

**PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

Public Meeting held April 10, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair  
Kathryn L. Zerfuss  
John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Ralph V. Yanora

Application of Pennsylvania-American Water Company - Wastewater Division for approval of the right to offer, render, furnish or supply wastewater service to the public in an additional portion of West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Docket No.  
A-2024-3052459

**ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

By the application (Application) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) on December 6, 2024, Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division (PAWC-WD), Utility Code 230073, seeks a certificate of public convenience pursuant to Section 1102(a)(1)(i) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1102(a)(1)(i), evidencing Commission approval of PAWC-WD’s right to offer, render, furnish or supply wastewater service to the public in an additional portion of West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

**I. AFFECTED ENTITIES AND BACKGROUND**

PAWC-WD is a regulated public utility company, duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a mailing address of 852 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055. PAWC-WD provides wastewater service to approximately 98,632 customers throughout Pennsylvania, including portions of West Caln Township, Chester County. PAWC-WD is a division of Pennsylvania-

American Water Company (PAWC), Utility Code 212285. PAWC provides water service throughout the Commonwealth and is a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water Works Company, Inc.

PAWC-WD filed this Application to provide wastewater service to a residential customer located at 101 Woodland Drive, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320 (Woodland Drive Property or Tax Parcel UPI 28-5-95.17). A copy of a letter from the Woodland Drive Property owner (Property Owner) sent to PAWC-WD requesting wastewater service was provided as the Application's Exhibit E. In the Application, PAWC-WD indicated that the Woodland Drive Property is currently connected to an on-site septic system which failed inspection and that the lot does not lend itself to an installation of a replacement on-site septic system. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a copy of a Septic Inspection Report (Inspection Report) that indicated Jeremiah Eldredge Septic Management Services (Eldredge Services) was unable to certify the existing Woodland Drive Property septic system. In the Inspection Report, Eldredge Services provided an estimate of \$12,000 to \$35,000 to install a new absorption system. PAWC-WD averred that the Property Owner's request for service is primarily based on a financial decision, as the required expenditure to receive service from PAWC-WD is less than the projected estimate to renew or replace the on-lot septic system. Water service to the requested service territory is provided by PAWC.

PAWC-WD submitted proof of publication and service to the appropriate entities. Notice of the Application was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, 54 Pa.B. 8385, on December 21, 2024. The protest period ended January 6, 2025. No protests were filed, and no hearings were held.

## **II. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED TERRITORY**

The requested service territory is located near the center of West Caln Township on the northwest corner of North Sandy Hill Road's intersection with Woodland Drive

and consists of 0.95 acres of land. The Application's Confidential Exhibit B-1 consisted of a map depicting the boundaries of the requested service territory, and the Application's Exhibit C included a legal description of Chester County Tax Parcel UPI 28-5-95.17 that was identified above in Section I as the Woodland Drive Property. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a revised written description of the requested service territory by bearing angles and distances as the Application's Confidential Exhibit B-2.

In the Application, PAWC-WD noted that it was previously certificated to provide wastewater service to portions of West Caln Township by Commission Orders at Docket Nos. 230073F0007, A-2014-2430841, A-2015-2507969, and A-2020-3020178. Copies of these Orders and the corresponding applications were included in the Application's Exhibit D.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES FOR FURNISHING SERVICE**

In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD clarified that the only facility it is proposing to construct is a service lateral that will run from PAWC-WD's existing six-inch-diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) force main located within North Sandy Hill Road to the property line of the Woodland Drive Property. PAWC-WD indicated that construction of the service lateral will require the installation of 40 linear feet of 1-½ inch-diameter PVC pipe, one valve box, and one tap saddle (together, Lateral Project). Separately, the Property Owner will be responsible for installing the piping from the home to the property line and the ejector pumps required to pump wastewater from the property into PAWC-WD's existing force main (Customer-Owned Facilities). Additionally, the customer will be entirely responsible for the abandonment of the existing on-lot septic system (Septic System Abandonment). PAWC-WD also indicated that it could have the Lateral Project installed within three weeks of Commission approval of the Application, but that the actual date by which service will commence is dependent upon the completion of the Customer-Owned Facilities by the Property Owner.

Wastewater from the requested service territory will be conveyed through PAWC-WD's existing collection system in West Caln Township and will be treated at its Coatesville Wastewater Treatment Plant (Coatesville WWTP). PAWC-WD identified the permitted design hydraulic capacity of the Coatesville WWTP to be seven million gallons per day (MGD) and the current average daily flow is approximately four MGD. As such, PAWC-WD avers that the Coatesville WWTP will have more than adequate treatment and flow capacity to meet the present and future needs of the Woodland Drive Property based on a projected flow from one equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) of 225 gallons per day. A copy of PAWC-WD's 2023 Chapter 94 Municipal Wasteload Management Report for the Coatesville WWTP (2023 Chapter 94 Report) was provided as the Application's Exhibit F. The 2023 Chapter 94 Report indicated that the Coatesville WWTP is not projected to be hydraulically or organically overloaded within the next five years. The 2023 Chapter 94 Report's Appendix B included a copy of a plan entitled "Connection Management Plan – Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System" (March 2024 CMP), reporting data revised in March 2024 by Pennoni Associates Inc. The March 2024 CMP included a summary of the corrective action plans (CAPs) for the conveyance and collection system in the sewerage area of the Coatsville WWTP. A CAP specific to the sewerage area of the Coatsville WWTP, the West End Trunkline CAP, identified that the remaining hydraulic capacity equates to 1,361 EDUs allowed without further system upgrades and 1,188 EDUs are projected in the next five years for all contributing municipalities including West Caln Township. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD averred that the proposed connection of the Woodland Drive Property is permitted under the March 2024 CMP.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS**

In the Application, PAWC-WD estimated the total cost of the Lateral Project to be \$7,025 including excavating, labor, paving costs, and a local permit. PAWC-WD provided a line-item breakdown of the estimated cost and averred that it is reasonable for PAWC-WD to cover the cost of this installation under Section H, Rule 7, of its effective

wastewater tariff. Section H, Rule 7, of PAWC-WD's effective tariff permits it to enter offsite development marketing contracts (ODMC) which may depart from the standard terms of a "Sewer Main Extension Agreement" or "Sewer Main Extension Deposit Agreement" when the company determines it is prudent, reasonable, and in the public interest. In this case, PAWC-WD believes it is reasonable, prudent, and in the public interest to cover a portion of the installation costs to the Woodland Drive Property to ensure continued wastewater service. Additionally, Section H, Rule 7, of PAWC-WD's effective tariff permits ODMCs to become effective 30 days after the Company has filed a copy thereof with the Commission, or if the Commission institutes an investigation, at such time as the Commission grants its approval thereof. As such, PAWC-WD will be required to file with the Commission an executed copy of any ODMC entered with the Woodland Drive Property owner within ten (10) days of the execution.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, PAWC-WD stated that no additional capital will be required, and the Lateral Project will be funded by short-term debt initially and be converted to long-term debt and equity in the future. As noted above in Section III, the Property Owner will be responsible for the cost of the Customer-Owned Facilities and Septic System Abandonment.

## **V. PROPOSED RATES**

In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD clarified that it will charge its existing Rate Zone 1 – metered rates for residential service, which includes a monthly service charge of \$15.00 and a usage per 100 gallons of \$2.9539 as set forth in PAWC-WD's effective wastewater tariff. An excerpt from PAWC-WD's effective wastewater tariff describing this rate was provided in the Application's Exhibit I. PAWC-WD also revised its estimated annual revenue and expenses in supplemental information filed with the Commission to indicate estimated revenue to be approximately \$1,315 and expenses to be approximately \$271, resulting in an estimated annual net

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<sup>1</sup> See, Ordering Paragraph 3.

income of approximately \$1,044 for providing wastewater service within the requested service territory.

## **VI. PERMITS, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY REQUIRED**

PAWC-WD indicated that a West Caln Township road-opening permit will be required to construct the Lateral Project but that easements will not be required as the connection of the service lateral to the existing main will be constructed entirely within the public right-of-way of North Sandy Hill Road. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD averred that the cost of the municipal road-opening permit is estimated to be \$60.

## **VII. ACT 537 OFFICIAL SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN AND LAND USE PLANNING COMPLIANCE**

In the Application, PAWC-WD indicated that an application for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module (Planning Module), to amend West Caln Township's Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan (Act 537 Plan), was sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and that DEP determined the Lateral Project does not meet the definition of a subdivision and, therefore, a Planning Module was not required to be submitted to DEP. In the Application's Exhibit M, PAWC-WD provided a copy of a letter from DEP, dated December 16, 2022, to the Property Owner that affirmed that wastewater service to the requested service territory did not require a Planning Module.

Additionally, PAWC-WD sent a land use planning compliance letter (West Caln Planning Letter) to West Caln Township Planning Commission, dated April 18, 2023, requesting West Caln Township's input for the purpose of determining if the Application complies with the township's land use planning as the Application's Exhibit K. In the West Caln Planning Letter, West Caln Township indicated the proposed Lateral Project was consistent with the municipal comprehensive plan and/or zoning ordinances. In the Application's Exhibit L, PAWC-WD provided copies of two letters, dated April 18, 2023,

and October 11, 2023, respectively, sent to the Chester County Planning Commission requesting Chester County's review of the Application for land use planning compliance. PAWC-WD received no response from Chester County and, in supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD averred that the Application is in keeping with the Chester County Compliance Plan, *Landscapes 3*, and that the proposed improvements are to address failing on-site sewage systems.<sup>2</sup>

## **VIII. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In the Application, PAWC-WD averred that providing wastewater service to the requested service territory will have no adverse effect on the service furnished or rates charged to its existing customers. Further, PAWC-WD indicated that it is financially and technically capable of providing wastewater service and that the public and its existing customers will benefit from a decreased potential of contamination from an old on-lot septic system. Additionally, PAWC-WD asserted that, to the best of its knowledge, no corporation or entity is currently furnishing wastewater service in the requested territory and no competitive condition will be created by approval of the Application.

Finally, PAWC-WD has no outstanding fines or assessments due to the Commission and is current with Commission reporting requirements. In Commission correspondence with DEP's Southeast Regional Office, DEP indicated it has no pending actions or outstanding complaints to report regarding PAWC-WD.

## **IX. CONCLUSION**

Based upon the facts that there is a need to make public wastewater service available within the requested service territory; that PAWC-WD will expand its service territory to new customers in compliance with Commission regulations; that PAWC-WD will be meeting the needs of a new customer without detriment to its existing customers;

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<sup>2</sup> A copy of Chester County's Compliance Plan is available at:  
<https://chescoplanning.org/Landscapes3/PDF/Landscapes3.pdf>

and that PAWC-WD has the technical, managerial and financial fitness to provide wastewater service; the Commission finds that granting approval of PAWC-WD's Application is necessary or proper for the service, accommodation, convenience or safety of the public and is in the public interest; **THEREFORE,**

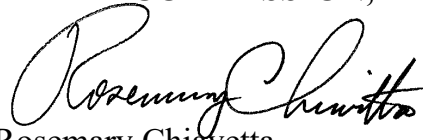
**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the Application of Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division at Docket No. A-2024-3052459, as supplemented, is hereby approved.
2. That a Certificate of Public Convenience shall be issued pursuant to Section 1102(a)(1)(i) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1102(a)(1)(i), authorizing Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division to begin to offer, render, furnish, or supply wastewater service to the public in an additional portion of West Caln Township, Chester County, consistent with Confidential Exhibit B-1 and revised Confidential Exhibit B-2 of the Application.
3. That Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division shall file with the Commission's Secretary's Bureau, referencing Docket No. A-2024-3052459, an executed copy of any Offsite Development Marketing Contract executed to construct the facilities necessary to provide wastewater service to the additional wastewater service territory requested by this Application within ten (10) days of execution.
4. That nothing herein shall be construed as an approval or determination of costs or expenses for the purposes of just or reasonable rates or to exempt Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division from obtaining all necessary permits, licenses, and approvals from other federal, state, and local government agencies having jurisdiction.

5. That a copy of this Order be served upon Pennsylvania-American Water Company – Wastewater Division, the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the West Caln Township Board of Supervisors, the West Caln Township Planning Commission, the Chester County Commissioners, the Chester County Planning Commission, and the Department of Environmental Protection – Southeast Regional Office and its Bureau of Regulatory Counsel.

6. That upon the issuance of the Certificate of Public Convenience in accordance with Ordering Paragraph 2, the proceeding at Docket No. A-2024-3052459 be closed.

**BY THE COMMISSION,**



Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: April 10, 2025

ORDER ENTERED: April 10, 2025