

To: Scott Granger, Prosecutor Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement, PAPUC
To: Allison Kaster, Attorney for the Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement, PAPUC
CC: Christopher Pell, Administrative Law Judge

Re: Docket Numbers:
P-2024-3050545 and I-2024-3051540 - Water
P-2024-3050549 and I-2024-3051541 - Sewer

RCVD PUC SEC BUR
FEB 18 2025 AM 11:08

Dear Mr. Granger and Ms. Kaster,

My name is Wayne Shurts and I am President of the White Pines on the Lake Homeowners Association in Greentown. We are an HOA of 20 townhomes and are customers of water and sewer service from what used to be Deer Haven, which is now temporarily Aqua.

I want to communicate probably unknown and important information about the White Pines part of the sewer system and provide our perspective on this 529 Proceeding.

Local White Pines Sewer System

It is our understanding that in most situations, the homeowner is responsible for the sewer line that runs from their house to the main sewer line that the utility is responsible for and that takes the sewage to its final destination. This is not the case with White Pines. Since our inception as an HOA in 2003, our HOA has been operating, maintaining and repairing the main sewer lines and pump houses that carry the sewage from our 20 homes into what ultimately became the Deer Haven system. It was our understanding that the developer of our community (TIA) was to set up the initial system (plumbing and pump stations) and then when the development was complete, they would turn that over to the sewer utility to run. We tried to make that happen, but Sam Shahar (Deer Haven) refused to take responsibility and said it was the HOA's to operate and run. The HOA has done this at great expense, including two major repairs, that cost in excess of \$50,000. We have brought this up several times with Paupack Twp, PUC, etc., but it was never resolved. So, since 2003, our HOA has been forced to operate a mini sewer system less than 200 feet from Lake Wallenpaupack. We want to raise this and ask "Should whomever takes over the sewer system permanently (Aqua or Pocono Utilities LLC) also take over the operation of the local White Pines Sewer System"? We realize this would cause our rates to increase, but it is probably the proper thing to do.

White Pines HOA Perspective:

We have been customers of Deer Haven Sewer and Water for 20 years or more. It has not been a good experience. We have experienced numerous "outages" over the years and Sam Shahar has been less than responsive to those situations. On occasion, our HOA had to pay electrical bills that Sam Shahar was not paying in order for the system to remain operational. It was obvious that Sam did not want to invest in any needed maintenance, let alone typical ongoing repairs, to both systems. I do want to mention that when Sam outsourced the maintenance of the water system to Pocono Water (Joe Bonamico), Joe was very responsive and did his best, however, my understanding is Sam never reimbursed Joe for repairs that he had to make, leaving Joe hesitant to make future repairs. We were horrified, when we read the filings in this case, to learn that Deer Haven's sewer treatment plant was dumping less than fully treated sewage into Lake Wallenpaupack. Our community beach and swimming area is 200 yards from

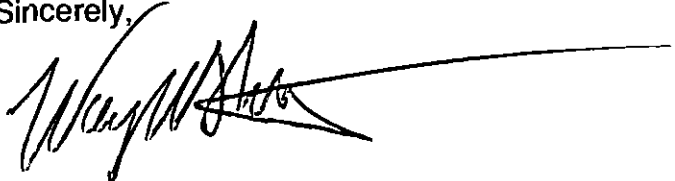
this sewer plant and we have families, children and grandchildren, etc. swimming in the water all summer long.

We were thrilled when Aqua was given temporary control of both systems. It gave us great comfort to know that a very experienced and reputable company whose core business is water and sewer was now in charge of our utilities. In the future, it is our preference that Aqua assumes permanent control. Our reasoning is simple, this is what Aqua does and has done very effectively for years. Pocono Utilities LLC is brand new, and from what we understand, really has no experience in running water or sewer utilities. We have suffered for 20 years with "non-professionals" running our system, and we would not want to return to that. Additionally, since the Pocono Lakefront development and Pocono Utilities LLC, have the same owner, Jacob Goren, we are concerned that the other communities on the systems may not receive the same service priority as the Pocono Lakefront development. If Pocono Utilities is awarded the water and sewer utility, our sincere hope is that the PAPUC's standards of service, safety, and environmental protection are inspected and enforced. This inspection and enforcement was absent with Deer Haven

I would request your guidance on whether White Pines HOA should petition to be a party to this 529 Proceeding. I am also looking for guidance on our attendance at any of the hearings.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information or to discuss any of these topics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Shurts", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wayne Shurts
President, White Pines on the Lake Homeowners Association
973-462-9334
Wayneshurts@gmail.com

RCVD PUC SEC BUR
FEB 18 2025 AM 11:08

120 White Pines Dr
Greentown, PA 18426

HOUSTON TX RPDC 773

13 FEB 2025 PM 1 L



Secretary's Bureau
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystore Building
400 North Street
2nd Floor - Room N201
Harrisburg, PA 17102