERITAGE OAK TRACE OAKS ON THE BLUFF OLD HICKORY WOODS **OLD HOMESTEAD** OLD MILL OLD MILL SETTLEMENT **OLD PACES POINT OLE KINGS PLACE** PARKS AT DUTCHTOWN PARKER PLACE ESTATES PECAN RIDGE PECUE LANE ESTATES PELICAN CROSSING PELICAN POINT **PIN OAK** PLANTATION CONDOMINIUMS PLANTATION CREEK PORTA COCHERE

Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Iberville Ascension Iberville Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension

National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 9

Effective: May 1, 2021 Authority: LPSC April 3, 2020 Non-Opp. Ltr. Docket No. S-35482

> PRAIRIE VILLAGE **OUAIL CREEK QUAIL HOLLOW OUARTERS AT DUTCHTOWN** RENAISSANCE **RESERVE AT JEFFERSON CROSSING** RETREAT AT ASCENSION **RONDA PLACE** RIDGEWOOD RIVER HIGHLANDS I. II. III. & IV **RIVER HIGHLANDS ESTATES RIVER RIDGE RIVER RUN ESTATE** RIVERGATE **RIVERSIDE ESTATES** ROSEMONT/AUTUMN WOODS SAGEFIELD SETTLEMENT AT LAKESIDE SEVEN OAKS FLEA MARKET SEVEN OAKS — POST OFFICE SHADOW CREEK ESTATES SHADOWS AT MANCHAC SHADOWS OF ASCENSION SHE LEE PLACE **SILVERSTONE** SPANISH OAKS ST. ANDREWS SUMMERLYN PLACE SUMMER PLACE **TACO BELL** THE COVE THE CROSSING APARTMENTS THE LAKES AT JUBAN CROSSING THE SETTLEMENT AT BAYOU PIERRE THREE RIVERS ISLAND TIMBER LAKE ESTATES **TWELVE OAKS** TOWNE PARK CENTRE **ULTIMA PLAZA US 61 HOLDINGS** VILLA GALVEZ VILLA GARDENS VILLAGE AT JUBAN LAKES VILLAGE AT WILLOW LAKE WATERFORD LAKE WATERFRONT EAST WATERFRONT WEST

Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Livingston Livingston Livingston Livingston Livingston Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension Ascension Livingston Ascension

> WESLEY PLACE WEST CREEK ESTATES WILLOWBROOK WILLOW COVE WINDSCAPE PLACE WRENWOOD

National Water Infrastructure, LLC. First Revised Page 10

Ascension Ascension East Baton Rouge Ascension Ascension

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# Addendum 1

#### Negotiated Rates for Certain Commercial Customers

The rates reflected on this Addendum 1 were negotiated and agreed upon between Ascension Wastewater Treatment and certain commercial customers. The Commission has agreed to allow National Water Infrastructure, LLC to include these customers in the tariff at the negotiated rates until the conclusion of the Company's first rate case. This Addendum is subject to the Memorandum of Understanding dated September 21, 2020, and attached to this Tariff as Exhibit "A". As set forth more fully therein, the Company and Commission Staff have agreed that including these customers in the tariff at these rates does not carry any precedential value as to the appropriateness of the rates or the methodology by which they were derived.

Taco Bell	\$175.00
O'Reilly's (Airline Hwy)	\$110.50
American Suites	\$599.53
Hobby Lobby	\$265.00
Raising Cane's	\$150.00
Comfort Inn	\$675.00
Daycare (Ultima Plaza Blvd)	\$130.00
Gateway Pre-School	\$175.00
Landmark Nursing Home	\$2600.00
Galvez Primary School	\$172.50
Entergy Bldg. (Cushman & Wakefield)	\$780.00

# BEFORE THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### **DOCKET NO. S-35482**

#### ASCENSION WASTEWATER TREATMENT, INC., AND NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC, EX PARTE

In re: Request for Commission Authority by National Water Infrastructure, LLC to Operate as a Wastewater Service Provider and Joint Request for Commission Approval and/or Non-Opposition to Change of Control by Ascension Wastewater Treatment, Inc. to National Water Infrastructure, LLC.

#### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, the Louisiana Public Service Commission issued a conditional letter of non-opposition to an Asset Purchase Agreement and related Assignment of Asset Purchase Agreement transferring to National Water Infrastructure, LLC the ownership and control of the wastewater system previously owned and operated by Ascension Wastewater Treatment, Inc.; and
- WHEREAS, Condition No. 4 of the aforesaid conditional letter of non-opposition required that "The revised proposed tariff to be filed with the Commission by NWI pursuant to Condition 8(c) of the Commission's letter granting NWI authority to operate as a wastewater service provider in the State of Louisiana, dated March 27, 2020, shall list all the systems encompassed within the scopes of Docket No. S-35497 and Docket No. S-35498"; and
- WHEREAS, Condition No. 4 of the aforesaid conditional letter of non-opposition was intended to cure regulatory irregularities caused by Ascension Wastewater Treatment, Inc.; and
- WHEREAS, in the process of attempting to comply with Condition No. 4 of the aforesaid conditional letter of non-opposition, representatives of National Water Infrastructure, LLC discovered further regulatory irregularities; and
- WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission Staff and National Water Infrastructure, LLC discussed various alternative courses of action to address the aforementioned regulatory irregularities; and
- WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission Staff and National Water Infrastructure, LLC are desirous of curing the aforementioned regulatory irregularities by means of a memorandum of understanding:

Docket No. S-35482 Memorandum of Understanding

EXHIBIT A NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the Louisiana Public Service Commission Staff and National Water Infrastructure, LLC as follows:

#### I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is hereby entered into by and between National Water Infrastructure, LLC ("NWI") and the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("Commission") Staff ("Staff"), which are "Parties" for purposes of this MOU.

#### II. PURPOSES

The primary purposes of this MOU are (i) to facilitate the incorporation (via a tariff addendum) of certain current customers, rates, and other terms and conditions of NWI's water and wastewater service into NWI's tariff pursuant to Condition No. 4 of the Commission's Conditional Letter of Non-Opposition dated April 3, 2020, in the above-captioned docket ("Incorporation") and (ii) to clarify and delineate the nature and regulatory treatment of such Incorporation.

#### III. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is based on and consistent with all of the rules, regulations, orders, decisions, and procedures, of the Commission as well as the constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and of the United States.

#### IV. COMMITMENTS

A. All Parties will:

- 1. Make best efforts in good faith to abide by and enforce the provisions of this MOU to the greatest extent possible. Each Party recognizes that implementation of the provisions of this MOU may require ongoing collaboration and cooperation between the Parties, all of which consent to the same.
- 2. Communicate on a timely basis any issues related to adhering to the provisions of the MOU to all Parties and expeditiously seek to remedy any such compliance issues, if possible.
- 3. Not attribute any precedential weight to the Incorporation nor request or argue for the attribution of any precedential weight to the Incorporation until the commencement of NWI's next full base rate proceeding before the Commission after the date of the execution of this MOU.
- 4. Not argue or discuss before the Commission the merits of the rates or methodologies used to design the rates of the Incorporation except until

and within NWI's next full base rate proceeding before the Commission after the date of the execution of this MOU.

- B. NWI will:
  - 1. Not charge to any of its customers nor offer to charge any of its potential customers any of the rates of the Incorporation, except to those customers specifically listed in its initial tariff filing of the Incorporation addendum after the date of the execution of this MOU, unless later Commission action authorizes the charging of such rates to more customers.
  - 2. Not employ any of the methodologies used to design the rates of the Incorporation to design other rates beyond those specifically listed in its initial tariff filing of the Incorporation addendum after the date of the execution of this MOU, unless later Commission action authorizes further use of such methodologies.
- C. Staff will:
  - 1. Monitor the Parties' compliance with this MOU and, as necessary, take such reasonable action on behalf of the Commission as may best fulfill the MOU's terms, preserve the Commission's jurisdiction, and protect the public interest.
- V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
  - A. Terms/Definitions. All terms used herein shall have the definitions set forth Commission regulations or, if undefined in Commission regulations, the common or technical meanings attributed to such terms, as context may dictate.
  - B. Authorities. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to extend the jurisdiction or decision-making authority of any Party to this MOU beyond that which exists under current laws and regulations. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as limiting or affecting the authority or legal responsibility of any Party, or as binding any Party to perform beyond the respective authority of each, or to require any Party to assume or expend any specific sum of money. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as affecting the decision-making requirements of any Party or impairing the independent judgment of each Party regarding policy decisions.
  - C. Sovereign Immunity. The Commission, as an agency of the State of Louisiana, does not waive the State of Louisiana's sovereign immunity by entering into this MOU and fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this MOU.

- D. Other Reservations. The Parties reserve all other rights, privileges, immunities, and defenses not addressed in this MOU.
- E. Severability. Should any portion of this MOU be judicially determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in full force and effect, and any Party may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.
- F. Third Party Beneficiary Rights. The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties, and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the Parties to this MOU, and shall inure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the Parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU.
- G. Non-Funded Obligation Document. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing herein constitutes a binding commitment to fund any of the proceedings encompassed by the MOU nor to transfer anything of value between the Parties.
- H. Comprehensiveness. This MOU expresses the complete understanding of the Parties with respect to the MOU's subject matter and supersedes all prior as well as all contrary representations and understandings.
- I. Modification. Any Party may request changes in this MOU. Any changes, modifications, or amendments to this MOU which are mutually agreed upon by and between the Parties to this MOU shall be incorporated by written instrument, executed and signed by all Parties to this MOU.
- J. Effective Date; Term. The effective date of this MOU is the date of the signature last affixed to these pages. This MOU shall remain in effect until Commission action vitiates this MOU and, in such case, only to the extent required by such Commission action.

[Signatures follow on next page.]

#### VI. SIGNATURES

FOR THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF:

H. Barlow Holley (Bar Roll No. 38275) Staff Attorney Louisiana Public Service Commission P.O. Box 91154 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9154 602 North Fifth Street, Galvez Building, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 Telephone: (225) 342-9888 Facsimile: (225) 342-5610 E-mail: barlow.holley@la.gov

DATE:

September 18, 2020

FOR NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC:

Edward H. Bergin (Bar Roll No. 02992) Jones Walker LLP 201 St. Charles Avenue, 49<sup>th</sup> Floor New Orleans, Louisiana 70170-5100 Telephone: (504) 582-8222 Facsimile: (504) 589-8222 E-mail: <u>nbergin@joneswalker.com</u>

DATE:

September 212020

Docket No. S-35482 Memorandum of Understanding Page 5 of 5