

RCUD PUC SEC BLIR
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OBJECTIONS TO SETTLEMENT

Please sign this sheet if you would like to **oppose** the Joint Petition for Settlement signed by Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate and the Office of Small Business Advocate in the case of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Docket Nos. (R-2024-3047822) and R-2024-3047824. **You are encouraged to provide written comments below and/or attach additional pages**, setting forth any facts and explanation for your objections.

By adding my signature below, I am indicating that I have read the terms of the Settlement Agreement and wish to **oppose** the Settlement. I understand that I may file objections (below and/or by attachment to this Objections Page) to the Settlement and exceptions to a Recommended Decision and that my complaint will be resolved as part of the PUC order resolving this case.

Yingxian Chen Shellhose
Please Print Your Full Name

Yingxian Chen Shellhose
Please Sign Your Full Name

Date: November 17, 2024

Please Write Your Address Here:

1042 Elderberry Way
Cheltenham
PA 19012

Docket Numbers of Your Complaint(s) (begins with C-2024):

C-2024-3049982

Written Comments and reasons for objecting (may attach additional sheets):

See attached, thanks!

OBJECTIONS TO SETTLEMENT

Yingxian Chen Shellhorse

November 17, 2024

Home Address:
1042 Elderberry Way
Cheltenham, PA 19012

Docket numbers of Complaints: Docket No. C-2024-3049982

Written comments for objecting:

I, Yingxian Chen Shellhorse, hereby oppose the proposed Settlement for the following reasons:

1) I oppose because I never received the proposed Settlement and supporting documents from AQUA's counsel as related specifically to our community, Cheltenham Township.

2) I oppose because I cannot find a copy of the proposed Settlement and supporting documents on the OCA web site (oca.pa.gov), as specified in the letter we received from the OCA, on November 7, 2024, signed by Katherine M. Kennedy, Assistant Consumer Advocate.

3) I oppose because I cannot find a copy of the proposed Settlement and supporting documents on the PUC website.

4) Most importantly, I oppose because in Ms. Kennedy's OCA letter, dated November 7, 2024, it states, on pg. 2, that for a residential customer using 3,870 gallons in the Rate 1 Main Division

service territories would increase by \$9.95...a 12.3% increase rather than a 19.8% increase.

However, in the Notice of Proposed Water Rate Changes, sent by AQUA on May 23, 2024, we were informed, in Cheltenham Township, that “Residential customers with a 5/8-inch meter using 3,870 gallons per month would increase from \$78.21 to \$97.01 per month. **This is a 24% increase and not a 19.8% increase. Therefore, we have no idea how the proposed Settlement will affect us in Cheltenham Township and must oppose it.**

5) Most crucially, I oppose the proposed Settlement as regards the wastewater increase because in Ms. Kennedy’s OCA letter, dated November 7, 2024, it states, on pg. 2, that for a residential customer using 3,870 gallons in the Rate 1 Main Division service territories would increase by \$5.36, from \$81.18 to \$86.54 per month, a 6.6% increase, rather than the \$14.92 increase (18.4%) originally proposed by Aqua. However, in the Notice of Proposed Wastewater Rate Changes, sent by AQUA on May 23, 2024, we were informed, in Cheltenham Township, that “Residential customers using 3,870 gallons per month would increase from \$61.31 to \$92.85 per month. **This is a 51.4% increase and not a 18.4% increase. Therefore, we have no idea how the proposed Settlement will affect us in Cheltenham Township and must oppose it.**

6) I oppose because I cannot find AQUA or the PUC’s response to our complaints and concerns that were articulated by us and numerous citizens of Cheltenham Township, during the Public Hearings against AQUA’s water and wastewater rate change proposals, on August 5, 2024. In short, AQUA and the PUC should communicate with us. We are not receiving the relevant information from either of them, in regard to the rate change proposals for water usage and wastewater specifically in Cheltenham Township.

7) I oppose because AQUA already raised rates in 2022 by 65% (see attached letter by Cheltenham Township Manager, Alyson Elliott), which effectively doubled the rates in Cheltenham Township. For our family, in real dollars, the new proposed rate hike will be an additional \$80-100 per month in winter, and we average, with two people, about \$200 per month, and \$300 in summer when we lightly water our grass. These are, by any standard, unreasonable rates when compared to our surrounding communities. For example, we currently pay in Cheltenham **TRIPLE** what folks in Philly pay for water and sewage, with no better service. More important, this rate hike affects not only us but *all* of Cheltenham Township, including folks on fixed income, our seniors, and people who are just getting by.

8) I oppose because such rate hikes will affect this community in the short and long term. People will abandon this community, people are getting squeezed from all sides, and it will affect people's home values.

9) I oppose because water is essential to life. The Pennsylvania Constitution states that "the people have a right to clean air, pure water." Access to clean water is a basic right and should not be controlled by a monopoly. We have no choice as consumers and citizens. To use an analogy, Aqua is like a corrupt landlord who can raise rates at will. We have no recourse as citizens. No marketplace. We can't simply shop around; we can't move to a different apartment or buy a new house to escape such rate hikes. All we can do is oppose and we greatly appreciate this opportunity to express the concrete reasons and rationale for our opposition.

10) I oppose because we are in a tax-stressed, inflationary environment. Cheltenham Township is the highest taxed township in Montgomery County. **The fact that our Board of Commissioners and elected officials have all written formal complaints against the proposed rate hike clearly and concretely indicates that AQUA remains woefully out of touch with its consumer base. Quoting Alyson Elliot's letter, dated July 16, 2024, written on behalf of Cheltenham Township and our Board of Commissioners: "I'd like to submit a formal complaint on behalf of Cheltenham Township...with respect to the proposed rate increases.... This is on top of a 65% sewer rate increase our ratepayers already experienced in 2022, effectively doubling the rates they were paying five years ago prior to Aqua PA acquiring the sewer system. Cheltenham businesses and business owners, like many Americans, are burdened by the increase in the cost of living and the proposed increases are unsustainable for many of them."**

11) I oppose because AQUA is raising rates to 1) off-set their numerous, expansionist acquisitions and maintenance of other sewer systems, such as those of Delaware County in record deals (Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority system for \$276.5 million, Aqua's largest acquisition ever, and the largest privatization of a public water or wastewater system in Pennsylvania); 2) to pad the pockets of their CEO and directors; and 3) to pay dividends to their stockholders.

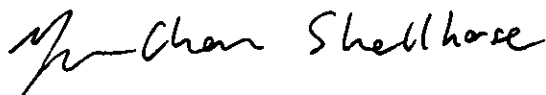
12) In sum, faced with such a situation, with uncertainty, and with the lack of transparent communication on the part of AQUA and the PUC regarding specifically the case of Cheltenham Township, and based on the OCA notice, dated November 7, 2024, I oppose the proposed

Settlement reduction because it is, in effect, too little given that AQUA recently increased rates astronomically by 65% in Cheltenham in 2022 (see attached Alyson Elliott's letter). Moreover, the proposed Settlement remains entirely unclear and ambiguous as regards how it will affect the water and wastewater rates in Cheltenham Township moving forward. Accordingly, AQUA's original proposal, dated May 23, 2024, for both water usage (24%) and wastewater (51.4%) remains unaffordable and unviable for us, for Cheltenham Township, and for its concerned citizens. We cannot support the proposed Settlement without knowing specifically how it will affect us in Cheltenham Township. I stand unequivocally in opposition and sincerely hope you will consider and take measures to address my family and our community's concerns.

Please find attached copies of the two notices AQUA sent to us in Cheltenham Township on May 23, 2024, indicating the astronomical proposed water rate increases of (24%) and wastewater (51.4%), as well as a copy of Alyson Elliott's letter, dated July 16, 2024, written on behalf of Cheltenham Township's Board of Commissioners.

Thank you so much for your attention and concern and for this opportunity to voice our opposition. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yingxian Chen Shellhorse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yingxian Chen Shellhorse, Ph.D.

Township of Cheltenham

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Board of Commissioners
Matthew D. Areman, *President*
Irv Brockington, *Vice President*
Jeff Chirico
Dwight Pedro Lewis
Daniel B. Norris
Ann L. Rappoport
Mitchell Zygmund-Felt

Township Manager
Alyson Elliott



Administration Building
8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Phone: 215-887-1000
Fax: 215-887-1561
www.cheltenhampa.gov

July 16, 2024

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary of the Commission
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Complaint Against Proposed Aqua, PA Rate Increases

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

On behalf of the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners and its ratepayers, I would like to thank the PUC for organizing two public input hearings on August 5, 2024, at Curtis Hall to allow our community an opportunity to personally express its concerns about the water and sewer rate increases proposed by Aqua Pennsylvania.

While it is appreciated that the PUC is hosting hearings on Aqua Pennsylvania's proposed rate increases, I would like to submit a formal complaint on behalf of Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners and ratepayers with respect to the proposed increases of 50% for sewer rates and 20% for water rates. This is on top of a 65% sewer rate increase our ratepayers already experienced in 2022, effectively doubling the rates they were paying five years ago prior to Aqua Pennsylvania acquiring the sewer system. Cheltenham residents and business owners, like many Americans, are burdened by increased costs of living and the proposed increases are unsustainable for many of our them.

I am including a copy of a letter and petition from Cheltenham Township ratepayers expressing their opposition to Aqua Pennsylvania's proposed rate increases for your review and records.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at either (215) 887-1000 or manager@cheltenhampa.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alyson Elliott
Township Manager

AEE/aml

cc: Board of Commissioners
Edward Diasio, Township Solicitor

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WATER RATE CHANGES

Dear Customer:

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Aqua" or "Company") filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") on May 23, 2024 to increase your water rates as of July 22, 2024. A full investigation of this request by the PUC could delay the change until February 2025. This notice describes our request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

AQUA'S RATE REQUEST

Aqua is requesting a total overall rate increase of \$126.7 million per year for our water and wastewater operations. This covers capital investments in system repairs and improvements that Aqua made since April 2023 and are projected through December 2025. It also covers the cost of operation and maintenance, like chemicals and power, essential to providing reliable utility service. Since the last rate case, Aqua plans to invest approximately \$950 million in infrastructure and other service improvements.

THE RATES YOU PAY DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY

The investments Aqua has made in our water and wastewater systems have increased system reliability and capacity and helped prevent service interruptions. The rates you pay for are used for repairs and improvements including, but not limited to, the following:

- Replacement and rehabilitation of approximately 200 miles of aging water mains
- Replacement and repair of valves, fire hydrants, customer service lines and other parts of our approximately 5,900-mile distribution system
- Replacement and repair of treatment plants and wells, the installation of critical equipment, including laboratory equipment, that ensures compliance with all water quality regulations, disinfection, treatment for PFAS and other contaminants
- Replacement and repair of pumping stations, water storage tanks, emergency generators to ensure the continued ability to meet system demands and all regulatory requirements
- Focus on protecting system operations and customer information from cyberattack

Aqua's commitment to ongoing system investments helps ensure water quality and uninterrupted service. It also helps protect our customers from critical systems failures that many U.S. communities are now facing due to aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the typical water bill for:

- Residential customers with a 5/8-inch meter using 3,870 gallons a month would increase from \$78.21 to \$97.01 per month.
- Commercial customers with a 5/8-inch meter using 37,900 gallons a month would increase from \$512.33 to \$634.36 per month.
- Industrial customer with a 5/8-inch meter using 227,600 gallons a month would increase from \$2,519.88 to \$3,129.86 per month.

Aqua's filing with the PUC also requests a combined revenue requirement for the Company's water and wastewater operations.

To learn more about our request, or to address any other questions you might have, contact Aqua at 877.987.2782. You can find the rates we asked for in Original Tariff Water – PA P.U.C. No. 4 and Original Tariff Sewer – PA P.U.C. No. 4, filed with the PUC or on our website at Aquawater.com. You may review the material we filed with the PUC at our office in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. You can also ask us to send you a copy of our Statement of Reasons, which is a plain-language summary of why we need to raise our rates.

PUC ROLE

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will review and investigate the requested rate increase. Aqua must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the

may present your views in person to the PUC judge and to Company representatives. Testimony under oath becomes part of the rate case record. The PUC holds these hearings in the service area of the Company. For more information, call the PUC at 800.692.7380.

3. Becoming a party by filing a formal complaint. If you want to be a party to the case, you must file a formal complaint. You then have an opportunity to take part in all hearings about the rate increase request. You can receive copies of all materials distributed by the other parties. Formal complaints should be filed with the PUC before Jul. 22, 2024. If no one files a formal complaint, the PUC may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a PUC judge. You can request a formal complaint form by writing to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265, or by going to its website: www.puc.pa.gov.

MAIN DIVISION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATE CHANGES

Dear Customer:

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Aqua" or "Company") filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") on May 23, 2024 to increase your water rates as of July 22, 2024. A full investigation of this request by the PUC could delay the change until February 2025. This notice describes our request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

AQUA'S RATE REQUEST

Aqua is requesting a total overall rate increase of \$126.7 million per year for our water and wastewater operations. This covers capital investments in system repairs and improvements that Aqua made since April 2023 and are projected through December 2025. It also covers the cost of operation and maintenance, like chemicals and power, essential to providing reliable utility service. Since the last rate case, Aqua plans to invest approximately \$950 million in infrastructure and other service improvements.

THE RATES YOU PAY DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY

The investments Aqua has made in our water and wastewater systems throughout the state have increased reliability and capacity and helped prevent service interruptions. These improvements include, but are not limited to, the following: collection system replacement and repair, treatment plant rehabilitation, electrical and power system improvements, installation of remote monitoring systems, and installation of emergency generators.

Aqua's commitment to ongoing system investments helps ensure uninterrupted service and the appropriate treatment of wastewater to protect the environment. It also helps protect our customers from critical systems failures that many U.S. communities are now facing due to aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

If the Company's entire request is approved, the typical wastewater bill for:

- Residential customers using 3,870 gallons a month would increase from \$61.31 to \$92.85 per month.
- Non-Residential customers using 3,300 gallons a month would increase from \$56.08 to \$85.50 per month.

Aqua's filing with the PUC also requests a combined revenue requirement for the Company's water and wastewater operations.

To learn more about our request, or to address any other questions you might have, contact Aqua at 877.987.2782. You can find the rates we asked for in Original Tariff Water – PA P.U.C. No. 4 and Original Tariff Sewer – PA P.U.C. No. 4, filed with the PUC or on our website at Aquawater.com. You may review the material we filed with the PUC at our office in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. You can also ask us to send you a copy of our Statement of Reasons, which is a plain-language summary of why we need to raise our rates.

PUC ROLE

The state agency that approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will review and investigate the requested rate increase. Aqua must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request or may reduce existing rates. **As a result, the final effect on your bill may be different than Aqua's request.**

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

You may challenge the Company's request by

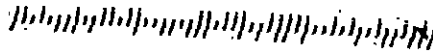
3. Becoming a party by filing a formal complaint. If you want to be a party to the case, you must file a formal complaint. You then have an opportunity to take part in all hearings about the rate increase request. You can receive copies of all materials distributed by the other parties. Formal complaints should be filed with the PUC before Jul. 22, 2024. If no one files a formal complaint, the PUC may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a PUC judge. You can request a formal complaint form by writing to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265, or by going to its website: www.puc.pa.gov.

9-WW

Yingxian Chen Shell horse
1042 Elderberry Way
Chetramham, PA 19012

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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LETTER
ELKINS PARK, PA 19027
NOV 19, 2024



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Retail



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