
 Pennsylvania Public Utility
 Commission, et al.,
 v.
 Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.,

 Pennsylvania Public Utility
 Commission, et al.,
 v.
 Aqua Pennsylvania
 Wastewater, Inc.,

 Public Input Hearing

Docket No.:
R-2021-3027385

Docket No.:
R-2021-3027386

Pages 123 - 207

Judge's Chambers
Piatt Place
301 5th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

November 8, 2021
Commencing at 6:04 p.m.

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Docket No's. R-2021-3027385, et al.

R-2021-3027386

Hearing Date: November 9, 2021

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FOR IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>IN EVIDENCE</u>
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Comitta Exhibit 1

Written Comments	141	142
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PUC Aqua Proposed Rate Increase Testimony
November 9, 2021 – 6 p.m.

Toll-free Conference Number: 866-566-0649

Passcode: 83345259

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'd like to share a written comment on behalf Senator Carolyn Comitta of the 19th District in Chester County:

I am speaking today to respectfully request that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) deny Aqua Pennsylvania's proposed rate increase. Affordable, quality water and wastewater services are a basic necessity.

This increase will place an undue burden on residents, families, senior citizens, and those on fixed incomes in communities across my district.



Furthermore, it comes at the very time that we continue to face the unprecedented challenges associated with an evolving pandemic, an ongoing economic crisis, and significant storm and flood damage from Hurricane Ida earlier this fall.

Aqua's proposed rate increase means water bills will rise by up to 17 percent and wastewater bills by nearly double that (33 percent). The proposed increase would impact 1.5 million Aqua Pennsylvania customers and families in 32 counties, including many in Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Additionally, since the onset of the pandemic, many residents have been forced to apply for utility assistance through multiple programs, such as the Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and various non-profit organizations, to maintain service and avoid shutoffs.

Given the financial difficulties currently affecting so many Pennsylvanians, I am concerned that this proposed rate increase will only cause a greater burden on those households still struggling to recover and, in turn, result in a greater demand for assistance and already limited resources.

Again, I am opposed to this increase and respectfully ask that the PUC carefully consider its potential impacts on all our communities, especially our most vulnerable friends, neighbors, and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.