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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, Filing Room Harrisburg, PA 17120

> RE: Joint Application of Aqua America, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC And Peoples Gas Company LLC for all of the Authority and the Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, and Peoples Gas Company LLC By Way of the Purchase of All of LDC Funding LLC's Membership Interests by Aqua America, Inc.; Docket Nos. A-2018-3006061, A-2018-3006062, and A-2018-3006063; PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER PARTIES AND THE RETAIL ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for electronic filing with the Commission is the Answer of the Natural Gas Supplier Parties to the Office of Consumer Advocate's Petition for Reconsideration in the above-captioned docket. Copies of the Answer have been served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions related to this filing, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Very truly

Todd S. Stewart Counsel for Natural Gas Supplier Parties and The Retail Energy Supply Association

TSS/jld Enclosure cc: The Honorable Mary D. Long Per Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

VIA ELECTRONIC AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Mary D. Long Administrative Law Judge Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Piatt Place 301 5th Avenue, Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 <u>malong@pa.gov</u>

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Todd S. Stewart

DATED: December 31, 2018

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Joint Application of Aqua America, Inc.,	:	
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania	•	
Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas	:	
Company LLC And Peoples Gas Company	•	
LLC for all of the Authority and the	•	Docl
Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience	•	
to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples	:	
Natural Gas Company LLC, and Peoples Gas	:	
Company LLC By Way of the Purchase of	:	
All of LDC Funding LLC's Membership	:	
Interests by Aqua America, Inc.	:	

Oocket No. A-2018-3006061 A-2018-3006062 A-2018-3006063

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER PARTIES AND THE RETAIL ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

TO THE HONORABLE MARY D. LONG

NOW COME the Natural Gas Supplier Parties ("NGS Parties")¹ and The Retail Energy Supply Association, ("RESA")²(collectively "NGS/RESA") by and through counsel, Hawke McKeon & Sniscak, LLP, and hereby petition to intervene in the above-captioned request for approval for Aqua America, Inc. ("Aqua") to assume control of the Peoples Natural Gas Companies, LLC and Peoples Gas Company LLC ("Peoples") by purchasing all of the

¹ For purposes of this proceeding, the NGS Parties include Dominion Energy Solutions, Inc.

^{(&}quot;DES") and Shipley Choice LLC d/b/a Shipley Energy ("Shipley").

² The viewpoints expressed in this filing represent the position of the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) as an organization but may not represent the views of any particular member of the Association. Founded in 1990, RESA is a broad and diverse group of more than twenty retail energy suppliers dedicated to promoting efficient, sustainable and customer-oriented competitive retail energy markets. RESA members operate throughout the United States delivering value-added electricity and natural gas service at retail to residential, commercial and industrial energy customers. More information on RESA can be found at <u>www.resausa.org</u>.

membership interests thereof. As stated more completely below, NGS/RESA have serious concerns regarding the acquisition of what amounts to three natural gas distribution company ("NGDC") service territories by an organization, that while a sizable public utility, is largely an infrastructure company and a company with no experience in the natural gas commodity market.

On or about November 13, 2018, Aqua and Peoples filed a Joint Application for approval of the above noted transaction. By Secretarial Letter dated November 19, 2018, interested parties were instructed to file Petitions to Intervene and other similar pleadings no later than December 31, 2018. Finally, by Notice issued December 21, 2018, this matter was assigned to Presiding Administrative Law Judge Mary D. Long and set for a telephonic prehearing conference on January 18, 2019. NGS/RESA have previously participated in Peoples' proceedings before this Commission and possess the requisite standing to participate in this proceeding as discussed below.

1. RESA is a trade association of more than 20 competitive suppliers of energy, and has standing as an association, to represent the collective interest of its members in proceedings that address such issues; and, such participation is otherwise in the public interest. 52 Pa. Code § 5.41, *et seq.* RESA's unique interest cannot adequately be represented by any other party. As discussed below, there are several competitive market concerns at issue in this proceeding, with the potential for more to be realized as discovery proceeds.

2. The NGS Parties are an ad hoc group of NGSs that currently serve or expect to soon serve customers in most of the NGDC service territories in Pennsylvania and in Peoples in particular.

3. As NGSs that serve customers in Pennsylvania, NGS/RESA has experience in competitive markets and has a direct interest in the future structure of the market in western

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Pennsylvania, which includes the three Peoples entities at issue in this proceeding. Initially, NGS/RESA is concerned with the notion of an infrastructure company, such as Aqua, being responsible for the operation of three NGDCs and the exposure to commodity markets that necessarily follows. NGS/RESA intend to advocate for a post-merger structure that addresses these concerns along with operational issues that are of concern to particular members of the coalition.

4. NGS/RESA's participation will further the public interest by providing a voice for the natural gas suppliers that participate in its service territory. NGS/RESA's intervention in this proceeding satisfies the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 52.72(a) in that it has "[a]n interest which may be directly affected and which is not adequately represented by existing participants, and as to which the petitioner may be bound by the action of the Commission in the proceeding"; and, because it will promote the public interest.

Accordingly, NGS/RESA request that their intervention in this proceeding be granted and that they be afforded full party status.

Respectfully submitted,

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Counsel for Natural Gas Supplier Parties and The Retail Energy Supply Association

DATED: December 31, 2018