

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**

**Petition of York Water Company for an Expedited Order Authorizing Limited Waivers of Certain Tariff Provisions and Granting Accounting Approval to Record Cost of Certain Customer-Owned Service Line Replacements to the Company's Services Account**

**Public Meeting March 2, 2017**  
**2577404 – OALJ**  
**Docket No. P-2016-2577404**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON**

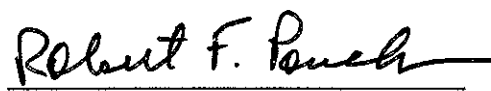
Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) today is a decision from the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) recommending the approval of a Joint Settlement Petition (Settlement) filed by the York Water Company (York Water or Company). The terms of this Settlement are designed to help York Water address the recent discovery of lead in certain portions of its water system.

I would like to commend York Water for its efforts to proactively and comprehensively address this difficult situation. Immediately after receiving the unfavorable test results from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), York Water met with the PUC to notify us of the situation and assure Commission Staff of their commitment to resolve it. Shortly thereafter, York Water developed a plan to remediate the lead in its system, which involved replacing customer-owned lead service lines concurrent with its planned replacement of 1,660 Company-owned lead service lines over the next 4 years.

Unfortunately, this solution is not as simple as it seems because York Water's tariff specifically states that customers are responsible for the lines they own and does not permit the Company to bear the cost or the responsibility for replacing customer-owned lines. As such, the Commission referred York Water's petition to OALJ to examine the details and determine whether the proposal was in the public interest. Despite this speedbump, York Water was not deterred and proceeded to work quickly and cooperatively with all parties to reach a Settlement that is undoubtedly in the public interest. As a result of these efforts, customers can feel confident that this issue is being resolved and that York Water is going above and beyond to replace not only Company-owned lead service lines, but also customer-owned service lines that contain lead.

The importance of ensuring safe drinking water for all Pennsylvanians cannot be overstated. However, in this post-Flint, Michigan world, it is not something we can take for granted. I commend York water for recognizing this, for taking the issue seriously, and for acting quickly to resolve it. I encourage other utilities to do the same should they be faced with a similar issue.

**Date: March 2, 2017**

  
**ROBERT F. POWELSON**  
**COMMISSIONER**