

**BEFORE
THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Venango Water Company – Ex Parte	:	
Emergency Order Naming Aqua	:	M-2023-3042180
Pennsylvania, Inc. as Receiver	:	
	:	
	:	
Section 529 Investigation of Venango	:	I-2023-3042312
Water Company	:	
	:	
	:	
Section 529 Investigation of Sugarcreek Water	:	P-2024-3045205
Company, West Hickory Water Company,	:	
Plumer Water Company, Fryburg Water	:	
Company, Cooperstown Water Company and	:	
Blaine E. Rhodes Sewer Company	:	

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

A Telephone Prehearing Conference is scheduled in this consolidated case for **Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** To participate in the conference, you must dial the toll-free number listed below. You will be prompted to enter a PIN number, which is also listed below. You will be asked to speak your name and then the telephone system will connect you to the conference.

CALL-IN INFORMATION

Toll-free Bridge Number: 1-866-566-0651
PIN Number: 59956427

You must call into the conference on the scheduled day and time. Failure of any party to attend the prehearing conference without good cause shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and matters decided at the prehearing conference. You will not be called by the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. Each party must file and serve, **prior to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2024**, a Prehearing Conference Memorandum which sets forth the history of the proceeding, the issues you intend to present, a proposed plan and schedule of discovery, a listing of your proposed witnesses and the subject of their testimony, and a proposed litigation schedule **including status conferences and reports addressing the continued provision of water and wastewater service for each company in compliance with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code and any issues that require action by a company**, agreed to by all parties if possible. 52 Pa.Code § 5.222(d). The undersigned may be served by email at mhoyer@pa.gov, and there is no need to follow email service by hard copy until further notice. **Parties represented by multiple attorneys should designate in their prehearing memorandum a lead representative for the purposes of the prehearing conference.**

2. A request for a change of the scheduled Prehearing Conference date must state the agreement or opposition of other parties and must be submitted by email to the undersigned no later than three (3) days prior to the Prehearing Conference. 52 Pa.Code § 1.15(b). Only the undersigned Administrative Law Judge may grant a request for a change of a prehearing conference. Such changes are granted only in rare situations where sufficient cause exists. Requests for changes of subsequent prehearing conferences or hearings, if any, should also be served directly to the presiding Administrative Law Judge.

In accordance with the foregoing, absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled Prehearing Conference.

3. Please review the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences, 52 Pa.Code § 5.221-§ 5.224, and in particular, § 5.222(d) which provides, in part:

(d) Parties and counsel will be expected to attend the conference fully prepared for a useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto.

(1) The preparation must include submission of a prehearing memorandum and list:

- (i) The presently identified issues.
 - (ii) The names and addresses of the witnesses.
 - (iii) The proposed area of testimony of each witness.
- (2) The preparation may include:
- (i) Development of a proposed procedural schedule.
 - (ii) Advance study of all relevant materials.
 - (iii) Advance informal communication between the parties, including requests for additional data and information, to the extent it appears feasible and desirable.

(Emphasis added.)

4. Parties should review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa.Code §5.331(b), which provides, *inter alia*, that “a party shall endeavor to initiate discovery as early in the proceedings as reasonably possible,” and 52 Pa.Code § 5.322, which encourages parties to exchange information on an informal basis. All parties are urged to cooperate in discovery and advise us at the prehearing conference as to discover problems which have not been resolved. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.361, 5.371-5.372.

5. Pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.21 & 1.22, if you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *Pro Hac Vice*. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, you must be represented in this proceeding by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *Pro Hac Vice*. Unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall insure that their appearance is entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b).

6. Failure of a party to attend the prehearing conference without good cause shown shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and matters decided at the prehearing conference, including, but not limited to, any special discovery rules and the litigation schedule established for this case. 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.222(e) & 5.224.

7. **You must serve the presiding Administrative Law Judge directly with a copy of any document that you file in this proceeding.** If you send the undersigned any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. For your convenience, a copy of the Commission's current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.

Date: May 7, 2024

_____/s/
Mark A. Hoyer
Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge

I-2023-3042312, M-2023-3042180, P-2024-3045205-SECTION 529 INVESTIGATION OF VENANGO WATER COMPANY

RANDALL L. RHODES
VENANGO WATER COMPANY
PO BOX 397
RENO PA 16343
814.676.2730
vwcr-lr@pa.rr.com
Served via email and first class mail

CARRIE B WRIGHT ESQUIRE
SCOTT B GRANGER ESQUIRE BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION AND
ENFORCEMENT
SECOND FLOOR WEST
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17120
717.783.6156
717.787.4887
carwright@pa.gov
sgranger@pa.gov
Accepts eService

CHRISTY APPLEBY ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
5th FLOOR FORUM PLACE
555 WALNUT STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.5048
cappleby@paoca.org
Accepts eService

ALEXANDER R STAHL ESQUIRE
AQUA PENNSYLVANIA INC
762 W LANCASTER AVE
BRYN MAWR PA 19010
610.645.1130
astahl@aquaamerica.com
Accepts eService

ELIZABETH TRISCARI ESQUIRE
PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER
COMPANY
852 WESLEY DRIVE
MECHANICSBURG PA 17055
717.550.1574
Elizabeth.Triscari@amwater.com
Accepts eService

COURTNEY L SCHULTZ ESQUIRE
SAUL EWING LLP
1500 MARKET STREET
38TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102
215.972.7717
Courtney.schultz@saul.com
Accepts eService

REBECCA LYTTLE ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCATE
555 WALNUT STREET FORUM PLACE
1ST FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.2525
relyttle@pa.gov
Served via email