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August 5, 2021

**Via Electronic Filing**

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Docket Nos. R-2021-3024773 (water); R-2021-3024774 (wastewater); and  
R-2021-3024779 (stormwater)

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Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

In compliance with Paragraph 8 of the Prehearing Order issued June 8, 2021, enclosed for electronic filing please find The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's Proof of Publication indicating that notice of the Public Input Hearings in the above-referenced proceeding was published in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on June 20 and 27, 2021.

Copies to be served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Lauren M. Burge*

Lauren M. Burge, Esq.

Enclosure

cc: Certificate of Service w/enc.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of **PWSA's Proof of Publication** upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54.

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/s/ *Lauren M. Burge*

Lauren M. Burge, Esq.

August 5, 2021

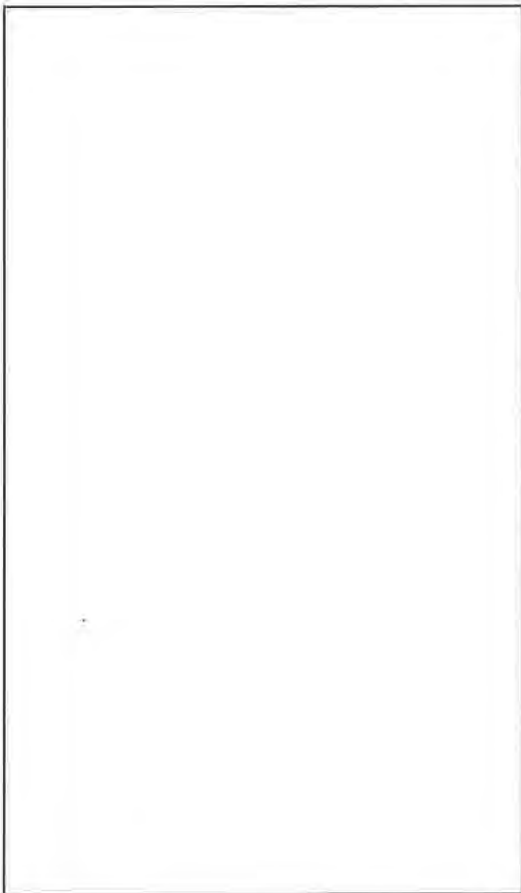
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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Allegheny, ss D. Rullo, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Pittsburgh, County and Commonwealth aforesaid, was established in 1993 by the merging of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Sun-Telegraph and The Pittsburgh Press and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Sun-Telegraph was established in 1960 and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was established in 1927 by the merging of the Pittsburgh Gazette established in 1786 and the Pittsburgh Post, established in 1842, since which date the said Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has been regularly issued in said County and that a copy of said printed notice or publication is attached hereto exactly as the same was printed and published in the Regular editions and issues of the said Pittsburgh Post-Gazette a newspaper of general circulation on the following dates, viz:  
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Affiant further deposes that he/she is an agent for the PG Publishing Company, a corporation and publisher of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, that, as such agent, affiant is duly authorized to verify the foregoing statement under oath, that affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the afore said notice or publication, and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place and character of publication are true.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is the original Proof of Publication and receipt for the Advertising costs in the subject matter of said notice.

# Black community has new option for health care: Church

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Every Sunday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Joseph Jackson Jr. praises the Lord before his congregation. But since last fall he has been praising something else his Black community needs: the COVID-19 vaccine.

“We want to continue to encourage our people to get out, get your shots. I got both of mine,” Rev. Jackson said to applause at the church in Milwaukee on a recent Sunday.

Members of Black communities across the U.S. have disproportionately fallen sick or died from the virus, so some church lead-

ers are using their influence and trusted reputations to fight back by preaching from the pulpit, phoning people to encourage vaccinations, and hosting testing clinics and vaccination events in church buildings.

Some want to extend their efforts beyond the fight against COVID-19 and give their flocks a place to seek health care for other ailments at a place they trust — the church.

“We can’t go back to normal because we died in our normal,” Debra Fraser-Howze, the founder of Choose Healthy Life, told The Associated Press. “We have health disparities that were so serious that one pandemic virtually wiped us out more than

anybody else. We can’t allow for that to happen again.”

Choose Healthy Life, a national initiative involving Black clergy, United Way of New York City and others, has been awarded a \$9.9 million U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant to expand vaccinations and make permanent the “health navigators” who are already doing coronavirus testing and vaccinations in churches.

The navigators will eventually bring in experts for vaccinations, such as the flu, and to screen for ailments that are common in Black communities, including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, AIDS and asthma. The effort aims to reduce discomfort within Black communities about seeking health care.

The initiative has so far been responsible for over 30,000 vaccinations in the first three months in 50 churches in New York; Newark, N.J.; Detroit; Washington, D.C.; and Atlanta.

Choose Healthy Life expects to be involved for at least five years, after which organizers hope control and funding will be handled locally, possibly by health departments or in alignment with federally supported health centers, Ms. Fraser-Howze said.



Carrie Antlfige/Associated Press

Melanie Paige closes her eyes as she gets her first COVID-19 vaccination at her church, St. Matthew Christian Methodist Episcopal, in Milwaukee. It’s one of the churches participating in an effort to get people vaccinated directly in churches.

The initiative is also planning to host seminars in churches on common health issues. Some churches already have health clinics and they hope that encourages other churches to follow suit, said Ms. Fraser-Howze, who led the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS for 21 years.

“The Black church is going to have to be that link between

faith and science,” she said.

In Milwaukee, nearly 43% of all coronavirus-related deaths have been in the Black community, according to the Milwaukee Health Department. Census data indicates Blacks make up about 39% of the city’s population. An initiative involving Pastors United, Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope and Souls to the Polls has pro-

vided vaccinations in at least 80 churches there already.

Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in the country, according to the studies by the Brookings Institution. Ericka Sinclair, CEO of Health Connections Inc., which administers vaccinations, says that’s why putting vaccination centers in churches and other trusted locations is important.

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## Notice

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To testify at these hearings, you must register by no later than **Friday, June 25, at 12:00 noon** using one of the following options:

- Contact the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) at 1-800-684-6560 to provide your name, telephone number and the topic of your testimony, or
- Visit PWSA’s website at [www.pgh2o.com/news-events/events-meetings](http://www.pgh2o.com/news-events/events-meetings), choose the public input hearing and complete the registration form.

If you wish to only listen to the public input hearings, you may use the PWSA link above at any time to join or you can simply dial-in using the following call-in information:

**Conference Number: +1 (312) 626-6799**  
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## Vaccination efforts struggle in the South

**SOUTH, FROM A-17**

“These are often people who don’t access health care frequently,” Dr. Dillaha said. “They don’t have an established relationship with a health care provider, so we are working to provide the vaccines in locations that they find trustworthy.”

### Hesitancy, disinterest high

Although progress is steady, vaccine hesitancy and disinterest remain high among all demographics. From Dec. 14 to April 10, vaccinations were higher for people in urban areas than rural areas in 49 states and Washington, D.C., a May report by the CDC found. Disparities persisted across all age groups and sexes. Race and ethnicity data was not included because it was missing for 40% of people.

Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the state health officer in Mississippi, said his state has done a good job of getting people 65 and older vaccinated, and it has narrowed the Black-white vaccination gap. However, only 37% of Mississippi adults have been fully vaccinated.

Although hospitalizations, cases and deaths have declined, Dr. Dobbs told reporters during a recent news conference that Mississippi has a “very dysfunctional relationship with health,” and acknowledged there is some complacency among residents.

“We don’t seek health care unless we’re sick. We don’t have a high rate of people doing preventive measures,” Dr. Dobbs said. “We have a real challenge with a real failure in health prevention ... and it’s not a COVID thing. It’s not a COVID vaccine thing. It’s a Mississippi thing, and we need to think about it holistically.”

Dr. Obie McNair, a 36-year internal medicine and pulmonary medical specialist in central Mississippi, said he doesn’t completely agree with Dr. Dobbs.

“I think it’s a lack of affordable ... good quality, culturally sensitive medical care and that’s part of the problem,” Dr. McNair said. “I wouldn’t put it all on patients that don’t want to do it, but I think the state of Mississippi could be more patient-friendly by expanding Medicaid and other things.”

Misinformation and concerns around vaccine efficacy have created a lack of confidence in the vaccines, said Dr. Paul Byers, the state epidemiologist. Dr. Byers emphasized that “the data has shown that these vaccines have been safe and effective and are really our best way to prevent infection.” But education and science aren’t sufficient to convince many Mississippians.

### Freedom, time needed

Mississippi state Rep. Dan Eubanks, a Republican, who contracted COVID-19 last summer, said he is not against vaccines in general, but he believes people should have the freedom to choose whether to take them. Mr. Eubanks said he has not been vaccinated and doesn’t think he needs to be because he has antibodies from his bout with the virus. Experts say people who recovered from COVID-19 should still get vaccinated.

Mr. Eubanks said he has been dissuaded by contradictory information. “A lot of folks in this state are so tired of every comment or post that has ‘COVID’ in it. In Mississippi, everyone who wants [a vaccine] got it,” he said. “I think the government needs to take a cue from that. If they believed in efficacy as much as they touted ... they should be OK with people at risk of getting the virus.”

His peer, Republican state Rep. Brady Williamson, also said he is not opposed to vaccines, but he needs more time to see whether the COVID-19 vaccines are effective or not. Mr. Williamson told StateLine in April that he would not get vaccinated because he is healthy and needs more information. Last Wednesday, Mr. Williamson said his views haven’t changed.

“I wasn’t one to get the flu vaccine ... but I’ve never had the flu,” Mr. Williamson said. “I want my immune system to do what it is supposed to do granted by God.”

Saturday, June 19, 2021

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**Saturday's Cash 5**  
17-30-33-36-37

**Saturday's Cash 4 Life**  
9-12-13-39-54CB: 1

**Saturday's Match 6**  
10-26-34-40-43-47

**Saturday's Treasure Hunt**  
1-4-10-18-30

**Saturday's Pick 5**  
1-7-5-3-7 (day);  
8-6-9-9-3 (night)

**Saturday's Pick 4**  
0-4-9-7 (day);  
1-6-7-7 (night)

**Saturday's Pick 3**  
6-5-6 (day);  
4-8-9 (night)

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# Plague of grasshoppers swarms amid drought woes

The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A punishing drought in the U.S. West is drying up waterways, sparking wildfires and leaving farmers scrambling for water. Next up: a plague of voracious grasshoppers.

Federal agriculture officials are launching what could become their largest grasshopper-killing campaign since the 1980s amid an outbreak of the drought-loving insects that cattle ranchers fear will strip bare public and private rangelands.

In central Montana's Phillips County, more than 50 miles from the nearest town, Frank Wiederrick said large numbers of grasshoppers started showing up on prairie surrounding his ranch in recent days. Already they're beginning to denude trees around his house.

Grasshoppers thrive in warm, dry weather, and populations already were up last year, setting the stage for an even bigger outbreak in 2021. Such outbreaks could become more common as climate change shifts rainfall pat-

terns, scientists said.

To blunt the grasshoppers' economic damage, the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week began aerial spraying of the pesticide diflubenzuron to kill grasshopper nymphs before they develop into adults. Approximately 3,000 square miles in Montana are expected to be sprayed, roughly twice the size of Rhode Island.

Agriculture officials had seen this year's infestation coming, after a 2020 survey found dense concentrations of adult grasshoppers across about 55,000 square miles in the West. A 2021 grasshopper "hazard map" shows densities of at least 15 insects per square yard in large areas of Montana, Wyoming and Oregon and portions of Idaho, Arizona, Colorado and Nebraska.

Left unaddressed, federal officials said the agricultural damage from grasshoppers could become so severe it could drive up beef and crop prices.

The program's scale has alarmed environmentalists who say widespread spray-



U.S. Department of Agriculture via AP

Federal agriculture officials are launching what could be the largest grasshopper-killing campaign since the 1980s amid an outbreak of the drought-loving insects, seen above, that cattle ranchers fear will strip bare public and private rangelands.

ing will kill numerous insects, including spiders and other grasshopper predators as well as struggling species such as monarch butterflies. They're also concerned the pesticides could ruin organic farms adjacent to spray zones.

"We're talking about natural areas being sprayed; this

is not cropland," said Sharon Selvaggio, a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist

now with the Xerces Society, a conservation group focused on insects. Government officials say they will spray pesticides in low concentrations and reduce the area treated by alternately spraying a strip of rangeland, then skipping the next strip. The intent is to kill grasshoppers passing between strips while sparing other insects.

If spraying is delayed and grasshoppers grow larger and more resilient, federal officials could resort to two more toxic pesticides — carbaryl and malathion, according to government documents.

Ms. Selvaggio said pesticides could drift into areas not being targeted and kill beneficial insects such as bees that pollinate crops. "The toxicity is more than enough to kill bees," she said.

The trade group isn't go-

ing to challenge the spraying but wants organic farmers protected and for the government to research alternatives to chemicals for future outbreaks.

As this year's crop of grasshoppers emerges, they're starting to compete with cattle for food in arid eastern Montana, where single ranches can sprawl over thousands of acres of private and public rangeland.

The grasshoppers start eating tender plants first, then move on to fully grown plants and the seed heads of grain crops, killing them, said Marko Manoukian, a Montana State University agriculture extension agent in Phillips County. Farmers can collect insurance on damaged crops, whereas ranchers have no recourse when the grasshoppers remove vegetation from public lands.

## Can E.T. see us? Study finds many stars with prime view of Earth

The Associated Press

Feeling like you are being watched? It could be from a lot farther away than you think.

Astronomers took a technique used to look for life on other planets and flipped it around — so instead of looking to see what's out there, they tried to see what places could see us.

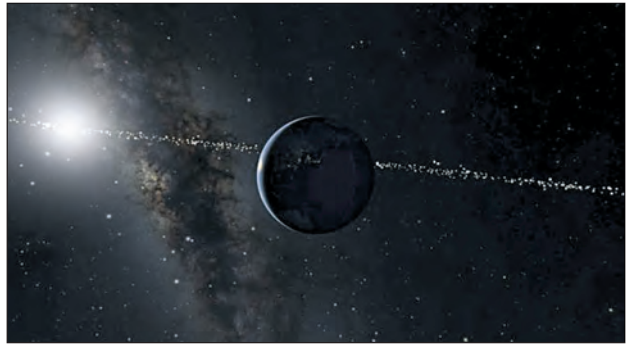
There are a lot. Astronomers calculated that 1,715 stars in our galactic neighborhood — and hundreds of probable Earth-like planets circling those stars — have had an unobstructed view of Earth during human civilization, according to a study last week in the journal *Nature*.

"When I look up at the sky, it looks a little bit friendlier because it's like, maybe somebody is waving," said study lead author Lisa Kaltenegger, director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell University.

Even though some experts, including the late Stephen Hawking, warn against reaching out to aliens because they could harm us, Ms. Kaltenegger said it doesn't matter. If those planets have advanced life, someone out there could conclude that there is life back here based on oxygen in our atmosphere, or by the radio waves from human sources that have swept over 75 of the closest stars on her list.

"Hiding is not really an option," she said.

One way humans look for potentially habitable planets is by watching them as they cross in front of the star they are orbiting, which dims the stars' light slightly. Ms. Kaltenegger and astrophysicist Jacqueline Faherty of the



OpenSpace/American Museum of Natural History via AP

This illustration shows Earth, center, with the sun in the background. The line of spots across the center of the image indicates star systems that can see Earth as it moves in front of our sun.

American Museum of Natural History used the European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope to turn that around, looking to see what star systems could watch Earth as it passes in front of the sun.

They looked at the 331,312 stars within 326 light-years of Earth. One light-year is 5.9 trillion miles. The angle to see Earth pass in front of the sun is so small that only the 1,715 could see Earth at some point in the past 5,000 years, including 313 that no longer can see us because we've moved out of view.

Another 319 stars will be able to see Earth in the next 5,000 years, including a few star systems where scientists have already spotted Earth-like planets, prime candidates for contact. That brings the total to more than 2,000 star systems with an Earth view.

The closest star on Ms. Kaltenegger's list is the red dwarf star Wolf 359, which is 7.9 light-years away. It's been able to see us since the disco era of the mid-1970s.

Carnegie Institution for Science planetary scientist

Alan Boss, who wasn't part of the study, called it "provocative." He said in addition to viewing Earth moving in front of the star, space telescopes nearby could spot us even if the cosmic geometry is wrong: "So intelligent civilizations who build space telescopes could be studying us right now."

So why haven't we heard from them?

It takes a long time for messages and life to travel between stars, and civilizations might not last long. So between those two it's enough to limit the chances for civilizations to exchange "emails and TikTok videos," Mr. Boss said in his own email. "So we should not expect aliens to show up anytime soon."

Or, Ms. Kaltenegger said, life in the cosmos could just be rare.

What's exciting about the study is that it tells scientists "where to point our instruments," said outside astronomer Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute that searches for extraterrestrial intelligence. "You might know where to look for the aliens!"

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**Meeting ID: 897 5883 3506**

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