

**PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265**

Public Meeting held August 24, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman
Stephen M. DeFrank, Vice Chairman
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

In re: Venango Water Company

Docket No. M-2023-3042180

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On August 11, 2023, Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille issued an *ex parte* Emergency Order (Emergency Order) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), taking immediate, affirmative action to protect the customers of Venango Water Company (VWC) and all members of the public affected by the regulated utility service rendered by VWC, and to confirm VWC's obligation to provide safe, reasonable, and adequate utility service. Emergency Order at 4.

The Emergency Order noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued a Notice of Violation directing VWC to issue a "Do Not Consume" Advisory. *Id.* at 2. The Emergency Order also noted that VWC's certified operator, Kevin Rhodes, provided a Statement that VWC "will be out of water supply to its customers in seven to ten days," that VWC "does not have the resources to sustain any type of plan to operate in this situation," and that the Commission should "expedite affirmative action" under Section 529 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 529. *Id.* at 3, Appendix C. Accordingly, the Emergency Order directed an investigation into whether the Commission should order a capable public utility to acquire VWC, and

directed Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., to serve as receiver, beginning August 12, 2023, and continuing during the pendency of the Section 529 proceeding. *Id.* at 6-7.

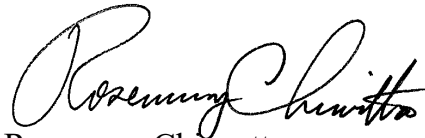
Upon review of the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the *ex parte* Emergency Order, we conclude that it is in the public interest to make such action the action of the full Commission. **THEREFORE,**

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the *ex parte* Emergency Order issued August 11, 2023, at Docket No. M-2023-3042180, is hereby ratified.

2. That a copy of this Ratification Order be served upon all parties served with the *ex parte* Emergency Order issued August 11, 2023.

BY THE COMMISSION



Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: August 24, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: August 24, 2023