

Rcvd via email 1/16/2025

From: Chiavetta, Rosemary

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 9:18 AM

To: Keith Gabage <gabagek@gmail.com>; Cicero, Patrick M. <pcicero@paoca.org>

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

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

Mr. Gabage:

Once again, this email violates Section 334(c) of the PA Public Utility Code as an ex parte communication because your original email is at the bottom of this one. Aqua PA has several other proceedings pending before the Commission and the over broad nature of your email below causes a second violation of the Public Utility Code. If you wish to continue to communicate to members of the General Assembly, you may do so, but remove Chairman DeFrank from any further communications.

If you wish to file a formal complaint against Aqua PA, then do so as I directed using the instructions I provided to you. Emailed and faxed complaints and other filings are not acceptable as official filings made with the Commission.

Once again, stop sending emails of any kind to Chairman DeFrank or to other members of the Commission.

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: Thursday, January 16, 2025 8:16 AM

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] Re: Complaint on lack of transparency in billing

Dear Chairman DeFrank, et al

Just a quick update on my January 14 email to all recipients as I have subsequently communicated with Secretary Chiavetta and it is understood that my email was purely a complaint relative to the lack of transparency on my recent water bill and not a submission related to the Dockets referenced in the email.

Secretary Chiavetta was helpful in pointing out the procedure for filing a complaint, which is appreciated and I will weigh whether or not to file such through the commission's process.

Thank you again for your time and I will again weigh whether or not to file a formal complaint as the response seems obvious to me. I am usually very optimistic and believe that we are all generally good people. However, I believe a suggested answer to my complaint will likely be as follows: Law allows AQUA to require its water customers to subsidize its 60k wastewater customers (due solely in part that the purchase prices are based upon fair market value pursuant to 66 Pa, C,S, Section 1329 in lieu of the depreciated original cost ("DOC") - 1329 prices are between 4-7 times that of DOC) and the PUC approved AQUA's request for the application of the subsidy in their rate case. That said, please seek guidance from your legislators to see to have the related laws amended or repealed.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Keith E. Gabage

607 Plum Run Drive

West Chester, PA 19382.

On Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 3:43 PM Keith Gabage <gabagek@gmail.com> wrote:

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