**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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| Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  v.  Community Utilities of Pennsylvania Inc. | R-2021-3025206  C-2021-3025263 |

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| Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  v.  Community Utilities of Pennsylvania Inc. – Wastewater Division | R-2021-3025207  C-2021-3025260 |

**ORDER**

This Order is issued pursuant to the authority given to Administrative Law Judges under the Commission’s regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 5.483.

**This Order is specifically directed towards anyone who has filed a Complaint in these rate cases that has been docketed by the Secretary of the Commission and whose Complaint has received its own “C” number. Please read this Order carefully.**

At its public meeting on May 6, 2021, the Commission ordered, pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d), that the rate filings made by Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Companies or CUPA) at the dockets listed above be suspended by operation of law until January 12, 2022, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date. The cases were then assigned to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge for hearing and for the issuance of a Recommended Decision.

A telephonic Prehearing Conference was held, pursuant to Notice, on May 13, 2021, and was attended by attorneys representing the active parties. Among other agreements reached, the parties agreed that evidentiary hearings will be scheduled for August 9-10, 2021.[[1]](#footnote-1)

On June 1, 2021, an Order was issued consolidating these cases for hearing and resolution.

Since the filing of the original request for an increase in rates, approximately twenty (20) formal Complaints relative to the request have been filed.

These Complaints have been docketed by the Secretary of the Commission each with its own “C” docket number. The Complainants who filed these Complaints are usually appearing *pro se*, that is, on their own behalf without representation by private counsel. It is usually the purpose of such Complainants to make their view with respect to proposed rate increases known to the Commission and/or to raise issues with respect to the quality of service provided by the utility. Complainants usually expect to receive a copy of the Recommended Decision in the case, and to receive a copy of the Commission’s Final Order. The Complainants, however, are often not aware that by filing a formal Complaint, they are opening themselves up to receive the extensive filings that attend a rate case. Customarily, a clarifying Order such as this is issued to relieve the active parties from having to serve *pro se* Complainants with everything that the active parties file and to prevent those Complainants from being deluged with emails and paperwork.

I have asked the active parties, including the Office of Consumer Advocate, which already represents the interests of the residential customers who usually file these formal Complaints, whether there is any objection to such a clarifying Order being issued in this case. The active parties have not objected.

This does not mean that a ratepayer who files a formal Complaint is excluded from receiving service of all filings. If an individual Complainant wishes to receive copies of all filings, they may advise me of that, and I will see that the service list accurately reflects this and that the active parties are aware that they need to serve that Complainant. A Complainant may do this by emailing me their request at: [debuckley@pa.gov](mailto:debuckley@pa.gov) with a “cc,” to [cbiggica@pa.gov](mailto:cbiggica@pa.gov). Otherwise, and absent such a request, what the Complainant will receive will be: a copy of any Orders issued by the undersigned (exclusive of the resolution of discovery issues), a copy of any proposed Settlement of the consolidated cases in whole or part, a copy of the Recommended Decision, and a copy of the Commission’s (appealable) Final Order.

**IF YOU ONLY WANT TO RECEIVE A COPY OF MY ORDERS, A COPY OF ANY PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, A COPY OF THE RECOMMENDED DECISION IN THIS CASE, AND A COPY OF THE COMMISSION’S FINAL ORDER, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER.**

**ORDER**

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That a Complainant who has already filed or who files a formal Complaint in either of the above-captioned cases bearing Docket Numbers R-2021-3025206 (Water) and R-2021-3025207 (Wastewater), which Complaint has been docketed by the Secretary of the Commission with a separate “C” docket number, will receive a copy of any Orders issued by the undersigned (exclusive of the resolution of discovery issues), a copy of any proposed Settlement of the consolidated cases in whole or part, a copy of the Recommended Decision, and a copy of the Commission’s Final Order.

2. That a Complainant who wishes to receive copies of all of the filings by the active parties and all rulings and Orders issued by the undersigned in addition to the documents listed in Paragraph 1, above, must email me that request at: debuckley@pa.gov with a “cc,” to cbiggica@pa.gov.

Date: June 16, 2021 \_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dennis J. Buckley

Administrative Law Judge

**R-2021-3025206, R-2021-3025207 – PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. COMMUNITY UTILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

*Revised: June 16, 2021*

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1. NOTE: It has not yet been determined whether these hearings will be telephonic or in person. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)