

Re: Formal Complaint – C-2025-3056064

Complainant: Brett Marvel

Respondent: Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.

Dear Judge Marta Guhl:

I am formally withdrawing my participation in the October 8th telephonic hearing.

While I continue to believe that Aqua's flat-rate sewer charges are unjust and unreasonable, I have concluded that the procedural and evidentiary burdens placed on individual ratepayers in this forum are insurmountably high. The imbalance of access to data, the cost of expert testimony, and the complexity of litigating against a publicly traded corporation all contribute to a process that, in practice, denies ordinary consumers a fair opportunity to challenge rates.

In my view, similar cases have routinely been dismissed because complainants' submissions were not deemed "substantial evidence." The standard for what qualifies as such evidence, in my opinion, is vague, subjective, and heavily dependent on the presiding decision-maker's discretion. The burden of proof itself, in my view, is rarely quantified in any practical way, leaving complainants to guess what level of documentation, expert input, or corroboration will be deemed sufficient.

The result is a regulatory process that leaves citizens with no practical path to relief.

It is this structural inequity, not the strength of my claim, that compels my withdrawal.

Please mark this case as withdrawn effective immediately.

Respectfully,

Brett Marvel

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