

112 Fountain Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
June 30, 2021

The Honorable Eranda Vero  
Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
801 Market Street, Suite 4063  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Honorable Judge Vero,

I am speaking today to register my opposition to the PWSA proposed rate increase. While I understand PWSA's need to finance infrastructure improvements, I think the rate schedule they are requesting is too aggressive. An increase greater than 10% every year is out of step with most people's average cost of living wage increases. I'm also opposed to any increase that does not address the lack of accountability that PWSA has shown their ratepayers.

While the local media has mentioned there is a need for additional funds due to a lack of oversight in the past, there has been no mention of the steps PWSA has or will be taking in regards to cost cutting or efficiency improvements. Ratepayers are still subsidizing unmetered usage by municipal agencies including the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Public Schools and other agencies such as the Pittsburgh Zoo, and the Aviary. There has also been no information posted on their website addressing the steps that are being taken regarding the separation of PWSA & the City of Pittsburgh regarding what entity owns the pipes that need "improved". I think expecting residents to finance infrastructure improvements before rectifying institutional abuse constitutes an undue burden on private citizens. Perhaps the PWSA should make the metering of institutional users a priority rather than continuing to expect residents to compensate for poor management in the past.

There is also no transparency on the part of PWSA regarding their efforts to obtain lower cost debt financing from the federal government, not only for the proposed infrastructure improvements but to refinance old debt. Why are consumers expected to sign a blank check when there is no accountability regarding performance and efficiency metrics? I would be more willing to pay additional fees if I knew they were matched with verifiable cost savings on the part of PWSA.

While I understand and appreciate the need for infrastructure improvement, I hope that any future rate increases also come with requirements for PWSA to provide additional transparency and reporting in regards to their efficiency improvements, progress towards obtaining lower cost financing as well as metrics regarding some measurement of pipelines that need improved vs the amount of pipelines that have been repaired or replaced. If the ratepayer is expected to pay additional funds, surely, they deserve some additional reporting?

Respectfully,

Catherine Brosky