

May 6, 2022

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Gladys Brown Dutrieuille  
Chairman

Ralph V. Yanora  
Commissioner

Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Chairman Dutrieuille and Commissioner Yanora,

I am writing in regard to a proposed Pennsylvania American Water rate increase, in the amount of \$173.2 million. The increase, if approved, and according to company documentation, would facilitate the upgrade of service lines, storage tanks, valves, wells and pumping stations, and anything else associated with failing infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth.

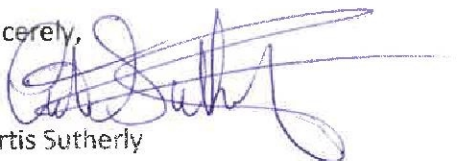
Maintenance of infrastructure is obviously necessary. However, I believe that the company's request for so large an increase is ill-timed!

According to the letter received from Pennsylvania American Water, the rate increase would become effective June 28 of this year. This provides only a narrow window for customers to voice concerns or opposition. Also, if granted in its entirety, the increase would almost double the monthly water fee for residential customers. (Commercial and industrial customers are less affected by the increase, based on the company's provided documentation, for reasons that are unclear.) For the average consumer—coming at a time when soaring fuel costs are affecting everything from food prices to transportation and availability of necessary goods—such an increase could be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

I would urge the Commission to delay the increase, pending further investigation. During that period, I would suggest consideration of approval of only part of the requested increase. This would allow the company to continue infrastructure work while putting less hardship on residential consumers and businesses.

Thank you for your patience with this letter,

Sincerely,



Curtis Sutherly  
231 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Steelton, PA 17113