

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

Public Meeting held September 25, 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 Douglass Township,
Berks County, Pennsylvania

Docket No.
A-2025-3055740

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

By the application (Application) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) on June 12, 2025, 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 Douglass Township, Berks 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 with a mailing address of 852 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055. PAWC-WD provides wastewater service to approximately 115,031 customers throughout Pennsylvania, including portions of

Douglass Township, Berks County. PAWC-WD is a division of Pennsylvania-American Water Company (PAWC), Utility Code 212285. PAWC provides water service throughout Pennsylvania 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 710 Evans Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464 (Property). The Application's Confidential Exhibit D included a copy of an application for wastewater service from the Property's owner (Property Owner) requesting that PAWC-WD provide wastewater service to the Property. PAWC-WD indicated that the Property is currently connected to an on-site septic system that failed inspection and that the Property's land does not lend itself to the installation of a replacement on-site septic system. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD indicated that the Property receives water service from a private well, and that PAWC-WD is not affiliated with the Property Owner.

PAWC-WD submitted proofs of publication and service to the appropriate entities. Notice of the Application was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, 55 Pa.B. 4510, on June 28, 2025. The protest period ended July 14, 2025. No protests were filed, and no hearings were held.

II. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED TERRITORY

The Application included a map depicting PAWC-WD's requested territory and a written description of the territory's boundaries by bearing angles and distances, defining an area of approximately 0.94 acres of land, as the Application's Confidential Exhibit B-1 and non-confidential Exhibit B-2, respectively. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a non-confidential copy of Exhibit B-1. The requested territory is situated in the northeastern portion of Douglass Township, southeast of Evans Road's intersection with Colebrookdale Road and northwest of Douglass

Township's border with Upper Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County. In the Application, PAWC-WD noted that it is certificated to provide wastewater service to two neighboring premises in Douglass Township at 702 and 709 Evans Drive, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464.¹

III. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES FOR FURNISHING SERVICE

According to the Application, the facilities that will be installed to serve the Property consist of approximately 225 linear feet (LF) of 1-1/4-inch-diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) low-pressure wastewater main, 50 LF of four-inch-diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) wastewater lateral, one grinder pump, and other related appurtenances including one curb stop and one flush port. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD clarified that it will own and operate approximately 175 LF of 1-1/4-inch-diameter HDPE wastewater main that will extend from PAWC-WD's existing facilities located within Evans Road up to and including the curb stop and flush port, and that the Property Owner will own and operate the remaining wastewater facilities. Additionally, the Property Owner will be responsible for the abandonment of the existing on-lot septic system. PAWC-WD will begin to provide service shortly after Application approval by the Commission, and in supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD clarified that it expects that construction of the facilities should begin shortly after Commission approval and is expected to take up to two months to complete.

PAWC-WD's Upper Pottsgrove Wastewater System (Upper Pottsgrove System) will provide wastewater service for the requested territory. The Property's projected flow is 300 gallons per day (GPD), and the Upper Pottsgrove System has an allocated wastewater capacity from Pottstown Borough Authority for 682,100 GPD and current

¹ See, *Application of PAWC-WD*, at Docket No. A-2020-3021460 (Order entered September 15, 2021).

average flow of 334,000 GPD. PAWC-WD averred that its Upper Pottsgrove System has adequate capacity to meet present and future wastewater needs for the Property.

IV. ADDITIONAL CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

In the Application, PAWC-WD indicated that the Property Owner will pay for the costs of the proposed facilities, which PAWC-WD estimated would be \$54,624, including excavating, labor, paving costs, and a local permit. A breakdown of these costs was provided in the Application's Confidential Exhibit E, Tab 8. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a non-confidential copy of Exhibit E. PAWC-WD stated that no additional capital will be required by the company to finance construction of proposed facilities.

V. PROPOSED RATES

In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD clarified that it will charge its existing Rate Zone 1 unmetered rates within the requested territory as set forth in its effective water tariff. In the Application's Exhibit I, PAWC-WD provided a detailed breakdown of its estimated revenue and expenses in its requested territory. PAWC-WD estimated approximately \$1,320 in annual revenue and \$272 in annual expenses resulting in an estimated annual net income of \$1,048. This estimate was based on one residential customer with a monthly flat rate charge of \$110.

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

PAWC-WD stated that a municipal road opening permit is needed to construct the proposed facilities in Evans Road. Easements will not be required as the facilities will be in the public rights-of-way. In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a copy of an approval letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), dated October 22, 2024 (October 2024 Approval

Letter), that specified that the proposed facilities will also require water quality management construction and operation permits.

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

In the Application, PAWC-WD indicated that DEP approved an application for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module (Planning Module) to amend Douglass Township's Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan to address the provision of wastewater service for the Property. The Application's Exhibit E included a copy of the Planning Module and the October 2024 Approval Letter.

In supplemental information filed with the Commission, PAWC-WD provided a copy of a letter from Douglass Township, dated January 28, 2025, labelled as Exhibit J. In its letter, Douglass Township stated that it supports connecting the Property to PAWC-WD's Upper Pottsgrove System. Further, the Planning Module's Tab 6.1 included a copy of the Planning Module's Component 4B – County Planning Agency Review completed by the Berks County Planning Commission on May 13, 2024. In its review of the Planning Module, Berks County noted that the project is consistent with its comprehensive plan and that there are no applicable county zoning ordinances. Finally, PAWC-WD averred that the Application is consistent with adopted county and municipal comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

VIII. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

PAWC-WD averred that, to the best of its knowledge, no corporation, partnership, or individual is currently furnishing or has corporate or franchise rights to furnish service like that to be rendered by PAWC-WD within the requested territory and that no competitive condition will be created. In addition, PAWC-WD indicated that the public and its existing customers will benefit from a decreased potential of contamination after

the Property is connected to PAWC-WD's Upper Pottsgrove System and the old on-lot septic system is removed.

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 Southcentral Regional Office, DEP advised Commission staff that it did not have any concerns about PAWC-WD.

IX. CONCLUSION

Based upon the facts that there is a need to make public wastewater service available within the requested territory; that PAWC-WD will expand its service territory to a new customer in compliance with Commission regulations; that the public may benefit from a decreased potential of contamination after the Property is connected to PAWC-WD's Upper Pottsgrove System and the old, failing on-lot septic system is removed; and that PAWC-WD is fit to provide 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-2025-3055740 is hereby approved, consistent with this Order.
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 Douglass Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, consistent with this Order.

3. 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.

4. 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 Douglass Township Board of Supervisors, the Douglass Township Planning Commission, the Berks County Commissioners, the Berks County Planning Commission, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Southcentral Regional Office and its Bureau of Regulatory Counsel.

5. That the proceeding at Docket No. A-2025-3055740 be closed after a Certificate of Public Convenience is issued in accordance with Ordering Paragraph 2.

BY THE COMMISSION,



Matthew L. Homsher
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: September 25, 2025

ORDER ENTERED: September 25, 2025