

R-2017-2595853

**RESPONSE TO PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN PA. PUC VS. PA.  
AMERICAN WATER CO.**

October 22, 2017

**TO: Secretary's Bureau  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

**FROM: Barry Fenicle  
405 Benyou Lane  
New Cumberland, PA 17070  
C-2017-2607439**

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PA PUC  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU**

Dear Secretary's Bureau,

Can you hear *it??* I can hear *it*. You will hear *it* for the next two years, until PAWC's next huge rate increase proposal. You can hear *it* all across Pennsylvania. What is *it??* *It* is PAWC's party, at all of their offices – with big bonuses for managers, for, AGAIN, sticking it to the consumers and businesses of Pennsylvania. They, AGAIN, made me, the PUC, Judge Buckley and Judge Myers, “BI&E”, “OCA”, “OSBA” “AK STEEL” “CEO” and “PAWLUG” and the “Black Box” process look like fools!!! They played the system, AGAIN, like a Stradivarius, and got EXACTLY what they wanted all along – 9.41% increase. Actually, they only wanted 9.25% - the settlement gave them a bonus – for their party, you know.

Obviously, the Judges, did not listen to or totally disregarded the “citizens” input. If they would have read my testimony and facts alone-they would have had more than enough reason to limit their increase to 2% - 3% - way above inflation rates. At the hearing in Harrisburg, that I testified at – an elderly lady called in, explaining how bad she had it – an extra \$10.00 per month would seriously hurt her. How about the fixed income, elderly ladies in Fairview Township who were FORCED to connect to the water and sewer lines – at a cost of over \$4,000 each. I bet “ a dollar to a doughnut”, 'cause that's all I can afford, that they heard many similar stories from citizens. Why didn't they listen?? Apparently “AK Steel” and “PAWLUG” doesn't care – they can write the increases off on their taxes. And, our SUPPOSED “watchdogs” - “OCA”, “OSBA”, “CEO”, and even the “BI&E” also caved in- showing a disgraceful disregard for the hard working citizens and small businesses. THEY SOLD US OUT!!!!

What happens in two years??-- the SAME THING THAT HAPPENED in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997,1999, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 – they will flood you with “facts and statistics” on why they need such a huge increase, AGAIN, and will, AGAIN, “settle” for a ridiculous, huge increase – as the current one is. As I testified, the 9.41% for Residential and 19.08% for Commercial customers will translate into far greater amounts – as businesses will have to pass the increases along to customers. Based on a survey of a very small area here in Central Pennsylvania, approximately 300 small businesses in PA. will CLOSE, because of this huge increase.

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In our real world, because of people using local businesses, these proposed increases become over 55% - due to the "Realistic Cumulative Impact" (RCI) - increased costs to every business passed along to customers. Those of us on fixed incomes – maybe I did not explain that adequately- fixed income means ZERO increase in income- 0, 0, 0, not like PAWC's managers, who get hundreds of thousands of dollars of income, and multi-millions in income to the parent company's executives- American Water Works. What is our alternative?? Oh, that's right, there is NO ALTERNATIVE – THEY ARE A MONOPOLY!!!! What are we supposed to do – recycle toilet water, recycle dish and shower water, collect rainwater??? Were the hearings and all of the "research" just a charade??

I have interviewed many people in the Central PA area – both individuals and businesses. I was very perplexed as to why there wasn't a larger turnout at the New Cumberland Fire Department hearing. I was stunned – almost to the person, they said that they were afraid of what PAWC would do to them if they testified. Amazing. Most thought their water would be turned off, their bills inexplicably raised or quality of their water decreased. Now they will pay through the nose for not attending- then they will bitch to me about it. Go figure.

Let's look, again, at FACTS:

1. PAWC has raised base rates 350%+ over the last 30 years. With the RCI, that's over 1000%.
2. Average income increases in Pennsylvania are between 1% and 2% annually.
3. Social Security increases have increased an average of only 1.69% - over the last 10 years, with 0% in the last 2+ years.
4. Inflation has increased an average of only 2.57% per year from 1987 to present.
5. There is NO product, service or item in the United States that has increased more than water rates.
6. PAWC, and ALL water companies, get this most precious resource for FREE.
7. PAWC is a MONOPOLY- No alternative source- like telephone, oil, gas, etc.
8. Property, school and local taxes increase over inflation rate every year. Groceries, fuel, maintenance on homes, costs for most services increase annually.
9. PAWC expects to get 7.2% return on common equity. We shouldn't go broke making them rich.

Here's the bottom line – PAWC is the most greedy, unethical, heartless, calloused company in PA. The "Black Box" process should NOT be used when dealing with them. PAWC should be forced to live within their means – just like individuals and businesses are. I wonder if Amazon, and the three or four other large companies that are looking to locate in Pennsylvania, are aware of the problems that PAWC have caused – in constant, excessive rate increases, lobbying to consolidate even more power than their 17% customer based monopoly has already, putting businesses out of business with large increased costs,

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mandating forced connections – even when individuals and businesses have fully functioning septic and well systems, prohibiting individuals and businesses from installing wells for any use, constantly buying water and wastewater systems that need major repair and demanding excessive rate increases in order to meet their rate of return. Amazon and the others will know shortly.

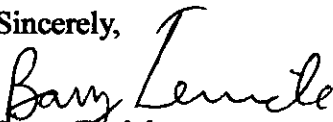
Secretary's Bureau, PLEASE use common sense and fairness in your recommendation to the PUC, think of creating an atmosphere that attracts businesses and individuals to Pennsylvania, instead of punishing them for using an essential natural resource. Will Judge Buckley, Judge Myers OR the PUC look the businesses and individuals in the eye and try to explain to them why PAWC needs 9.41%/19.08% increases???? Will the PUC assist the hundreds of businesses that are going out of business with a huge increase in water/wastewater rates?? How about all of the fixed income individuals, many are much worse off than me, who will have to choose between food/clothing/shelter OR pay more for water?? ALL I ask, is for you to really consider the facts, regardless of PAWC's lobbying, floods of "facts and statistics" and their irresponsible need for "more". This proposal is extremely insulting, arrogant, unnecessary, excessive and unwarranted. I hope that you will:

1. Recommend a 2% to 3% increase across the board, for ALL classes.
2. Prohibit future water/wastewater increases for five (5) years. PP&L went for ten years without an increase, once – then asked for only 3.5% in the eleventh year.
3. Prohibit PAWC (and other water/wastewater companies, when applicable) from mandating connection to water/wastewater systems.
4. Prohibit PAWC (and other water companies, when applicable) from preventing individuals and businesses from installing wells, to be used for any purpose – including domestic use.
5. Prohibit PAWC from acquiring any additional water/wastewater systems.

My question is this: considering the reasonable facts, do you have a sense of fairness and understanding of economics?? Time and time again, The PA PUC has rubber stamped PAWC's demand for excessive rate increases. NEVER once outlining how they will conserve their resources, to greatly reduce the need for these outrageous increases, just asking for more and more. NOW is the time for you to institute common sense and decency. It is sickening how our taxpayer funded "watchdogs", like the OCA, BI&E and CEO have sold us out and have no concept of right and wrong– while all along spouting their assigned "purpose" statement. They can't possibly understand the economics of this hideous proposal.

**DO THE RIGHT THING – implement the five solutions above, and protect our citizens and businesses.**

Sincerely,

  
Barry Fenicle

**OBJECTIONS PAGE**

Please sign this sheet if you would like to **oppose** the Joint Petition for Settlement signed by Pennsylvania American Water Co., the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and other active parties in the case of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Pennsylvania American Water Co., Docket No. R-2017-2595853. You are encouraged to provide written comments below and/or attach additional pages, setting forth any facts and explanation for your objections.

By adding my signature below, I am indicating that I have read the terms of the Settlement Agreement and wish to **OPPOSE** the Settlement. I understand that I may file objections (below and/or by attachment to this Objections Page) to the Settlement and exceptions to a Recommended Decision and that my complaint will be resolved as part of the PUC order resolving this case.

Barry Fewick  
Please Print Your Full Name

Barry Fewick  
Please Sign Your Full Name

Date: 10/22/2017

Please Write Your Address Here:

405 Benyon Lane  
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Docket Number of Your Complaint

C-2017-2607439

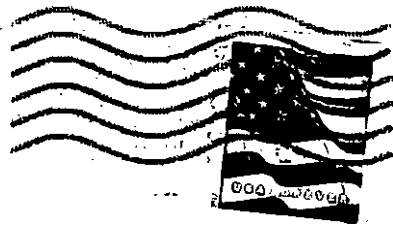
Objections:

See attached

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HARRISBURG PA 171

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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
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400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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