**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Pennsylvania American Water :

Company – Wastewater Division (PAWC-WD), :

under Sections 1102(a) and 1329 of the Pennsylvania :

Public Utility Code, 66 Pa C.S. §§ 1102(a) and :

1329 (relating to enumeration of acts requiring :

certificate and valuation of acquired water and :

wastewater systems), for approval of: (1) the :

transfer, by sale, of substantially all of the :

wastewater system assets, properties and rights :

related to the wastewater collection and treatment :

system owned by York City Sewer Authority and : A-2021-3024681

operated by the City of York; (2) the right of :

PAWC-WD to begin to offer or furnish wastewater :

service to the public in the City of York, :

Pennsylvania, and to three bulk service :

interconnection points located in North York :

Borough, Manchester Township and York :

Township, York County, Pennsylvania; and (3) :

The right of PAWC-WD to begin to offer and furnish :

Industrial Pretreatment Program to qualifying :

industrial customers in Manchester Township, :

Spring Garden Township and West Manchester :

Township, York County, Pennsylvania :

**ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER**

# On July 1, 2021, Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) filed an application (as subsequently amended, the “Application”) at Docket No. A-2021-3024681, asking the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to approve its acquisition of the wastewater system (the “System”) presently owned by the York City Sewer Authority (the “Authority”) and operated by the City of York (the “City”) pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 507, 1102 and 1329.

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# On July 23, 2021, the Commission’s Bureau of Technical Utility Services (“TUS”) notified PAWC that they had performed a completeness review of the Application and determined that certain information was missing. On August 6, 2021, PAWC filed the information requested by TUS following its completeness review.

# On August 12, 2021, the Commission notified PAWC that the Application had been conditionally accepted for filing. According to that Secretarial Letter, however, the Commission would not finally accept the Application until PAWC complied with certain service and notice requirements. An amendment to the Application was filed on October 22, 2021, to comply with the August 12, 2021, Secretarial Letter. On October 27, 2021, PAWC filed a verification stating that it had complied with all service and notice requirements of the Secretarial Letter of August 12, 2021. On October 29, 2021, the Commission issued a Secretarial letter indicating that it had finally accepted the Application.

The active parties to this proceeding are PAWC, the City, the Authority, the Pennsylvania Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA), the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (BI&E), the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), the York Water Company, York Township, Manchester Township, West Manchester Township, North York Borough, and Spring Garden Township.

On December 27, 2021, Counsel for PAWC efiled and served a Petition for Protective Order in which it requested that the Proposed Protective Order attached to its Petition be entered in this proceeding. Counsel for PAWC represented in its Petition that he contacted Counsel for the City, the Authority, BI&E, OCA, OSBA, The York Water Company, Manchester Township, West Manchester Township, North York Borough, York Township and Spring Garden Township, and they advised that they do not object to the entry of the proposed protective order.

Upon review of the Petition filed by PAWC and the attached Protective Order, and since no active party to this proceeding objects to entry of the Protective Order, I will grant the Petition and adopt the following Protective Order:

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Petition for a Protective Order is granted with respect to all materials and information identified in Paragraph 2 below, which are filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), produced in discovery, or otherwise presented during these proceedings. All persons now and hereafter granted access to the materials and information identified in Paragraph 2 of this Protective Order shall use and disclose such information only in accordance with this Protective Order.

2. That materials subject to this Protective Order are all correspondence, documents, data, information, excerpts, summaries, studies, methodologies and other materials (including materials derived therefrom) which a party or an affiliate of a party furnishes in this proceeding pursuant to Commission rules and regulations, formal and informal discovery procedures, testimony or oral examination, or provided as a courtesy to a party to this proceeding, which are claimed to be of a proprietary or confidential nature and which are designated “PROPRIETARY INFORMATION” or “CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY” or “PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Proprietary Information”).

3. That, in addition, the parties may designate extremely sensitive Proprietary Information as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATTER” (hereinafter referred to as “Highly Confidential Information”) and thus secure the additional protections set forth in this Protective Order pertaining to such material.

4. That Proprietary Information and Highly Confidential Information produced in this proceeding shall be made available, solely for use in this proceeding, to Pennsylvania-American Water Company (“PAWC”); the City of York (the “City”); the York City Sewer Authority (the “Authority”); the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”); the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”); the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”); The York Water Company (“York Water”); Manchester Township, West Manchester Township, North York Borough, York Township and Spring Garden Township (together, the “Municipalities”), and additional parties, if any. To the extent that Proprietary Information or Highly Confidential Information is placed in the Commission’s report folders, such information shall be handled in accordance with routine Commission procedures inasmuch as the report folders are not subject to public disclosure. To the extent that Proprietary Information or Highly Confidential Information is placed in the Commission's testimony or document folders, such information shall be separately bound, conspicuously marked, and accompanied by a copy of this Protective Order. Public inspection of Proprietary Information and Highly Confidential Information shall be permitted only in accordance with this Protective Order.

5. That Proprietary Information and Highly Confidential Information shall be made available to counsel of record in this proceeding pursuant to the following procedures:

a. Proprietary Information. To the extent required for participation in this proceeding, a party’s counsel, upon execution of the attached Acknowledgment, may afford access to Proprietary Information made available by another party (“the producing party”) to the party’s expert(s) and staff. Any information provided under this provision may be used only for and to the extent that it is necessary for participation in this proceeding. Any person obtaining information disclosed through this provision may not use that information to gain any commercial advantage and any person obtaining information may not forward it to any person to gain commercial advantage.

b. Highly Confidential Information. Where information is asserted to be Highly Confidential Information, it will be made available for inspection and review as provided for in this Protective Order and copying only as specified herein. The producing party shall permit counsel for I&E, OCA, and OSBA (individually “public advocate” and collectively the “public advocates”) and other counsel to take custody of a copy of such Highly Confidential Information, provided that it shall not be copied, except for counsel, and the public advocates’ in-house staff, independent consultants, or non-lawyer representatives, in accordance with the protocols set forth below and shall be returned as provided for in this Protective Order. Such Highly Confidential Information may be provided by a public advocate to its eligible in-house staff without the need for execution of Appendix A. Additionally, such Highly Confidential Information may be provided by a public advocate or other counsel to its eligible independent consultants (as defined in 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(d)) or other non-lawyer representatives who are assisting counsel with these proceedings, provided that such consultants and non-lawyer representatives execute and return the attached Appendix A to the producing party pursuant to Paragraph 6 of this Protective Order.

c. No other persons may have access to the Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information except as authorized by order of the Commission or of the presiding Administrative Law Judge. No person who may be entitled to receive, or who is afforded access to any Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information, shall use or disclose such information for the purposes of business or competition, or any purpose other than the preparation for and conduct of this proceeding or any administrative or judicial review thereof.

6. Prior to making Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information available to any independent consultant or non-lawyer representatives, counsel shall, except as specifically exempted under Paragraph 5(b) of this Protective Order, deliver a copy of this Protective Order to such person and shall receive a written acknowledgment from that person in the form attached to this Protective Order and designated as Appendix A. Counsel shall promptly deliver to the producing party a copy of the executed Appendix A.

7. A producing party shall designate data or documents as constituting or containing Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information by affixing an appropriate proprietary stamp or type-written designation on such data or documents. Where only part of data compilations or multi-page documents constitutes or contains Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information, the producing party shall designate only the specific data or pages of documents which constitute or contain Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information.

8. Any public reference to Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information by counsel or persons afforded access thereto shall be to the title or exhibit reference in sufficient detail to permit persons with access to the Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information to fully understand the reference and not more. The Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information shall remain a part of the record, to the extent admitted, for all purposes of administrative or judicial review.

9. Part of any record of this proceeding containing Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information, including but not limited to all exhibits, writings, testimony, cross examination, argument and responses to discovery, and including reference thereto as mentioned in paragraph 8 above, shall be sealed for all purposes, including administrative and judicial review, unless such Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information is released from the restrictions of this Protective Order, either through the agreement of the parties or pursuant to Order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission or appellate court. Unresolved challenges arising under paragraph 10 shall be decided on petition by the presiding officer or the Commission as provided by 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(a). All such challenges will be resolved in conformity with existing rules, regulations, orders, statutes, precedent, etc*.*, to the extent that such guidance is available.

10. The parties affected by the terms of this Protective Order shall retain the right to question or challenge the confidential or proprietary nature of Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information; to question or challenge the admissibility of Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information; to refuse or object to the production of Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information on any proper ground, including but not limited to irrelevance, immateriality or undue burden; to seek an order permitting disclosure of Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information beyond that allowed in this Protective Order; and to seek additional measures of protection of Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information beyond those provided in this Protective Order. If a challenge is made to the designation of a document or information as Proprietary or Highly Confidential, the party claiming that the information is Proprietary or Highly Confidential retains the burden of demonstrating that the designation is necessary and appropriate.

11. This Protective Order shall continue to be binding throughout and after the conclusion of this proceeding.

12. Upon completion of this proceeding, including any administrative or judicial review, all copies of all documents and other materials, including notes, which contain any Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information, shall be immediately returned upon request to the party furnishing such Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information. In the alternative, parties may provide an affidavit of counsel affirming that the materials containing or reflecting Proprietary or Highly Confidential Information have been destroyed.

Dated: December 28, 2021 /s/

Steven K. Haas

Administrative Law Judge

**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| In re: Application of Pennsylvania-American Water Company under Section 1102(a) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa C.S. § 1102(a), for approval of (1) the transfer, by sale, to Pennsylvania-American Water Company, of substantially all of the assets, properties and rights related to the wastewater collection and treatment system owned by the York City Sewer Authority and operated by the City of York, (2) the rights of Pennsylvania-American Water Company to begin to offer or furnish wastewater service to the public in the City of York, Pennsylvania, and to three bulk service interconnection points located in North York Borough, Manchester Township and  York Township, York County, Pennsylvania, and  (3) the rights of Pennsylvania-American Water Company to begin to offer and furnish Industrial Pretreatment Program to qualifying industrial customers in Manchester Township, Spring Garden Township and West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania | :  : : : : : : : : | Docket No. A-2021-3024681 |

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The undersigned is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the receiving party).

The undersigned has read the Protective Order dated December 28, 2021 and understands that it deals with the treatment of Proprietary and Highly Confidential Information. The undersigned agrees to be bound by, and to comply with, the terms and conditions of said Protective Order. In the case of an independent expert, the undersigned represents that he/she has complied with the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Protective Order prior to submitting this Acknowledgement.

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

EMPLOYER

DATE

**A-2021-3024681 – APPLICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY - WASTEWATER DIVISION SECTION 1329 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE YORK CITY SEWER AUTHORITY WASTEWATER SYSTEM ASSETS**

*Updated 12/14/21*

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