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Nicholas A. Stobbe

nstobbe@postschell.com  
717-612-6033 Direct  
717-731-1985 Direct Fax

March 23, 2023

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.  
(Supplement No. 3 to Tariff Sewer-PA PUC No. 3)  
Docket No. R-2022-3037141**

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Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced proceeding is the Motion for Protective Order of Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.

Copies will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas A. Stobbe

NAS/dmc  
Attachments

cc: The Honorable Gail M. Chiodo (*w/attachments*)  
Certificate of Service

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

### VIA EMAIL

Christopher M. Andreoli, Esquire  
Erin L. Gannon, Esquire  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[candreoli@paoca.org](mailto:candreoli@paoca.org)  
[egannon@paoca.org](mailto:egannon@paoca.org)

Steven C. Gray, Esquire  
Nakea S. Hurdle, Esquire  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[sgray@pa.gov](mailto:sgray@pa.gov)  
[nhurdle@pa.gov](mailto:nhurdle@pa.gov)

Brian Kalcic  
Excel Consulting  
7330 Dorset Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
[Excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Excel.consulting@sbcglobal.net)

Date: March 23, 2023



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Nicholas A. Stobbe

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, <i>et al.</i>	:	R-2022-3037141
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.	:	

**MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER**

**TO THE HONORABLE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GAIL M. CHIDO:**

Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (“Aqua” or “Company”), by and through its attorneys, Post & Schell, P.C., hereby requests that the attached Protective Order be entered in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to the provisions of 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(a). In support thereof, Aqua represents as follows:

1. This proceeding concerns Supplement No. 3 to Tariff Sewer-PA P.U.C. No. 3 (“Supplement 3”) of Aqua, filed with the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) on December 7, 2022, for approval to establish a rider for contract rates for large industrial wastewater customer users (“LWCUR”) with an effective date of February 5, 2023. Aqua voluntarily postponed the effective date of Supplement 3 until February 10, 2023, via letter filed with the Commission.
2. The Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) filed a Formal Complaint and Public Statement on January 11, 2023.
3. The Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) filed a Notice of Intervention and Public Statement on January 20, 2023.
4. On February 9, 2023, the Commission entered an Order suspending Supplement 3 until August 10, 2023, and assigned the matter to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for

Alternative Dispute Resolution and scheduling of hearings, if necessary. Administrative Law Judge Gail Chiodo (the “ALJ”) was assigned to preside over the proceeding.

5. A Call-In Telephone Prehearing Conference was noticed for February 21, 2023. Judge Chiodo issued a Prehearing Conference Order on February 10, 2023.

6. On February 17, 2023, the OSBA filed a Prehearing Memorandum.

7. February 20, 2023, the OCA and Aqua filed Prehearing Memorandums.

8. On February 21, 2023, the Prehearing Conference was held as scheduled. During the Prehearing Conference, the parties were able to agree on modifications to the discovery rules and a procedural schedule, among other things.

9. On February 23, 2023, Aqua voluntarily postponed the effective date of Supplement 3 until August 17, 2023, via letter filed with the Commission.

10. On March 2, 2023, the ALJ issued a Scheduling Order.

11. The Parties to this proceeding have engaged, and continue to engage, in discovery. Proprietary Information within the definition of 52 Pa. Code § 5.365 has been requested in discovery. In addition, Proprietary Information may be included in testimony, which may be introduced for the record in this proceeding. Parties may also desire to use Proprietary Information for cross-examination purposes. Treatment of such information as set forth in the attached proposed Protective Order is justified because unrestricted disclosure of this information would not be in the public interest. These considerations constitute cause for the restrictions specified in 52 Pa. Code § 5.365 and in Administrative Law Judge or Commission Orders granting relief pursuant to the regulation.

12. Under 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.362(a)(7) and 5.365, the Office of Administrative Law Judge or the Commission may issue a Protective Order to limit or prohibit disclosure of Proprietary

Information where the potential harm to a participant would be substantial and outweighs the public's interest in having access to the Proprietary Information. In applying this standard, relevant factors to be considered include: the extent to which disclosure would cause unfair economic or competitive damage; the extent to which the information may already be known by others; and the potential value of such information to the participant and the participant's competitors and trade partners. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.365(a)(1) – (3).

13. The documents sought to be protected by the Proposed Order also may contain proprietary information as described in 66 Pa.C.S. § 335(d), which provides:

if a document contains trade secrets or proprietary information and it has been determined by the commission that harm to the person claiming the privilege would be substantial or if a document required to be released under this section contains identifying information which would operate to the prejudice or impairment of a person's reputation or personal security, or information that would lead to the disclosure of a confidential source or subject a person to potential economic retaliation as a result of their cooperation with a commission investigation, or information which, if disclosed to the public, could be used for criminal or terroristic purposes, the identifying information may be expurgated from the copy of the document made part of the public record.

Therefore, treatment of such information as set forth in the attached proposed Protective Order is justified under 66 Pa.C.S. § 335(d).

14. The attached proposed Protective Order defines "Confidential" information in Paragraph 2 as "those materials which customarily are treated by that Party as sensitive or proprietary, which are not available to the public, and which, if disclosed freely, would subject that Party or its clients to risk of competitive disadvantage or other business injury." The proposed Protective Order defines "Highly Confidential" information as materials that are of such a commercially sensitive nature among the parties or of such a private, personal nature that the

producing party is able to justify a heightened level of confidential protection with respect to those materials. Clearly, protecting this type of information from disclosure is appropriate.

15. Limitation on the disclosure of Proprietary Information will not prejudice the rights of the participants, nor will such limitation frustrate the prompt and fair resolution of this proceeding. The proposed Protective Order balances the interests of the Parties, the public, and the Commission.

16. The attached proposed Protective Order will protect the Proprietary Information sought in discovery or submitted for the record while allowing the Parties to use such information for purposes of the instant litigation.

17. The attached proposed Protective Order has been shared with other parties to this proceeding. No party has indicated that it opposes the Protective Order.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. requests that Administrative Law Judge Chiodo grant this Motion and issue the attached Protective Order.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael W. Hassell (ID # 34851)  
Nicholas A. Stobbe (ID # 329583)  
Post & Schell, P.C.  
17 North Second Street  
12th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Phone: 717-731-1970  
Fax: 717-731-1985  
E-mail: [mhassell@postschell.com](mailto:mhassell@postschell.com)  
E-mail: [nstobbe@postschell.com](mailto:nstobbe@postschell.com)

Alexander R. Stahl (ID #317012)  
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.  
762 Lancaster Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Phone: 610-645-1130  
Email: [Astahl@aquaamerica.com](mailto:Astahl@aquaamerica.com)

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, <i>et al.</i>	:	R-2022-3037141
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.	:	

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Upon consideration of the Motion for a Protective Order that was filed by Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (“Aqua” or the “Company”) on March 23, 2023,

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The information subject to this Protective Order is all correspondence, documents, data, information, studies, methodologies and other materials, furnished in this proceeding, which are reasonably believed by the producing Party to be of a proprietary or confidential nature and which are so designated by being marked “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” protected material. Such materials will be referred to below as “Proprietary Information.” When a statement or exhibit is identified for the record, the portions thereof that constitute Proprietary Information shall be designated as such for the record.

2. This Protective Order applies to the following categories of materials: (a) the producing Party may designate as “CONFIDENTIAL” those materials which customarily are treated by that Party as sensitive or proprietary, which are not available to the public, and which, if disclosed freely, would subject that Party or its clients to risk of competitive disadvantage or other business injury; (b) the producing Party may designate as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” protected material those materials which, in the producing Party’s reasonable judgment, are of such a commercially sensitive nature among the Parties (or of such a private, personal nature) that

the producing Party is able to justify a heightened level of confidential protection with respect to those materials. The producing Party shall endeavor to limit their designation of information as CONFIDENTIAL or HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL protected material. The Parties agree that materials containing specific, individual customer information shall be identified as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL and that access to these materials may be further restricted by the producing party.

3. Proprietary Information shall be made available to counsel for a Party, subject to the terms of this Protective Order. Such counsel shall use or disclose the Proprietary Information only for purposes of preparing or presenting evidence, cross examination, argument, or settlement in this proceeding. To the extent required for participation in this proceeding, counsel for a Party may afford access to Proprietary Information subject to the conditions set forth in this Protective Order.

4. Information deemed as “CONFIDENTIAL”, shall be made available to a “Reviewing Representative” who is a person that has signed a Non-Disclosure Certificate attached as Appendix A, and who is:

- (a) An attorney for a statutory advocate pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 1.8, or a counsel who has entered an appearance in this proceeding for a Party;
- (b) Attorneys, paralegals, and other employees associated for purposes of this case with an attorney described in Paragraph 4(a);
- (c) An expert or an employee of an expert retained by a Party for the purpose of advising, preparing for or testifying in this proceeding; or
- (d) Employees or other representatives of a Party appearing in this proceeding with significant responsibility for this docket.

With regard to the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) and the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), counsel for the OCA and OSBA may afford access to

CONFIDENTIAL information to the Consumer Advocate, Deputy Consumer Advocate, and Small Business Advocate, respectively, without the need for execution of a Non-Disclosure Certificate. The Consumer Advocate, Deputy Consumer Advocate, and Small Business Advocate are bound by all of the provisions of the Protective Order by virtue of the OCA counsel's and OSBA counsel's execution of a Non-Disclosure Certificate.

5. Information deemed as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" protected material, may be provided to a "Reviewing Representative" who has signed a Non-Disclosure Certificate attached as Appendix A and who is:

- (a) An attorney for a statutory advocate pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 1.8 or a counsel who has entered an appearance in this proceeding for a Party;
- (b) An attorney, paralegal, or other employee associated for purposes of this case with an attorney described in Paragraph 5(a);
- (c) An outside expert or an employee of an outside expert retained by a Party for the purposes of advising, preparing for or testifying in this proceeding;  
or
- (d) A person designated as a Reviewing Representative for purposes of HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL information and materials.

With regard to the OCA and OSBA, counsel for the OCA and OSBA may afford access to HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL protected material to the Consumer Advocate, Deputy Consumer Advocate, and Small Business Advocate, respectively, without the need for the execution of a Non-Disclosure Certificate. The Consumer Advocate, Deputy Consumer Advocate, and Small Business Advocate are bound by all of the provisions of the Protective Order by virtue of the OCA counsel's and OSBA counsel's execution of a Non-Disclosure Certificate.

Provided, further, that in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.362 and 5.365(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.362, 5.365(e), any Party may, by subsequent objection or motion, seek further protection with respect to HIGHLY

CONFIDENTIAL protected material, including, but not limited to, total prohibition of disclosure or limitation of disclosure only to particular Parties.

6. For purposes of this Protective Order, a Reviewing Representative may not be a “Restricted Person.”

(a) A “Restricted Person” shall mean: (i) an officer, director, stockholder, partner, or owner of any competitor of the Parties or an employee of such an entity if the employee’s duties involve marketing or pricing of the competitor’s products or services, or if the employee of such entity’s duties involve strategic business decisions and activities in which the use of the Proprietary Information could be reasonably expected to cause competitive harm to the Parties; (ii) an officer, director, stockholder, partner, or owner of any affiliate of a competitor of the Parties (including any association of competitors of the Parties) or an employee of such an entity if the employee’s duties involve marketing or pricing of the competitor’s products or services; (iii) an officer, director, stockholder, owner or employee of a competitor of a customer of the Parties if the Proprietary Information concerns a specific, identifiable customer of the Parties; and (iv) an officer, director, stockholder, owner or employee of an affiliate of a competitor of a customer of the Parties if the Proprietary Information concerns a specific, identifiable customer of the Parties; provided, however, that no expert shall be disqualified on account of being a stockholder, partner, or owner unless that expert’s interest in the business would provide a significant motive for violation of the limitations of permissible use of the Proprietary Information. For purposes of this Protective Order, stocks,

partnership or other ownership interests valued at more than \$10,000 or constituting more than a 1% interest in a business establishes a significant motive for violation.

(b) If an expert for a Party, another member of the expert's firm or the expert's firm generally also serves as an expert for, or as a consultant or advisor to, a Restricted Person, said expert must: (i) identify for the Parties each Restricted Person and each expert or consultant; (ii) make reasonable attempts to segregate those personnel assisting in the expert's participation in this proceeding from those personnel working on behalf of a Restricted Person; and (iii) if segregation of such personnel is impractical the expert shall give to the producing Party written assurances that the lack of segregation will in no way jeopardize the interests of the Parties or their customers. The Parties retain the right to challenge the adequacy of the written assurances that the Parties' or their customers' interests will not be jeopardized. No other persons may have access to the Proprietary Information except as authorized by order of the Commission.

(c) The OSBA's consultant, Mr. Brian Kalcic, will not be considered to be a Restricted Person, and Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) will not apply to Mr. Kalcic, provided that Mr. Kalcic does not share or discuss the Proprietary Information with any person except authorized OSBA representatives.

7. A Reviewing Representative that satisfies the requirements of Paragraphs 4(a) through 4(d) or 5(a) through 5(c) above and who is not a "Restricted Person" under Paragraph 6 shall be considered a "qualified" Reviewing Representative. In the event that a Party wishes to designate as a Reviewing Representative a person not described in Paragraphs 4(a) through 4(d) or 5(a) through 5(c) above, or a person that is a Restricted Person under Paragraph 6, the Party

shall seek agreement from the producing Party. If an agreement is reached and, subject to execution and delivery of the Non-Disclosure Certificate attached as Appendix A, that person shall be a qualified Reviewing Representative with respect to those materials. If no agreement is reached, the Party shall submit the disputed designation to the presiding Administrative Law Judge for resolution.

8. A qualified “Reviewing Representative” for Proprietary Information may review and discuss Proprietary Information with their client or with the entity with which they are employed or associated, to the extent that the client or entity is not a “Restricted Person,” but may not share with or permit the client or entity to review the “CONFIDENTIAL” information and/or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” protected material. Such discussions must be general in nature and not disclose specific Proprietary information and materials, provided however that counsel for the OCA or OSBA may share proprietary information with the Consumer Advocate, Deputy Consumer Advocate, and Small Business Advocate, respectively, without obtaining a Non-Disclosure Certificate from these individuals, provided however, that these individuals otherwise abide by the terms of the Protective Order.

9. Information deemed Proprietary Information shall not be used except as necessary for the conduct of this proceeding, nor shall it be disclosed in any manner to any person except a Reviewing Representative who is engaged in the conduct of this proceeding and who needs to know the information in order to carry out that person’s responsibilities in this proceeding. Reviewing Representatives may not use information contained in any Proprietary Information obtained through this proceeding to give any Party or any competitor of any Party a commercial advantage.

10. Reviewing Representatives shall execute a Non-Disclosure Certificate in order to obtain access to Proprietary Information and will be subject to the following conditions:

(a) A Reviewing Representative shall not be permitted to inspect, participate in discussions regarding, or otherwise be permitted access to Proprietary Information pursuant to this Protective Order unless that Reviewing Representative has first executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate, provided that if an attorney qualified as a Reviewing Representative has executed such a certificate, the paralegals, secretarial and clerical personnel under the attorney's instruction, supervision or control need not do so. A copy of each Non-Disclosure Certificate shall be provided to counsel for the Parties asserting confidentiality prior to disclosure of any Proprietary Information to that Reviewing Representative.

(b) Attorneys and outside experts qualified as Reviewing Representatives are responsible for ensuring that persons under their supervision or control comply with this Protective Order.

11. None of the Parties to this proceeding waive their right to pursue any other legal or equitable remedies that may be available in the event of actual or anticipated disclosure of Proprietary Information.

12. The Parties shall designate data or documents as constituting or containing Proprietary Information by marking the documents "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" protected material. Where only part of data compilations or multi-page documents constitutes or contains Proprietary Information, the Parties, insofar as reasonably practicable within discovery and other time constraints imposed in this proceeding, shall designate only the specific data or pages of documents that constitute or contain Proprietary Information.

The Proprietary Information shall be served upon the Parties hereto only in an envelope (or electronic message) separate from the nonproprietary materials, and the envelope (or electronic message) shall be conspicuously marked “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.”

13. The Parties will consider and treat the Proprietary Information as within the exemptions from disclosure provided in Section 335(d) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 335(d), and the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.*, until such time as the information is found to be non-proprietary. In the event that any person or entity seeks to compel the disclosure of Proprietary Information, the non-producing Party shall promptly notify the producing Party in order to provide the producing Party an opportunity to oppose or limit such disclosure.

14. Any public reference to Proprietary Information by a Party or its Reviewing Representatives shall be to the title or exhibit reference in sufficient detail to permit persons with access to the Proprietary Information to understand fully the reference and not more. The Proprietary Information shall remain a part of the record, to the extent admitted, for all purposes of administrative or judicial review.

15. Part of any record of this proceeding containing Proprietary 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 14 above, shall be sealed for all purposes, including administrative and judicial review, unless such Proprietary Information is released from the restrictions of this Protective Order, either through the agreement of the Parties to this proceeding or pursuant to an order of the Commission.

16. The Parties shall retain the right to question or challenge the confidential or proprietary nature of Proprietary Information and to question or challenge the admissibility of

Proprietary Information. If a Party challenges the designation of a document or information as proprietary, the Party providing the information retains the burden of demonstrating that the designation is appropriate. In the event of a question or challenge to the designation of “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” protected material, the Parties shall make a good faith effort to narrow the designation of the Proprietary Information so that information can be provided in a form that is not “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” protected material.

17. The Parties shall retain the right to question or challenge the admissibility of Proprietary Information; to object to the production of Proprietary Information on any proper ground; and to refuse to produce Proprietary Information pending the adjudication of the objection.

18. Within 30 days after a Commission final order is entered in the above-captioned proceeding, or in the event of appeals, within thirty days after appeals are finally decided, the Parties, upon request, shall either destroy or return to the Parties all copies of all documents and other materials not entered into the record, including notes, which contain any Proprietary Information. In the event that a Party elects to destroy all copies of documents and other materials containing Proprietary Information instead of returning the copies of documents and other materials containing Proprietary Information to the Parties, the Party shall certify in writing to the producing Party that the Proprietary Information has been destroyed.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Hon. Administrative Law Judge Gail M. Chiodo

**APPENDIX A**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, *et al.* : R-2022-3037141  
: :  
v. : :  
: :  
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. :

**NON-DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The undersigned is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(the retaining Party). The undersigned has read and understands the Protective Order deals with  
the treatment of Proprietary Information, and the undersigned is a (check ONE):

- Reviewing Representative for CONFIDENTIAL information.
- Reviewing Representative for CONFIDENTIAL & HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL  
information.

The undersigned agrees to be bound by and comply with the terms and conditions of said Protective  
Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER