



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

June 21, 2024

**E-FILED**

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

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. City of Lock Haven Water Department  
Docket No. R-2024-3049248**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find the Complaint, Public Statement, and Verification, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), in the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies will be served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Sharon E. Webb*

Sharon E. Webb  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 73995

*Enclosures*

cc: Parties of Record

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission</b>	:	
	:	
v.	:	<b>Docket No. R-2024-3049248</b>
	:	
<b>City of Lock Haven Water Department</b>	:	
	:	
	:	

**COMPLAINT OF THE  
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

1. The Complainant is:

NazAarah Sabree  
Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 783-2525

2. The name and address of the attorney for the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) is:

Sharon E. Webb, Esq.  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 783-2525

3. The respondent utility is:

City of Lock Haven – Water Department  
20 East Church Street  
Lock Haven, PA 17745

4. The Complainant is authorized and directed by the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50, to represent the interests of small business consumers of utility services in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”).

5. This Complaint is filed against the rates, terms, and other provisions of Supplement No. 19 to Tariff Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 1 (“Supplement No. 19”), which was filed with the Commission on May 24, 2024, by the City of Lock Haven – Water Department (“Lock Haven Water” or the “Company”). The rates set forth in Supplement No. 19, if approved by the Commission, would increase Lock Haven Water’s annual water revenues by \$377,823 or 71.4%. Lock Haven Water proposes to increase the water rates for jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional customers by \$990,432 per year or 64.2% per year.

6. After preliminary review of the materials filed by the Company in support of the proposed Tariffs, Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that those materials may be insufficient to justify the rate increase requested and that the Company’s present and proposed rates, rules, and conditions of service may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, and otherwise contrary to law, particularly as they pertain to small business customers.

7. Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that Lock Haven Water’s proposed tariff changes and proposed rates, rate design, and revenue allocation are or may be unjust, unreasonable, and unlawfully discriminatory in violation of, *inter alia*, Sections 1301 and 1304 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§1301 and 1304, and contrary to appropriate public policy and sound ratemaking considerations, and may not be supported by the materials filed by the Company.

8. In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

- A. Suspend and investigate the operation of Supplement No. 19;
- B. At the conclusion of such investigation, reject the proposed new rates and other tariff changes in Supplement No. 19 to the extent required to make certain that Bethlehem Water's rates are lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory to small business customers; and
- C. Grant such other relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Sharon E. Webb*

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Sharon E. Webb  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 73995

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 783-2525  
(717) 783-2831 (fax)

Dated: June 21, 2024

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission</b>	:	
	:	
v.	:	<b>Docket No. R-2024-3049248</b>
	:	
<b>The City of Lock Haven – Water Department</b>	:	
	:	
	:	

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF  
THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

The Small Business Advocate is authorized and directed to represent the interest of small business consumers of utility services in Pennsylvania under the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50 (“Act”). The Act further provides that the Small Business Advocate is to issue publicly a written statement stating concisely the specific interest of small business consumers to be protected by initiation of or intervention in any proceeding involving those interests before the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) or any other agency or court. This public statement relates to the filing today by the Small Business Advocate of a complaint against the proposed base rate tariff filings of City of Lock Haven – Water Department (“Lock Haven Water” or the “Company”), which would increase the annual water revenues of Lock Haven Water by \$377,823 per year.

The Small Business Advocate files this formal complaint against the Company’s proposed base rate tariff filings in order to protect the interests of the Company’s small business customers. A thorough inquiry by the Commission into all of the elements of the Company’s proposed base rate tariff filings is necessary to ensure that the tariff filings are lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory to Bethlehem Water’s small business customers.


In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate will participate in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission to investigate the reasonableness of the proposed base rate tariff filings. The Small Business Advocate will ask the Commission to deny any proposed new rates and other tariff changes that apply to small business customers that are not proven by Lock Haven Water to be lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory to the Company's small business customers.

Dated: June 21, 2024

**VERIFICATION**

I, NazAarah Sabree, hereby state that the facts set forth herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: June 21, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission</b>	:	
	:	
v.	:	<b>Docket No. R-2024-3049248</b>
	:	
<b>City of Lock Haven Water Department</b>	:	

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless otherwise noted below*) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

The Honorable Charles E. Rainey Jr.  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[crainey@pa.gov](mailto:crainey@pa.gov)

Daniel Searfoorce  
Manager – Water, Reliability, and  
Emergency Preparedness Division  
Bureau of Technical Utility Services  
PA Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
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*/s/ Sharon E. Webb* \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon E. Webb  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 73995

DATE: June 21, 2024