

**PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

Public Meeting held June 13, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

v.

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.

Docket Nos.
R-2024-3047822
C-2024-3049339
C-2024-3049344

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 23, 2024, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (Aqua), Utility Code 210104, filed Tariff Water–PA P.U.C. No. 4 (Tariff No. 4) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) to become effective July 22, 2024. Tariff No. 4 would increase Aqua’s total annual operating revenues for water service by approximately \$112 million, or 18.7%.

On May 31, 2024, the Office of Small Business Advocate filed a formal complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3049339. On May 31, 2024, the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a formal complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3049344. Pursuant to Section 1308(d) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d) (relating to general rate increases), the filing will be suspended by operation of law until February 22, 2025, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date.

Investigation and analysis of this proposed tariff and the supporting data indicates that the proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations may be unlawful, unjust, unreasonable, and contrary to public interest. It also appears that consideration should be given to the reasonableness of Aqua’s existing rates, rules, and regulations;

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation on Commission motion be, and hereby is, instituted to determine the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the rates, rules, and regulations contained in Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.’s proposed Tariff Water–PA P.U.C. No. 4.

2. That Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.’s proposed Tariff Water–PA P.U.C. No. 4 is suspended by operation of law until February 22, 2025, unless otherwise directed by Order of the Commission.

3. That within ten (10) days following the entry date of this Order, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 53.71, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. shall e-file (or file) a tariff supplement, which shall bear no effective date, with the Commission and post the tariff supplement at the offices of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. announcing that the aforementioned tariff is suspended until February 22, 2025. A sample copy of a suspension supplement is provided in Attachment A of this Order.

4. That the investigation instituted in Ordering Paragraph No. 1 of this Order shall include consideration of the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the existing rates, rules, and regulations of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.

5. That this case be assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for Alternative Dispute Resolution, if possible, and for the prompt scheduling of such hearings as may be necessary culminating in the issuance of a recommended decision.

6. That a copy of this Order shall be served upon Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and any persons who have filed formal complaints against the proposed tariff.

BY THE COMMISSION,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Chiavetta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: June 13, 2024

ORDER ENTERED: June 13, 2024

ATTACHMENT A
Sample Suspension Supplement

Supp. No. _____ to
_____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____.

(COMPANY NAME)

(TERRITORY SERVED BY COMPANY)

The application of rates proposed in Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ filed to become effective _____, is hereby suspended until _____, at Docket No. _____. Presently effective rates contained in Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ and supplements thereto, will continue in effect until otherwise amended. Issued in compliance with Title 66 Pa. C.S. § 1308.