



PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN WATER

Brian Ardire

Director, Corporate Counsel

Pennsylvania-American Water Company

800 West Hersheypark Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

P: 717.531.3362 F: 717.531.3399 C: 717.218.4636

brian.ardire@amwater.com

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VIA E-FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

RE: Rulemaking Re Electric Safety Regulations, 52 Pa. Code, Chapter 57; Docket No. L-2015-2500632

Dear Secretary Chiavetta -

On November 19, 2015, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) entered a Proposed Rulemaking Order Re: Electric Safety Regulations, which proposed new definitions and updates to Section 57.1 and further proposed the addition of electric safety standards in a manner similar to those in place for gas safety standards. Pennsylvania-American Water Company (“PAWC”) and the System Local 537, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-COI jointly submitted comments on March 7, 2016, to the Commission’s Proposed Rulemaking Order. The comments described concerns for safety when water and wastewater utilities are working in close proximity to electric distribution companies (“EDCs”) energized lines. The joint commenters proposed certain specific revisions to the new Section 57.28 of the Commission’s regulations addressing standards and procedures for coordination between EDCs and water/wastewater utilities.

On May 18, 2017, the Commission ordered that PAWC shall, by January 18, 2018, file either: (1) a petition to initiate a rulemaking that frames the relevant issues and proposed regulations to address the issues, with answers to the subject petition due within 20 days from the date of filing such petition; or (2) a letter stating PAWC’s decision not to file a petition and explaining that PAWC achieved substantial consensus with the EDCs as to the inter-utility coordination standards and procedures to be followed in the future, and explaining how such standards and procedures protect the public interest.

Please allow this letter to serve as notice that PAWC will not file a petition to initiate rulemaking.

On November 8, 2017, a meeting was held at the Energy Association of Pennsylvania's Harrisburg offices. The meeting was attended by myself and three PAWC colleagues and representatives from the majority of the EDCs operating in the Commonwealth. As the result of our very productive discussion, each of the EDCs provided PAWC with detailed and individualized communication protocols – including contact information/names, telephone numbers...etc. for both emergency work and scheduled work.

The provided communication protocols will allow PAWC to work efficiently with the EDCs and will help to protect the public interest because PAWC now has the means to: (1) quickly alert the respective EDC when an electrical line has been discovered so the EDC can provide assistance and help determine whether the line can be de-energized; and (2) efficiently coordinate scheduled, non-emergency work. PAWC is ultimately responsible for the safety of its workers and ensuring compliance with all OSHA standards, but the information provided will help ensure the minimization of disruptions in public water and wastewater service, while greatly ensuring that PAWC employees can safely perform their jobs.

Moreover, PAWC and the EDCs have agreed to schedule future meetings should any other concerns arise or if there are issues with the provided communication protocols.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Ardire

CC: Donna Clark
VP and General Counsel for the Energy Association of Pennsylvania