

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1923  
(717) 783-5048  
800-684-6560

FAX (717) 783-7152  
consumer@paoca.org

December 12, 2017

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for electronic filing is a sample of the letter sent out by our office to all pro se Formal Complainants regarding the Joint Petition for Full Settlement of Rate Proceeding filed today in the above captioned proceeding.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christ Maloni Hoover".

Christine Maloni Hoover  
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate  
PA Attorney I.D. # 50026  
E-Mail: CHoover@paoca.org

Attachment

cc: Honorable Andrew Calvelli, ALJ  
Honorable Joel H. Cheskis, ALJ  
Certificate of Service

\*242418

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the following documents, the Office of Consumer Advocate's letter to all pro se Formal Complainants, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

SERVICE BY E-MAIL & INTER-OFFICE MAIL

Erika McLain, Esquire  
Scott B. Granger, Esquire  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

SERVICE BY E-MAIL & FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID

Daniel G. Asmus, Esquire  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
300 North Second Street  
Suite 202  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Thomas J. Sniscak, Esquire  
Christopher M. Arfaa, Esquire  
William E. Lehman, Esquire  
Hawke, McKeon & Sniscak LLP  
100 North Tenth Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

\s\ Christine Maloni Hoover  
Christine Maloni Hoover  
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate  
PA Attorney I.D. # 50026  
E-Mail: [CHoover@paoca.org](mailto:CHoover@paoca.org)

Kristine E. Marsilio  
Assistant Consumer Advocate  
PA Attorney I.D. #316479  
E-Mail: [KMarsilio@paoca.org](mailto:KMarsilio@paoca.org)

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Counsel for Office of Consumer Advocate  
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Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923  
Phone: (717) 783-5048  
Fax: (717) 783-7152  
Dated: December 12, 2017  
\*242419

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December 12, 2017

Joseph Kramer  
1515 Manor Street  
Columbia, PA 17512

Re: Your Complaint in Pennsylvania Public Utility  
Commission v. Columbia Water Company,  
Docket No. R-2017-2598203  
Docket No. C-2017-2623109

Dear Joseph Kramer:

We are sending this letter to you, as a Columbia Water Company (CWC or Company) customer who filed a Formal Complaint with the Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) in the current rate case. We want to notify you that the Company, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) have proposed a Joint Petition for Full Settlement of Rate Proceeding (Settlement) to the Commission to resolve the issues raised in this case. **If you have any comments regarding the Settlement, you must submit them to Administrative Law Judges Joel H. Cheskis and Andrew M. Calvelli, and the Secretary of the PUC, Rosemary Chiavetta, postmarked no later than December 22, 2017.**

On December 12, 2017, the Company filed the proposed Settlement with the Commission and served a copy of the proposed Settlement on Judges Cheskis and Calvelli. A copy has been attached to this letter as well.

This brief summary of some of the points of the Settlement is provided for your convenience. However, I encourage you to please review the Settlement in its entirety, especially the terms and conditions at pages 5-10. The Settlement, if approved, would do the following:

- Allow the Company to increase revenues by \$635,000, or by 12.4% over current levels. The Company originally proposed an increase in annual revenues of \$923,668, or a 17.8% increase over current levels. New rates will go into effect on one day's notice after the date the Commission approves the settlement.
- According to the customer notices included in the Company's filing, a typical Columbia Division residential customer with a 5/8" meter using 3,000 gallons per month would have seen their rates, including the current Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC), increase from \$29.07 to \$32.55 per month, or by

\$3.48 or 11.97%. Additionally, the Company proposed to decrease the Columbia Division Pennvest surcharge from \$7.90 to \$6.95.

A typical Marietta Division residential customer with a 5/8” meter using 3,000 gallons per month would have seen their rates increase from \$23.33 to \$32.55. The Company also proposed to allocate the Columbia Division Pennvest surcharge to the Marietta customers, resulting in an additional increase of \$6.95 per month for a total monthly rate for the typical Marietta residential customer of \$39.50 per month. The total proposed increase for the typical Marietta residential customer was \$16.17 (\$9.22 + \$6.95 Pennvest surcharge) or 69.3%.

- Under the Settlement, a typical Columbia residential customer with a 5/8” meter using 3,000 gallons of water of per month would see their rates, including the current DSIC, increase from \$29.07 to \$31.91 per month, or by \$2.84, or 9.8%. The existing Pennvest surcharge charged to Columbia Division customers would not change.

A typical Marietta residential customer with a 5/8” meter using 3,000 gallons of water per month would see their rates increase from \$23.33 to \$28.14 per month, or by \$4.81 or 20.6%. This is less than the Company’s proposal which would have increased the customer’s monthly bill by \$16.17, or 69.3%. The increase in the average monthly bill, including the Pennvest surcharge, if applicable, for each of CWC’s divisions under the proposed Settlement is provided in the following table:

Division	Present Rates (incl. DSIC)	Proposed Rates <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Increase Amount	Proposed Increase %	Settlement Rates	Settlement Increase Amount	Settlement Increase %
Columbia	\$29.07	\$32.55	\$3.48	12.0%	\$31.91	\$2.84	9.8%
Pennvest	\$7.90	\$6.95	-\$0.95		\$7.90	\$0	
Marietta	\$23.33	\$32.55	\$9.22	39.5%	\$28.14	\$4.81	20.6%
Pennvest	\$0	\$6.95	\$6.95		\$0	\$0	

- The Company has agreed not to file for another rate increase for thirty-three (33) months starting on the date the Commission enters its final order approving the proposed Settlement.
- The Company has agreed to do annual reporting regarding its present isolation valve exercising which includes critical valve exercising.

<sup>1</sup> The DSIC is set to zero when new rates go into effect and will be applied to both Columbia and Marietta customers on a going-forward basis.

**Because you filed a Formal Complaint in this case, you have the following options (please see page 3):**

- You may join in the proposed Settlement. To do so, please sign and return the enclosed **SIGNATURE PAGE** (page 5 of this document) to the Secretary of the Commission with copies to Judges Cheskis and Calvelli **postmarked no later than December 22, 2017**. Signing the Signature Page means that you agree to have your Formal Complaint discontinued with the approval of the proposed Settlement.
- You may object to the Settlement. To do so, please sign and return the enclosed **OBJECTIONS PAGE** (page 6 of this document) to the Secretary of the Commission with copies to Judges Cheskis and Calvelli **postmarked no later than December 22, 2017**. If you object to the Settlement, **you are encouraged to provide written comments** setting forth any facts and explanation for your objections.
- You may choose to do nothing.

This is your opportunity to express your opinion, if you wish, on the proposed Settlement before Judges Cheskis and Calvelli issue their Recommended Decision for the PUC's consideration. Your original objections or signature page must be **postmarked no later than December 22, 2017** and sent to the Commission's Secretary, with copies to Judges Cheskis and Calvelli. The Secretary's address is:

Secretary's Bureau  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Judges' address is:

Honorable Joel H. Cheskis and Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
Office of Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Any correspondence postmarked later than **December 22, 2017** may not be reviewed by the Judges.

Once the Judges issue the Recommended Decision, you may file exceptions to the Recommended Decision, if you disagree with it. You may not file exceptions if you have signed the Signature Page indicating your agreement with the Settlement, and the Judges then approve the Settlement without any changes.

Please carefully review the proposed Settlement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 717-783-5048 or toll-free at 1-800-684-6560. You may also contact the Honorable Joel H. Cheskis and the Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli at 717-787-1191 with any procedural questions. Thank you for your time and your interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Christine Maloni Hoover  
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate

242395

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

Please sign this sheet if you would like to **join** in the Joint Petition for Settlement signed by the Columbia Water Company, the PUC’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and the Office of Consumer Advocate in the case of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Water Company, Docket No. R-2017-2598203.

By adding my signature below, I am indicating that I have read the terms of the Settlement Agreement and wish to JOIN in the Settlement. I am willing to allow the terms of the Settlement resolve my Formal Complaint in this matter if the Public Utility Commission approves the Settlement without modification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Print Your Full Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Sign Your Full Name**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Write Your Address Here:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Docket Number of Your Complaint**

**C-2017-2623109**

**OBJECTIONS PAGE**

Please sign this sheet if you would like to **oppose** the Joint Petition for Settlement signed by the Columbia Water Company, the PUC’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and the Office of Consumer Advocate in the case of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Water Company, Docket No. R-2017-2598203. **You are encouraged to provide written comments below and/or attach additional pages**, setting forth any facts and explanation for your objections.

By adding my signature below, I am indicating that I have read the terms of the Settlement Agreement and wish to OPPOSE the Settlement. I understand that I may file objections (below and/or by attachment to this Objections Page) to the Settlement and exceptions to a Recommended Decision and that my complaint will be resolved as part of the PUC order resolving this case.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Print Your Full Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Sign Your Full Name**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Write Your Address Here:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Docket Number of Your Complaint**

**C-2017-2623109**

**Objections:**