

 **Hawke**  
 **McKeon &**  
 **Sniscak LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Thomas J. Sniscak  
(717) 236-1300 x224  
[tjsniscak@hmslegal.com](mailto:tjsniscak@hmslegal.com)

Christopher M. Arfaa  
(717) 236-1300 x231  
[cmarfaa@hmslegal.com](mailto:cmarfaa@hmslegal.com)

William E. Lehman  
(717) 236-1300 x248  
[welshman@hmslegal.com](mailto:welshman@hmslegal.com)

100 North Tenth Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 Phone: 717.236.1300 Fax: 717.236.4841 [www.hmslegal.com](http://www.hmslegal.com)

July 19, 2017

*Via Hand Delivery*

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street – Second Floor North  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RECEIVED  
2017 JUL 19 PM 1:03  
PA PUC  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU  
FRONT DESK

RE: Columbia Water Company; Docket No. R-2017- 2598203  
**VERIFICATION OF NOTICE AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on behalf of Columbia Water Company (Columbia Water) are the Affidavits indicating publication of the above-referenced rate filing in the local newspaper, and through customer mailings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (717) 236-1300.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Sniscak  
Christopher M. Arfaa  
William E. Lehman

*Counsel for Columbia Water Company*

TJS/WEL/das

Enclosures

cc: Per Certificate of Service

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LANCASTER

RECEIVED  
2017 JUL 19 PM 1:04  
PA PUC  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU  
FRONT DESK

On this 30th day of June, 2017, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared

Nancy E. Jackson to me known, who upon being duly sworn per law did depose and

Notice of filing for a Rate Increase for The Columbia Water Company was delivered to the local newspapers "Intelligencer Journal" and the "Lancaster New Era" by a representative of the Company on June 30, 2017.

The news release is as follows:

Columbia, PA – On June 27, 2017, The Columbia Water Company (Columbia or Company) filed to consolidate and increase its rates for the service divisions formerly known as the Columbia Division and Marietta Division. The requested increase is proposed to become effective August 29, 2017. The total increase in rates is \$923,668 per year which is 17.80%. The last rate increase filings for the former Columbia Division customers was in 2013 and for the Marietta Division customers in 2005. The Company's existing rates are based on costs and capital expenditures for each division, and in this filing the divisions have been combined. Since the last increases referenced above, the Company has continued to make investments to maintain the quality and reliability of its water. The proposed increase is needed to recover the costs of these improvements and to reflect the increased costs of providing quality service.

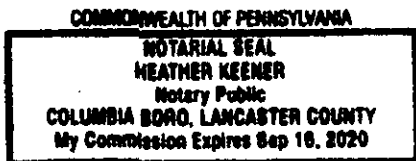
The total bill for a typical residential customer using 3,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$28.76 to \$32.55 per month. The total bill for a typical commercial customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$15.82 to \$17.91 per month. The total bill for a typical industrial customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$15.82 to \$17.91 per month. The total bill for a typical metered public customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$81.40 to \$92.16 per month.

Customers may contact the company at (717) 684-2188 to obtain further information on the proposed increase.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

SEAL



Heather Keener  
My Commission Expires: Sept 18, 2020

Nancy E. Jackson  
The Columbia Water Company  
220 Locust Street  
P.O. Box 350  
Columbia, PA 17512

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LANCASTER

On this 30th day of June, 2017, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared

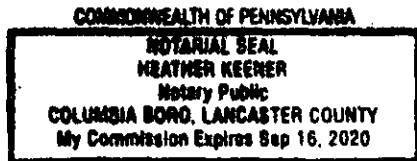
Nancy E. Jackson to me known, who upon being duly sworn per law did depose and say:


Notice of a Rate Increase has been mailed to all The Columbia Water Company customers using the U.S. Postal Service by a representative of the Company on June 30, 2017.

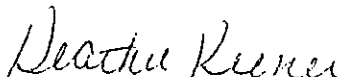
Notice of the Rate Increase has been posted in the Company's office at Columbia, PA and all bill collection points.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

SEAL



  
The Columbia Water Company  
220 Locust Street  
P.O. Box 350  
Columbia, PA 17512

  
My Commission Expires: Sept 16, 2020

RECEIVED  
PA PUC  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU  
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## **THE COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY**

### **Notice of Proposed Rate Changes**

To Our Customers:

The Columbia Water Company is filing a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to consolidate and increase rates for the service divisions formerly known as the Columbia Division and Marietta Division. This notice describes the company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

The Columbia Water Company has requested an overall rate increase of \$923,668 per year. If the Company's entire request is approved, the total bill for a typical metered residential customer using 3,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$28.76 to \$32.55 per month or by 13.18%. The total bill for a typical metered commercial customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$15.82 to \$17.91 per month or by 13.21%. The total bill for a typical metered industrial customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$15.82 to \$17.91 per month or by 13.21%. The total bill for a typical metered public customer using 1,000 gallons of water per month would increase from \$81.40 to \$92.16 per month or by 13.22%.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase may affect your water bill, contact The Columbia Water Company at (717) 684-2188. The rates requested by the Company may be found in Supplement No. 86 to Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7. You may examine the material filed with the PUC which explains the increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at The Columbia Water Company's office.

The State agency which approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.

The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase or decrease requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you may be different than the rate requested by the company and shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a company's request to change its rates:

1. You can file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before August 26, 2017. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some, or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.

2. You can send us a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes us aware of problems with the company's service or management. This information can be helpful when we investigate the rate request.

Send your letter or request for a formal complaint to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

3. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the Commission opens an investigation of the company's rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" become part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the service areas of the company.

For more information call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

THE COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

### BY ELECTRONIC & FIRST CLASS MAIL

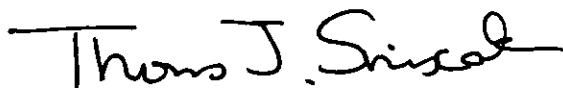
Scott B. Granger, Esquire  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265  
[sgranger@pa.gov](mailto:sgranger@pa.gov)

### BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Office of Small Business Advocate  
Commerce Building, Suite 1102  
300 North 2nd Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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FRONT DESK



Thomas J. Sniscak  
Christopher M. Arfaa  
William E. Lehman

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.