

The Joint Petition for Settlement, dated October 30, 2023, is not in any way just, reasonable or in the public interest.

It was cited in Appendix A- #34 that the extreme financial and structural crisis that is the condition of PWSA is a “DIRECT RESULT OF MULTIPLE DECADES OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND LACK OF CAPITOL INVESTMENT.” This is an egregiously incriminating judgement of PWSA that is not met with any withdrawn power or negative consequences for accountability. In addition to this hideous misuse of funds; PWSA provides water to a “Wholesale” class of customers at a rate that is intentionally less than what it costs to provide the water.(Ap. A #61,#62) This also points to even more pervasive corruption of PWSA.

PWSA is NOT one massive unit. It is a conglomerate of individual people that hold individual positions of responsibility and whose salaries are paid by me and thousands of working citizens like me who have had thousands of dollars of our hard-earned incomes taken right out of our paychecks to fill the pockets of all of these PWSA employees that are so grossly corrupt that our water system is BILLIONS OF DOLLARS in debt, yet you have the nauseating nerve to close this petition with the words, “just, reasonable and in the public interest”?!

You are all so corrupt that you cannot recognize wrongdoing even when it is this obvious.

Negligence of this duration requires a dissolution of power for all that have been in the positions to create this black hole of money loss.

PWSA already doubled their money, at a minimum, when it began charging for water coming out of, as well as into, a service meter. At which time, it seems, none of that windfall was spent on the maintenance and improvement to the water system. There have been several rates increases since then, also apparently not reinvested in the system. **PWSA’s current “We need more money” scam, is to contrive an entire charging hierarchy for the water that falls from the sky onto a property. This contrived charge would also require a new billing program, at STILL MORE COST TO THE SHRINKING POPULATION OF CUSTOMERS THAT ACTUALLY PAY FOR THEIR OWN BILLS. This scam, has been tagged with the latest environmental buzz word “stormwater” charge.**

The Water Authority's pipe system that was laid to distribute the water was also laid to take in the rainwater since its inception. **There is no justification for assigning anyone a charge for rain water.** No more money should be extorted from the taxpayers for these problems that aren't solved yet due the Water Authority's own negligence. It has been at least 10 years that rainwater overflow was a concern of the Water Authority. Rather than use the money they collected to invest in a well-researched, long-term solution the problem was addressed by telling property owners to redirect their rain gutter water onto the street; instead of directly down into the sewer system.

It is insanity, that only government operated systems could justify, that fines would be charged to a taxpayer funded utility company for not complying to their rules.(Ap. A #39) Also, that a taxpayer funded utility would seek to extrapolate all the money lost during the COVID(Ap. A #73) state of emergency from the same taxpayers that could not earn any income during that same period due to the forced government shut-down!?!

This proposal describes the financial condition of PWSA as debt, upon debt, upon debt, upon debt and the ONLY SOLUTION that is put forward is INVENTED CHARGE, after INVENTED CHARGE, after INVENTED CHARGE. This is an unjust and unreasonable abuse of authority. This blatant theft of the working citizens of Pittsburgh so that PWSA can continue in their criminal destruction of our water system.

Why, JUDGE CHIODO, are there no actions put forward for punishment or accountability of the thieves that allowed our water system to rot away for year, after year, after year? Instead, you agree to allow the Water Authority to consolidate a bundle of unjustifiable charges into one, so that the taxpayer just keeps paying for their criminal negligence. And, the list of charges just keeps growing. In addition to that CAC charge, there's the FPPTY charge, and the Infrastructure Improvement Charge(Ap. A #52) and the Multiyear Rate Increase(Ap. A #51) that PWSA is eligible to petition for in January 2025. When they barely have the money in from this increase. They have not used one dollar responsibly for more than 20 years, why would giving them more dollars be a solution at all??

According to this proposal PWSA has 10 times more departments for all the people that don't pay their water bills than for those who do. (Ap. A #50) Why does that even exist??

PWSA is a water treatment and distributing utility service. THAT IS ALL IT SHOULD BE DOING. PWSA is NOT AN ADDITIONAL WELFARE SYSTEM whereby it adjusts the price of water service to the customer. The price of the treatment and distribution of water is the same for everyone: big business, little business, renter, home owner, school, etc. That is the only way to charge for a service.

I propose that PWSA be ordered to eliminate 33% of their staff.

I agree that PWSA should "Maintain complete data regarding customer complaints, work orders and service logs to include pressure inquiries and complaints."

I agree that PWSA should "Continue to exercise isolation valves on a 5-year cycle, while using best efforts to inspect and exercise critical valves on a 3-year cycle."

I agree that PWSA should "Identify, locate and track dead-end lines to make sure they have a blow-off or hydrant so they can be flushed."

The current proposal does not resolve the financial and structural issues faced by PWSA, nor does it appropriately address the evidence of egregious negligence on the part of PWSA. For all the reasons stated above, I actively oppose most of the conditions of this settlement.

Very truly yours,

Katherine Shingler

Citizen of the United States of America, the state of Pennsylvania, the county of Allegheny, the city of Pittsburgh, voter, tax payer, bill payer, wife, mother and friendly neighbor therein