

Rcvd 1/15/2025 via email

On Jan 15, 2025, at 11:41 AM, Chiavetta, Rosemary <rchiavetta@pa.gov> wrote:

Mr. Gabage:

Aqua Pennsylvania's rate cases at Docket Numbers R-2024-3047822 and R-2024-3047824 are still pending before the Commission for final consideration. Your email below is considered a violation of Section 334(c) of the PA Public Utility Code prohibiting ex parte communications with Commissioners. Therefore, I have removed Chairman DeFrank from this email. While your comments below will be placed upon the record of the docket for the purpose of curing the ex parte violation caused by your communication, they will not be considered by the Commission.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the Commission has no record of you filing a formal rate complaint or intervention in these rate cases. Therefore, you have no active party status.

Please refrain from further violations of the Public Utility Code.

Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta, Esq.

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Commonwealth Keystone Building

400 North Street

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

rchiavetta@pa.gov

From: Keith Gabage <gabagek@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:43 PM

To: DeFrank, Stephen <smd@pa.gov>; Cicero, Patrick M. <pcicero@paoca.org>; Chiavetta, Rosemary <rchiavetta@pa.gov>

Cc: Rep. Chris Pielli <RepPielli@pahouse.net>; kane@pasenate.com; senatorcomitta@pasenate.com

Subject: [External] Complaint on lack of transparency in billing

Dear Chairman DeFrank, Consumer Advocate Cicero, & Secretary Chiavetta,

As you may know, I am currently on the record in Dockets A-2022-3033138, A-2023-3041695 and R-2024-3047822 & 24. My issues include 66 Pa.C.S. § 1311(c) (signed into law in 2012), 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 1329 & 1329 (d)(3)(ii) (signed into law in 2016) and the lack of transparency for the benefit of Aqua Pennsylvania's ("AQUA") water customers who subsidize the revenue requirement of AQUA's wastewater customers.

Last week I received my water bill and there is again **no reference to the wastewater subsidy value** and its impact on both the Distribution System Improvement Charge ("DSIC") and State Tax Adjustment Surcharge ("STAS"), both of which are defined in AQUA's tariff.

Upon reflecting on this issue, it seems that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") is failing to meet its obligation to consumers in "ensur[ing] safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates" and "educat[ing] consumers to make independent and informed utility choices." That said, the PUC could require, pursuant to 1329 (d)(3)(ii), that AQUA include information (when approving each 1329 acquisition in Order approving same) in water bills identifying the exact monetary impact of the 1311(c) subsidy in their bill. However thus far the PUC has declined to require that consumers be educated on the 1311(c) subsidy included in the "reasonable rates" in their water bill. This subsidy has been employed by AQUA, with the consent of the PUC (see Docket R-2021-3027385 & 86), since at least 2022 (or even prior) to the benefit of AQUA's 61.8k wastewater customers (due in part to the excessive 1329 purchase price values paid in lieu of the historical approach of paying the depreciated original cost for the same assets) at the expense of its 450k+ water customers at a cost of \$11.2M/year. Yet if one were to do a legitimate survey of the 450k+ water customers, one would find that the vast majority do not know that they are paying two wastewater bills. The first to the entity truly providing them with wastewater service and the second buried in their water bill from AQUA for just being a customer of AQUA.

Please accept this email as my complaint due to the continued lack of transparency in my water bill. I had reached out to AQUA in May 2024 and was directed to the 2021 Dockets noted herein and specifically "Table Act 11" in the PUC's May 16, 2022 Order. Seems that the 1311 subsidy is enabling AQUA to also deceive its wastewater customers with rates not reflective of the true cost of wastewater service they are receiving. This is purely a byproduct of yet another BAD PUBLIC POLICY in 1329 as noted herein. Back in May 2024 I also spoke with the PUC staff who were very dismissive as to my inquiry.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and time.

Keith E. Gabage

607 Plum Run Drive

West Chester, PA 19382

AQUA Water Only Customer