

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY	:	
COMMISSION,	:	
	:	
V.	:	Docket No. R-2017-2595853
	:	
PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN	:	
WATER COMPANY	:	

COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY'S
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOINT PETITION
FOR SETTLEMENT OF RATE INVESTIGATION

NOW COMES the Intervenor, the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) and files this Statement in Support of the Joint Petition for Settlement of Rate Investigation in the above-captioned matter and agrees to its terms based upon the following:

1. CEO is a not-for-profit Pennsylvania corporation and an advocate for its clients - the low-income population of Luzerne County.
2. CEO intervened in the above-captioned matter to address the adequacy of the Company's programs for its low-income customers and the effect of any proposed rate increase or change in rate structure on those programs and customers.
3. Although CEO joins in the settlement of all issues, this Statement in Support will address only those issues that CEO addressed in its intervention and testimony.
4. CEO supports the Joint Petition for Settlement of Rate Investigation and believes that it is in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations and serves the public interest based upon the following:

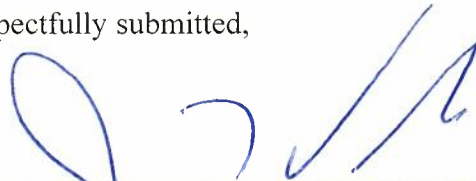
A. The Settlement increases funding for the Company's Hardship funds. This increase will help low-income customers deal with the effect of the rate increase resulting from this Settlement;

B. In the Settlement the Company reiterates its intent to continue to use community-based organizations to assist in the implementation of its universal service programs;

C. The Company proposed in its initial filing to increase its fixed monthly residential customer charge from \$15.00 to \$18.50. Such an increase in the fixed charge would have lessened the motive and ability of the residential class to conserve energy and reduce their monthly bill. The Settlement lessens such a negative impact in that it provides that the fixed monthly residential customer charge will set at \$16.50.

For the reasons set forth above the Commission on Economic Opportunity supports and joins in the Joint Petition for Settlement of Rate Investigation.

Respectfully submitted,



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