

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

August 4, 2022

E-FILED

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

Re: Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.'s Acquisition of Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority, Delaware and Chester Counties Sanitary Wastewater Collection and Treatment System / Docket No. A-2019-3015173

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing please find the Prehearing Memorandum, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA"), in the above-captioned proceeding

Copies will be served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven C. Gray

Steven C. Gray Senior Supervising Assistant Small Business Advocate Attorney ID No. 77538

Enclosures

cc: Brian Kalcic Parties of Record

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.'s:Acquisition of Delaware County Regional:Water Quality Control Authority,:Delaware and Chester Counties Sanitary:Wastewater Collection and Treatment:System:

PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

The Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA") is authorized to represent the interests of small business customers of utility services before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") pursuant to the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 – 399.50 ("the Act"). In order to discharge this statutory duty, the Small Business Advocate deems it necessary to participate as a party to these proceedings. Representing the OSBA in the above-referenced matter is Assistant Small Business Advocate Steven C. Gray. Please address all correspondence in this matter as follows:

> Steven C. Gray, Esq. Senior Supervising Assistant Small Business Advocate Office of Small Business Advocate 555 Walnut Street Forum Place 1st Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 783-2525 (717) 783-2831 (fax) sgray@pa.gov

II. FILING BACKGROUND

On March 3, 2020, Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. ("Aqua") filed an Application pursuant to Sections 507, 1103, and 1329 of the Public Utility Code for Approval of its

Acquisition of the Wastewater System Assets of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority ("DELCORA").

The Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA") filed a Notice of Intervention on

March 26, 2020.

On July 26, 2022, the Commission entered an Order lifting the stay and remanding this

case back to Office of Administrative Law Judge with instructions to conduct a full proceeding.

III. <u>IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESS AND TENTATIVE ISSUES</u>

Assisting in the development and presentation of the OSBA's case in this proceeding will be: Brian Kalcic Evcel Consulting

Excel Consulting 7330 Dorset Avenue St. Louis, MO 63130 (314) 863-3209 excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net

The OSBA will participate in this proceeding to assure that the interests of small business customers are adequately represented and protected.

The OSBA has previously identified the following list of issues that it will evaluate in

this proceeding:

1. Whether the proposed transaction would provide affirmative public benefits to

Aqua's existing customer base.

2. Whether the Trust to be established by DELCORA for the purpose of stabilizing

DELCORA customers' bills constitutes a rate stabilization plan, as defined by 66 Pa. C.S. §

1329(g) of the Public Utility Code.

Furthermore, the OSBA served the Direct Testimony of Mr. Kalcic on September 29,

2020, and the Surrebuttal Testimony of Mr. Kalcic, served November 2, 2022.

The OSBA reserves the right to pursue additional issues that may arise throughout this proceeding.

IV. <u>SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS</u>

In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.54(b)(3)(i), the OSBA agrees to accept electronic mail delivery of documents on the due date¹ as satisfying the in-hand requirement. At the time of this writing, hard copy delivery of documents to the OSBA is not possible. The OSBA requests that email delivery of documents also be provided to its witnesses identified above.

In addition to email copies of pleadings, briefs, and exceptions, the OSBA requests email copies of responses to discovery propounded by the OSBA or any other party.

V. <u>DISCOVERY</u>

The OSBA does not propose any discovery modifications.

VI. <u>SETTLEMENT</u>

The OSBA notes its willingness to enter into settlement discussions at the appropriate phase of this proceeding.

¹ In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.56(a)(5), documents must be received by 4:30 pm.

VII. HEARING AND BRIEFING SCHEDULE

At the time of this writing, the various parties are discussing a proposed procedural schedule.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the OSBA requests that evidentiary

hearings be held telephonically.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven C. Gray

Steven C. Gray, Esq. Senior Supervising Assistant Small Business Advocate Attorney ID No. 77538

Office of Small Business Advocate 555 Walnut Street Forum Place 1st Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 783-2525 (717) 783-2831 (fax)

Dated: August 4, 2022

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.'s:Acquisition of Delaware County Regional:Water Quality Control Authority,:Delaware and Chester Counties Sanitary:Wastewater Collection and Treatment:System:

Docket No. A-2019-3015173

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless other noted below*) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

The Honorable F. Joseph Brady Administrative Law Judge Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission 801 Market Street, Suite 4063 Philadelphia, PA 19107 fbrady@pa.gov

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/s/ Steven C. Gray

Steven C. Gray Senior Supervising Assistant Small Business Advocate Attorney ID No. 77538

DATE: August 4, 2022