

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Section 529 Investigation into the Acquisition	:	M-2025-3053936
of Wonderview Water Company, Inc. and	:	
Wonderview Sanitary Facilities, Inc.	:	

**STAY ORDER**

On March 14, 2025, Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) issued an *ex parte* Emergency Order (Emergency Order) that, *inter alia*, ordered an investigation into whether the Commission should order a capable public utility to acquire Wonderview Water Company, Inc. and Wonderview Sanitary Facilities, Inc. pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 529. The Emergency Order also directed Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc. (Veolia), to act as Receiver for Wonderview Water Company, Inc. and Wonderview Sanitary Facilities, Inc. (collectively, Wonderview) beginning March 21, 2025 and to continue during the pendency of the Section 529 proceeding. The Emergency Order was ratified by the Commission on March 27, 2025.

On April 16, 2025, a hearing notice was issued establishing a telephonic prehearing conference for Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and assigning me as the Presiding Officer. Also on April 16, 2025, a Prehearing Conference Order was issued, setting forth rules that would govern the prehearing conference.

On April 17, 2025, counsel for the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) filed a Notice of Appearance.

Also on April 17, 2025, counsel for Veolia filed a Notice of Appearance.

On April 23, 2025, counsel for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed a Notice of Appearance.

On April 24, 2025, counsel for the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA) filed a Notice of Appearance.

Also on April 24, 2025, Veolia filed a Motion to Stay the Proceeding (Motion to Stay). Veolia's Motion to Stay indicated that the following parties do not oppose the Motion to Stay: Wonderview, the Office of Consumer Advocate, OSBA, I&E, DEP, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., and Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc.

On April 30, 2025, counsel for the OSBA filed a Notice of Intervention and Notice of Appearance of additional counsel.

On May 2, 2025, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (collectively, Aqua) filed a Petition to Intervene. Also on May 2, 2025, DEP filed a Petition to Intervene.

On May 2, 2025, Veolia filed a prehearing memorandum.<sup>1</sup>

The prehearing conference convened on May 7, 2025, as scheduled. The following parties were present and represented by the following counsel: Jonathan Nase, Esquire, for Veolia; Carrie Wright, Esquire, for I&E; Steven Gray, Esquire, for the OSBA; Alexander Stahl, Esquire, for Aqua; Amanda Chaplin, Esquire, and Geoffrey Ayers, Esquire, for DEP. John Yohey, President of Wonderview, appeared, but was not represented by counsel.

No responses to the Motion to Stay have been filed.

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<sup>1</sup> On April 29, 2025, counsel for Veolia e-mailed the undersigned and counsel for other parties, asking whether I intended to cancel the prehearing conference based on the Motion to Stay. On April 30, 2025 I responded by e-mail, stating that I intended to hold the scheduled prehearing conference, but that it was fine if parties supporting the stay did not file prehearing conference memoranda.

This Order grants the Motion to Stay and addresses certain procedural matters discussed during the Prehearing Conference.

Commission regulations allow motions, and motions may make a request for relief. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.1(a)(6), 5.103(a). Requests for an extension of time may be made by motion where good cause is shown. 52 Pa. Code § 1.15. The Commission has recognized the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's definition of good cause as "conduct which is reasonable under all the circumstances, thereby justifying the [c]laimaint's actions." See *In re Application of Penn Access Corporation and Digital Direct of Pittsburgh, Inc.*, Docket No. A-310006, 1992 Pa. PUC LEXIS 56, at \*9 (1992) (citing *Frumento v. Unemployment Comp. Bd. of Review*, 351 A.2d 631 (Pa. 1976)).

Additionally, Commission regulations provide presiding officers with the authority to regulate the course of proceedings. 52 Pa.Code § 5.483(a). Presiding officers are required to conduct fair and impartial hearings and maintain order. 52 Pa.Code § 5.485(a).

Veolia's Motion to Stay requests stay of the Section 529 Investigation for 120 days to give Veolia and Wonderview an opportunity to consider and negotiate a voluntary transfer of Wonderview's water and wastewater systems and to prepare a joint application seeking all Commission approvals necessary for that transaction. Veolia avers that the Section 529 Investigation would be unnecessary and could be closed if an agreement can be reached for a voluntary transfer of the systems. Veolia proposes to provide reports via e-mail every 60 days and to file a status report at the end of the 120 day stay period if the Motion to Stay is granted.

I find there is good cause to grant the Motion to Stay for the reasons asserted by Veolia. The parties and the Commission may benefit by the requested stay if Veolia and Wonderview are able to reach an agreement and thereby eliminate the time commitment and costs associated with a Section 529 Investigation. Additionally, the customers of Wonderview would not be harmed because Veolia is currently acting as receiver for Wonderview. Finally, no party to this proceeding objects to the Motion to Stay. Accordingly, the Motion to Stay will be

granted. Veolia will be ordered to provide a report via e-mail 60 days from the date of this order and to file a status report 120 days from the date of this order.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Petitions to Intervene filed by Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, are granted;

2. That the parties of record as of the date of this Order are Wonderview Water Company, Inc.; Wonderview Sanitary Facilities, Inc.; Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc.; the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement; the Office of Small Business Advocate; Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.; Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.; and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection.

3. That entities receiving this Order that are not parties to this proceeding will be removed from future service lists;

4. That Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc.'s Motion to Stay the Proceeding is granted;

5. That Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc. shall provide a report by e-mail to the undersigned and the parties to this proceeding by Friday, July 18, 2025;



**M-2025-3053936 - WONDERVIEW WATER COMPANY INC AND WONDERVIEW  
SANITARY FACILITIES INC**

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