

Dr. Randall Newnham  
4489 Delmar Drive  
Reading, PA 19606

July 19, 2019

Secretary of the Public Utility Commission  
Secretary's Bureau  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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2019 JUL 22 AM 9:59  
PA PUC  
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Ref: PUC docket A-2018-3004933

I am writing to you to protest in the strongest possible terms against the proposed 'settlement' related to the sale of the Exeter Township sewage system to Pennsylvania-American Water Company.

I have no idea how it can even be legal for a township to sell off a valuable public asset, built over many years at taxpayer expense, to a profit-making private company. This is the same as selling off public schools to a private company (who will then charge a hefty tuition fee) or allowing a private company to acquire our local highways and suddenly start charging a toll on them!

At the very least the taxpayers of the community, who have worked to support this asset for decades, should have a direct say (in the form of a referendum) in this decision!

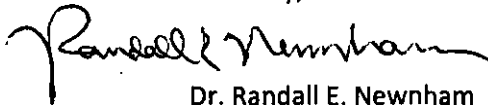
This company was able to acquire our water service about 15 years ago, and the result has been catastrophic. There has been no improvement in quality or service, yet our water rates have shot up by an astronomical rate in this time. When they took over I was paying about \$60 a QUARTER for water, and now I pay that much EVERY MONTH. Rates have therefore TRIPLED in a short time! For water, a basic product which every family needs for bathing, cooking, and staying alive! How can it be legal to allow such profiteering for something which everyone needs to live?

This company, of course, socks away fat profits for its shareholders, fat salaries for its leaders...profiting at public expense.

At the very least, the level of the rate increases proposed for this takeover is insanely high. How can it be that our township has been operating the sewer service—without losses, with good service—for so long, and suddenly the private company needs to raise our rates by EIGHTY PERCENT?? How can that be? And how can it be allowed? Again, as with the water, this is a service which every family MUST use...we have no choice, and there is no competition. And beyond that...there is nothing stopping them from imposing further increases to fatten their pocketbooks whenever they feel like it...as they did with our water service.

This amounts to a tax on every family in our township (some 25,000 people). According to the notice I received, a typical family will pay \$26.73 more per month...or about \$321.00 per year. This is a dagger to the heart of many families' budgets. Simply not affordable to many families with low income or to our seniors. And what do we get in return for this huge increase? Nothing!  
*I would urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to reject this settlement.*

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Randall E. Newnham

cc. Judge Catvelli

cc. Exeter Twp. Supervisors

 **AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL

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HARRISBURG PA 171

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