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Joint Application of		Docket Nos.:	A-2025-3055551
American Water Works			A-2025-3055552
Co., Inc., Pennsylvania-			A-2025-3055553
American Water Co.,			A-2025-3055554
Nexus Regulated			
Utilities, LLC and			
Community Utilities			
of Pennsylvania, Inc.			
1102/1103			
Call-In Telephonic			
Public Input Hearing			

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Judge's Chambers  
Commonwealth Keystone  
Building - Plaza Level  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA

September 24, 2025  
Commencing at 1:06 p.m.

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Docket No. A-2025-3055551, A-2025-3055552,

A-2025-3055553, A-2025-3055554

Hearing Date: September 24, 2025

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FOR IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>IN EVIDENCE</u>
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Written Statement

## One-Minute Testimony

Good evening, my name is Daixa Sanchez. I'm a PAWC water customer in Pittsburgh.

For the same 23 units of water, I paid \$55.69 in June 2024 and \$61.98 in January 2025. My base charge jumped from \$17.50 to \$18.80, and my usage rate from \$1.61 to \$1.87 per unit. That's nearly a 10% increase in less than a year, even before this merger. Now PAWC wants to merge with CUPA, who has already raised rates for their customers by 55% at least, with no promise nor enforceable commitment that this won't be spread out or impact existing PAWC customers.

Meanwhile, PAWC's online bill-pay system is unreliable. I test access days in advance and sometimes pay early just to avoid shutoff - but customers living paycheck to paycheck can't do that. They're the ones most at risk of late fees and disconnections.

Now we're also being told by Governor Shapiro and Senator McCormick that Pennsylvania should welcome massive AI data centers that can use as much water as a small town - and bring new pollution risks with their wastewater.

PAWC was already investigated by this Commission just last month, August 2025, for complaints about service and pollution, including chlorine and manganese concentrations in the same area they now want to merge with, according to the Times Tribune.

*(Source: <https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/08/07/puc-completes-review-of-pennsylvania-american-water-nepa-service-quality/>)*

My question is simple: will those industries pay their full costs, or will households like mine be forced to subsidize them and shoulder the environmental risks?

And American Water Works, PAWC's parent, paid its CEO \$8.6 million last year. If there's money for multimillion-dollar executive pay, there's money to protect existing customers.

So I ask the Commission: make it clear, in writing, that no existing PAWC customer outside CUPA's territory will see their bill go up because of this merger - and that industrial users like data centers will pay their own way, including pollution prevention.

Thank you.

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## Full Testimony

### Introduction

Good evening, my name is Daixa Sanchez, and I'm a PAWC water customer in Pittsburgh, ZIP 15210. I've testified before this Commission on water issues, and I'm here now because this merger risks raising my costs again while offering no clear protections for existing customers.

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## Rates & Affordability

On my bills, the impact is already clear. For the same 23 units of water:

- In June 2024, I paid \$55.69.
- In January 2025, I paid \$61.98.

My service charge went from \$17.50 to \$18.80, and my usage rate from \$1.61 to \$1.87 per unit - a 16% jump, in less than a year. That comes straight from PAWC's last rate case.

Now PAWC wants to absorb Community Utilities of Pennsylvania (CUPA) - a company that already tried to raise its own rates by 55% for water and 62% for wastewater. If this merger is approved, those costs won't disappear; they'll be spread to all of us, even households like mine in Allegheny County who don't use CUPA's systems.

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## Service Failures & Equity

PAWC's online bill-pay system is unreliable. If I pay late because their site is down, the penalty is on me - not them. I can sometimes manage by paying early, but that's not realistic for people living paycheck to paycheck. They can't front the money just to work around a broken system.

If PAWC can't maintain basic service for existing customers, how can they claim they're ready to absorb another utility?

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## Industrial Growth: AI Data Centers & Pollution

Pennsylvania leaders are courting AI data centers, which can consume up to five million gallons of water per day - as much as a small town. That raises two questions:

- Will PAWC force residential customers to subsidize the infrastructure needed for those facilities?
- And who pays for the pollution risks - the extra wastewater, chemical loads, or thermal discharge that come with large industrial customers?

I want PAWC to state clearly that industrial users must pay their full costs, including pollution prevention and remediation, and that households will not be left to carry the burden.

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## Executive Pay

American Water Works - PAWC's parent - paid its CEO \$8.6 million last year, with an 80:1 CEO-to-worker pay ratio. If there's money for multimillion-dollar executive compensation, there is money to shield customers from merger costs and industrial subsidies.

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## Public Interest Test

The public interest demands:

- No hidden rate hikes for existing PAWC customers.
  - No cost-shifting of CUPA's acquisition or upgrades to households outside CUPA's footprint.
  - No subsidizing of AI data centers or other industrial users.
  - No passing pollution costs onto residents.
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## Questions

- **Rates:** Can PAWC confirm, in writing, that no portion of CUPA's acquisition premium, transaction costs, or capital catch-up investments will be allocated to existing customers outside CUPA's territory? *Yes or no.*
  - **AI Data Centers:** If PAWC signs agreements with data centers, will it commit that those customers cover 100% of their costs and no costs are shifted to residential customers? *Yes or no.*
  - **Pollution:** Will PAWC commit that any new industrial or AI data center customers will be fully responsible for preventing and remediating pollution tied to their usage? *Yes or no.*
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## Closing

My bill already rose nearly 10% in the past year for the same water. I will not accept vague promises while costs creep higher through mergers, industrial demand, or pollution risks. If this merger truly benefits customers, then prove it: protect existing households in writing, with enforceable conditions. Otherwise, deny it.