



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

May 9, 2023

**E-FILED**

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

**Re: Columbia Water Company Supplement No. 121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C.  
No. 7 / Docket No. R-2023-3040258**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find the Complaint, Public Statement, and Verification, 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**

**Columbia Water Company 2023 General** :  
**Base Rate Increase Filing - Supplement No.** : **Docket No. R-2023-3040258**  
**121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7** :  
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**COMPLAINT OF THE  
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

1. The Complainant is:

NazAarah Sabree  
Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 783-2525

2. The name and address of the attorney for the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) is:

Steven C. Gray  
Senior Supervising  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 783-2525

3. The respondent utility is:

Columbia Water Company  
220 Locust Street  
Columbia, PA 17512

4. The Complainant is authorized and directed by the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50, to represent the interests of small business consumers of utility services in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”).

5. This Complaint is filed against the rates, terms, and other provisions of Tariff Water - Pa. P.U.C. No. 7 (“Supplement 121”), which was filed with the Commission on April 28, 2023, by the Columbia Water Company (“Columbia” or the “Company”). The rates set forth the Company’s April 28<sup>th</sup> filing, if approved by the Commission, would increase Columbia’s annual revenues by \$999,900.

6. After preliminary review of the materials filed by the Company in support of the proposed Supplements, Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that those materials may be insufficient to justify the rate increase requested and that the Company’s present and proposed rates, rules, and conditions of service may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, and otherwise contrary to law, particularly as they pertain to Columbia’s small business customers.

7. Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that Columbia’s proposed tariff changes, proposed rates, rate design, and revenue allocation are or may be unjust, unreasonable, and unlawfully discriminatory in violation of, *inter alia*, Sections 1301 and 1304 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§1301 and 1304, and, furthermore, are contrary to appropriate public policy, sound ratemaking considerations, and may not be supported by the materials filed by Columbia.

8. In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

A. Suspend and investigate the operation of Supplement No. 121;

- B. At the conclusion of such investigation, reject the proposed new rates and other tariff changes in Supplement No. 121 to the extent required to make certain that Columbia's rates are lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory to small business customers; and
- C. Grant such other relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Steven C. Gray*

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

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

Dated: May 9, 2023

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Columbia Water Company 2023 General** :  
**Base Rate Increase Filing - Supplement No.** : **Docket No. R-2023-3040258**  
**121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7** :  
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**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF  
THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

The Small Business Advocate is authorized and directed to represent the interest of small business consumers of utility services in Pennsylvania under the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50 (“Act”). The Act further provides that the Small Business Advocate is to issue publicly a written statement stating concisely the specific interest of small business consumers to be protected by her initiation of or intervention in any proceeding involving those interests before the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) or any other agency or court. This public statement relates to the filing today by the Small Business Advocate of a complaint against the proposed base rate tariff filing of the Columbia Water Company (“Columbia” or the “Company”), which would increase the annual operating revenue of Columbia by \$999,900 per year.

The Small Business Advocate files this formal complaint against the Company’s proposed base rate tariff filing to protect the interests of Columbia’s small business customers. A thorough inquiry by the Commission into all elements of the Company’s proposed tariff filing is necessary to ensure that the tariff filing is lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to Columbia’s small business customers.

In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate will participate in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission to investigate the reasonableness of the proposed base rate

tariff filing. The Small Business Advocate will ask the Commission to deny any proposed new rates and other tariff changes that apply to small business customers that are not proven by Columbia to be lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to the Company's small business customers.

Dated: May 9, 2023

**VERIFICATION**

I, NazAarah Sabree, hereby state that the facts set forth herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: May 9, 2023



(Signature)

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Columbia Water Company 2023 General Base** :  
**Rate Increase Filing - Supplement No. 121 To** : **Docket No. R-2023-3040258**  
**Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7** :  
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**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 Charles E. Rainey Jr.  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[crainey@pa.gov](mailto:crainey@pa.gov)

Richard Kanaskie, Esquire  
Director  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
400 North Street  
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Harrisburg, PA 17120  
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Office of Consumer Advocate  
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Thomas J. Sniscak, Esquire  
Whitney E. Snyder, Esquire  
Phillip D. Demanchick, Jr., Esquire  
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[pddemanchick@hmslegal.com](mailto:pddemanchick@hmslegal.com)

DATE: May 9, 2023

*/s/ Steven C. Gray*

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Steven C. Gray  
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