

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission, et al**

v.

Audubon Water Company

**Public Meeting March 11, 2021
3020919-ALJ**

**Docket Nos. R-2020-3020919,
C-2020-3021410, C-2020-3021396,
C-2020-3021579, C-2020-3021993,
C-2020-3022127**

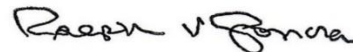
STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER RALPH V. YANORA

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is the Joint Petition for Full Settlement of Rate Proceeding (Settlement), in the above-captioned proceeding filed by Audubon Water Company (Audubon or Company), the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, Lower Providence Township, and the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement.

I would like to commend the parties for their work in developing this Settlement. Included in the Settlement is a term that provides that Audubon inspect, test and, where necessary, replace fire hydrants. Specifically, the Settlement sets forth a plan for Audubon to work with the Lower Providence Township and its Fire Marshall to address hydrant low-flow concerns. Under the Settlement, the Company will begin a program to update most of its fire hydrants by 2030, prioritizing a list of high importance hydrants identified by Lower Providence Township and its Fire Marshall to address the hydrants of greatest concern first. Audubon will also perform volume tests on hydrants chosen by the Fire Marshall and if any show deficient water volume, the Company will develop a plan to remedy the issue.

Fully functional fire hydrants are essential to the provision of safe, reliable, and reasonably continuous public fire service.¹ Additionally, Audubon's proposed rate tariff explicitly includes "Public Fire Protection Rates" on a per hydrant basis.² Given the public safety interests involved in this matter and the Commission's responsibility to ensure that tariff services are appropriately accounted for, I will separately refer this matter to our Bureau of Technical Utility Services for further monitoring as may be deemed warranted. I will also be closely monitoring the reliability of tariffed fire hydrant service during my tenure at the Commission.

Date: March 11, 2021



COMMISSIONER

¹ 66 Pa. C.S. § 1501.

² Audubon Water Company Statement in Support at 10-11.