



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

August 18, 2017

**E-FILED**

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

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Water Company  
Docket No. R-2017-2598203**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am delivering for filing today 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel G. Asmus".

Daniel G. Asmus  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 83789

***Enclosures***

cc: The Honorable Joel H. Cheskis  
The Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
Mr. Brian Kalcic  
Parties of Record

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY  
COMMISSION**

**v.**

**COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY**

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**DOCKET NO. R-2017-2598203**

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**OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE  
PREHEARING MEMORANDUM**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) is authorized to represent the interests of small business consumers 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 this proceeding. Representing the OSBA in this matter is Assistant Small Business Advocate Daniel G. Asmus. Please address all correspondence as follows:

Daniel G. Asmus, Esquire  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
300 North Second Street, Suite 202  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101  
(717) 783-2525  
(717) 783-2831 (fax)  
[dasmus@state.pa.us](mailto:dasmus@state.pa.us)

## **II. FILING BACKGROUND**

On June 27, 2017, Columbia Water Company (“Columbia” or the “Company”) filed Supplement No. 86 to Tariff Water-Pa. P.U.C. No. 7 (“Supplement No. 86”) with the Commission, requesting consolidation and increase in rates for the service divisions known as the Columbia Division and the Marietta Division. Supplement No. 86, if approved by the Commission, would consolidate divisions, would increase the Company’s water rates by approximately \$923,668 per year, and would reduce the distribution system improvement charge (“DSIC”) to 0.00%.

On July 19, 2017, the OSBA filed a Complaint against Supplement No. 86.

## **III. IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESSES AND TENTATIVE ISSUES**

Assisting in the development and presentation of the OSBA’s case in this proceeding will be:

Mr. Brian Kalcic  
Excel Consulting  
Suite 720  
225 South Meramec Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(314) 725-2511  
[excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net)

After an initial review of the materials submitted by Columbia, the OSBA has identified the following issues:

1. Whether Columbia’s pro forma revenue adjustments at present rates are appropriate; and

2. Whether Columbia's proposal to consolidate the rates of the Marietta Division with the Columbia Division is reasonable.

The OSBA reserves the right to pursue additional issues as they arise throughout the proceeding.

The OSBA will participate in this case to assure that the interests of small business customers from both Columbia divisions are adequately represented and protected.

#### **IV. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS**

The OSBA requests that all parties serve a hard copy of any document filed in this case upon the OSBA and the OSBA witness identified above. In addition to hard copies of pleadings, briefs, and exceptions, the OSBA requests hard copies of responses to discovery propounded by the OSBA or any other party. Service by electronic mail only is not acceptable.

#### **V. SETTLEMENT**


The OSBA notes its willingness to enter into settlement discussions at the appropriate phase of this proceeding and will actively participate in the scheduled mediation.

#### **VI. HEARING AND BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

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

In light of the Governor's desire to limit the travel of State Offices under his jurisdiction, the OSBA respectfully requests that evidentiary hearings take place in Harrisburg.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel G. Asmus  
Attorney ID No. 81789  
Assistant Small Business Advocate

For:  
John R. Evans  
Small Business Advocate

Office of Small Business Advocate  
300 North Second Street, Suite 202  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dated: August 18, 2017

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY  
COMMISSION**

v.

**COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY**

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: **DOCKET NO. R-2017-2598203**  
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: **C-2017-2615248**  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email and/or First-Class mail (*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 Joel H. Cheskis  
Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[jcheskis@pa.gov](mailto:jcheskis@pa.gov)  
(Email and Hand Delivery)


The Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
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DATE: August 18, 2017

  
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Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 83789