

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC 213 Market Street 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 TEL 717 237 6000 FAX 717 237 6019 www.eckertseamans.com

Deanne M. O'Dell 717.255.3744 dodell@eckertseamans.com

June 14, 2019

Via Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary PA Public Utility Commission Keystone Bldg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re:

Implementation of Chapter 32 of the Public Utility Code RE: Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority; Docket Nos. M-2018-2640802 (water) and M-2018-2640803 (wastewater) AND Petition for The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority for Approval of Its Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan Docket Nos. P-2018-3005037 (water) and P-2018-3005039 (wastewater)

## Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Commission with an update about the status of settlement discussions regarding the above-referenced compliance plan proceeding of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority ("PWSA"). PWSA, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, Pittsburgh UNITED, and Pennsylvania-American Water Company (collectively, the "Parties") respectfully request that the Commission accept this settlement status update in lieu of an initial Joint Petition for Partial Settlement.

By Secretarial Letter dated May 15, 2019, the Commission granted the Expedited Motion For Extension of Commission-Created Deadlines ("Motion") to extend the then-pending litigation schedule to enable the Parties to engage in settlement discussions. The Motion stated that the Parties intended to file a Joint Petition for Partial Settlement on or before June 14, 2019. Motion at ¶ 11. The Motion also stated that a Second Joint Petition for Partial Settlement would be filed on or before September 13, 2019 as to any additional issues where agreement is reached during the requested extension period. Motion at ¶ 16.

Since the May 15, 2019 Secretarial Letter, the Parties have been fully engaged in the settlement process. The Parties have participated in three full-day settlement workshops covering a variety of substantive topics to include PWSA's lead line replacement program, metering program and other various regulatory compliance issues. Four more full-day settlement workshops are currently scheduled to conclude by July 9, 2019. During these workshops, the substantive areas

to be covered will include various contractual issues, infrastructure improvement issues and critical plans. Time is also allocated within this existing schedule for follow-up related to topics already discussed as well to schedule any additional workshops as may be needed. To date the workshops have proved to be an extremely important avenue to: (1) enable the Parties to openly talk about the multitude of issues involved in this proceeding; (2) enable PWSA to keep stakeholders up-to-date about its operations and current processes; and, (3) allow all the Parties to better explain and understand the various perspectives and desired outcomes under consideration. In addition to these settlement workshops, PWSA is working with interested stakeholders and the Bureau of Consumer Services ("BCS") to coordinate and ensure that the issues moved from Stage 1 to Stage 2 are on track to be addressed at future BCS stakeholder collaborative meetings.

Given the interrelatedness of the issues as well as the substance of the discussions that have already occurred and still need to occur, the Parties request that the Commission accept this settlement status update in lieu of an initial Joint Petition for Partial Settlement. Doing so is a more efficient and better coordinated approach that enables the Parties to continue their settlement discussions with the goal of submitting a more complete Joint Petition for Settlement on September 13, 2019. The filing of this status update is also consistent with the discussion between the Parties and the Presiding Administrative Law Judges during the June 7, 2019 Pre-Hearing Conference.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Deanne M. O'Dell

DMO/jls Enclosure

cc:

Hon. Mark Hoyer Hon. Conrad Johnson

Danne M.O'Dell

Certificate of Service (w/enc)

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of the foregoing letter upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54.

## Via First Class Mail and/or Email

Sharon Webb, Esq.
Erin K. Fure, Esq.
Office of Small Business Advocate
300 North Second St., Suite 202
Harrisburg, PA 17101
swebb@pa.gov
efure@pa.gov

Christine Maloni Hoover, Esq.
Lauren M. Burge, Esq.
Erin L. Gannon, Esq.
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut St., 5<sup>th</sup> Fl., Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
choover@paoca.org
lburge@paoca.org
egannon@paoca.org

Gina L. Miller, Esq.
John M. Coogan, Esq.
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
PA Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
ginmiller@pa.gov
jcoogan@pa.gov

Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.
John Sweet, Esq.
Patrick M. Cicero, Esq.
Kadeem G. Morris, Esq.
The Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
118 Locust St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
pulp@palegalaid.net

Dated: June 14, 2019

Susan Simms Marsh, Esq.
Pennsylvania-American Water Company
852 Wesley Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Susan.marsh@amwater.com

Michael A. Gruin, Esq. Stevens & Lee 17 North Second St., 16<sup>th</sup> Fl. Harrisburg, PA 17101 mag@stevenslee.com

Dimple Chaudhary, Esquire
Peter J. DeMarco, Esquire
Cecilia Segal, Esquire
Natural Resources Defense Council
1152 15th Street, NW, Ste. 300
Washington, DC 20005
dchaudhary@nrdc.org
pdemarco@nrdc.org
csegal@nrdc.org

Michelle Nacarati Chapkis Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Restructuring the PWSA Care of Women for a Healthy Environment 5877 Commerce St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Brian Kalcic
Excel Consulting
225 S. Meramec Ave., Suite 720T
St. Louis, MO 63105
Excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net

Deanne M. O'Dell, Esq.