## **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**



PATRICK M. CICERO Consumer Advocate

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August 23, 2023

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Venango Water Company - Ex Parte Emergency

Order Naming Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. as Receiver

Docket No. M-2023-3042180

Section 529 Investigation of Venango Water

Company

Docket No. I-2023-3042312

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for electronic filing please find the Office of Consumer Advocate's Notice of Intervention and Public Statement in the above-referenced proceedings.

Copies have been served to the parties as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christine Maloni Hoover Christine Maloni Hoover Deputy Consumer Advocate PA Attorney I.D. # 50026 CHoover@paoca.org

#### **Enclosures:**

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Rainey, Jr (email only: crainey@pa.gov)

Certificate of Service

4876-3288-5880

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**Venango Water Company - Ex Parte Emergency Order: Docket No. M-2023-3042180** 

Naming Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. as Receiver

Section 529 Investigation of Venango Water Company : Docket No. I-2023-3042312

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the following document, the Office of Consumer Advocate's Notice of Intervention and Public Statement, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 23rd day of August 2023.

## **SERVICE BY E-MAIL ONLY**

Carrie B. Wright, Prosecutor
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120
<a href="mailto:carwright@pa.gov">carwright@pa.gov</a>
Counsel for I&E

Randall L. Rhodes, Secretary Venango Water Company P.O. Box 397 Reno, PA 16343 <a href="www-rlr@pa.rr.com">www-rlr@pa.rr.com</a> Counsel for Venango Water

/s/ Christine Maloni Hoover Christine Maloni Hoover Deputy Consumer Advocate PA Attorney I.D. #50026 CHoover@paoca.org

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Phone: (717) 783-5048
Dated: August 23, 2023
4855-1345-1384

# BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Venango Water Company - Ex Parte : Docket No. M-2023-3042180

Emergency Order Naming

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. as Receiver :

Section 529 Investigation of Venango : Docket No. I-2023-3042312

Water Company

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.71-74, the Office of Consumer Advocate hereby gives Notice of Intervention in the above-captioned proceedings. A copy of all correspondence and notices, documents, orders or other communications with respect to the above-captioned proceeding should be addressed to the following:

Christine Maloni Hoover
Deputy Consumer Advocate
Christopher M. Andreoli
Assistant Consumer Advocate
Aron J. Beatty
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate

Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923 Phone: (717) 783-5048

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christine Maloni Hoover Christine Maloni Hoover Deputy Consumer Advocate PA Attorney I.D. # 50026 E-Mail: CHoover@paoca.org

Dated: August 23, 2023

# PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE PURSUANT TO 71 P.S. SECTION 309-4(e)

Act 161 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, 71 P.S. Section 309-2, as enacted July 9, 1976, authorizes the Consumer Advocate to represent the interests of consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission). In accordance with Act 161, and for the following reasons, the Consumer Advocate determined to file a Notice of Intervention and participate in this proceeding before the Commission involving an investigation into whether the Commission should order a capable public utility to acquire Venango Water Company (Venango).

On August 11, 2023, the Commission issued an Ex Parte Emergency Order Naming Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. as Receiver. An investigation of Venango was further ordered under Section 529 of the Public Utility Code because Venango has not provided safe and adequate water service under Section 1501 of the Public Utility Code. Venango does not have the financial capability to make necessary repairs to provide adequate service, and as such it is not a viable system. The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the Commission should order a capable public utility to acquire Venango.

The Consumer Advocate has determined that it is necessary to participate in this proceeding to protect the interests of Venango's customers. The Office of Consumer Advocate will seek to ensure that adequate service is provided to all customers at just and reasonable rates and in accordance with applicable statutes.