

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement	:	
Petition to Request the Commission Open	:	P-2024-3051313
a Section 529 Investigation into the	:	
Acquisition of Rock Spring Water Company	:	

BRIEFING ORDER

On September 20, 2024, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (Commission) Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) filed a Petition to Request the Commission Open a Section 529 Investigation into the Acquisition of Rock Spring Water Company (Petition).

On October 9, 2024, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a Notice of Intervention. On October 10, 2024, Pennsylvania-American Water Company (PAWC) filed a Petition to Intervene.

On October 11, 2024, a hearing notice was issued establishing a telephonic prehearing conference for October 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and assigning me as the Presiding Officer. A Prehearing Conference Order was issued on October 15, 2024 setting forth rules that would govern the prehearing conference.

On October 16, 2024, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (Aqua) filed a Petition to Intervene. On October 21, 2024, State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) filed a Petition to Intervene. On October 23, 2024, the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA) filed a Notice of Intervention. On October 28, 2024, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed a Petition to Intervene.

No party filed an answer to I&E’s Petition.

The prehearing conference convened on October 30, 2024, as scheduled. Counsel for I&E, OCA, OSBA, PAWC, Aqua, SCBWA, DEP, and Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc. appeared. J. Campbell Roy, President of Rock Spring Water Company (RSWC), appeared, but was not represented by counsel.

On November 5, 2024, I issued Prehearing Order #1, setting forth the procedural matters addressed during the October 30, 2024, Prehearing Conference, including establishment of a litigation schedule.

On November 11, 2024, Ferguson Township filed a Petition to Intervene.

On December 2, 2024, I issued Prehearing Order #2, granting Ferguson Township's Petition to Intervene.

On January 15, 2025, the Commission issued an initial telephonic hearing notice setting a formal call-in telephonic hearing for the Petition for April 29 and 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

On February 6, 2025, the OCA filed a Petition for Issuance of an Interim Emergency Order (Interim Emergency Petition) pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 3.1–3.11.

On February 7, 2025, the Commission issued a telephonic hearing notice setting a formal call-in telephonic hearing for the Interim Emergency Petition for February 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. In anticipation of that hearing, I issued a prehearing order on February 7, 2025 setting forth various rules that would govern that proceeding.

On February 11, 2025, PAWC and DEP filed answers to the Interim Emergency Petition. On February 13, 2025, SCBWA filed an answer and new matter to the Interim Emergency Petition.

On February 14, 2025, the telephone hearing on the Interim Emergency Petition was held. Counsel for I&E, RSWC, OCA, OSBA, PAWC, Aqua, DEP, SCBWA, and Ferguson

Township appeared at the hearing. I&E, OCA, DEP, PAWC, Aqua, and SCBWA entered testimony and exhibits into the record at the February 14, 2025 evidentiary hearing regarding the OCA's Interim Emergency Petition.¹

On February 14, 2025, I issued a Briefing Order, directing parties that briefs may be filed by February 18, 2025. On February 18, 2025, I&E, RSWC, OCA, PAWC, Aqua, DEP, and SCBWA filed briefs. On February 18, 2025, OSBA filed a letter in lieu of a brief.

On February 20, 2025, I issued an order granting the Interim Emergency Petition and certifying the Material Question to the Commission of whether it was appropriate to grant the Interim Emergency Order and appoint PAWC as receiver for RSWC.

On February 27, 2025, PAWC and SCBWA filed briefs on the Material Question.

On March 5, 2025, counsel for RSWC filed a Motion to Withdraw as Counsel, which I treated as a written notice of withdrawal pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 1.24(b)(3).

On March 13, 2025, the Commission voted 5-0 to adopt a Joint Motion by Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank and Commissioner John F. Coleman, Jr. (Joint Motion) which, among other things, answered the Material Question in the affirmative, and directed RSWC to negotiate in earnest for the transfer of its water system to SCBWA and, if an agreement is reached, to file within 90 days of entry of an Opinion and Order an Application for Approval of Abandonment of its Certificate of Public Convenience (Abandonment Application).

On March 17, 2025, PAWC filed a Motion to Stay the Proceeding (Motion to Stay). PAWC's Motion to Stay indicated that no party to this proceeding, i.e., I&E, OCA, OSBA, Aqua, DEP, SCBWA, Ferguson Township, or RSWC opposed the Motion to Stay.

¹ The evidence entered into the record on behalf of I&E was first submitted on January 23, 2025, pursuant to the November 5, 2024 Prehearing Order.

On March 19, 2025, I issued an order granting the Motion to Stay. The order suspended the litigation schedule established by the November 5, 2024 Prehearing Order, and directed that, five days following RSWC's filing of an Abandonment Application, or 95 days following entry of the Commission's Opinion and Order answering the Material Question, whichever occurs first, all parties shall file a status report at the docket of this proceeding, either separately or jointly, to include the parties' understanding of what issues are still in dispute and the need for further proceedings. Also on March 19, 2025, the Commission issued a notice cancelling the initial telephonic hearing for the Petition for April 29 and 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

On March 21, 2025, the Commission entered its Opinion and Order adopting the Joint Motion.

On June 19, 2025, PAWC filed a letter stating that SCBWA and RSWC have not reached an agreement and, because 90 days have passed without an agreement between SCBWA and RSWC and no Abandonment Application has been filed, PAWC requested that a further prehearing conference be scheduled. No other status reports were filed.

On June 27, 2025, a hearing notice was issued establishing a further telephonic prehearing conference for July 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Also on June 27, 2025, a Prehearing Conference Order was issued, setting forth rules that would govern the July 23, 2025, prehearing conference.

On July 18, 2025, prehearing memoranda were filed by the following parties: I&E, OCA, OSBA, PAWC, Aqua, SCBWA, and DEP.

The prehearing conference convened on July 23, 2025, as scheduled. Counsel for I&E, OCA, OSBA, PAWC, Aqua, SCBWA, DEP, RSWC,² and Ferguson Township were present at the prehearing conference.

² Rodney Beard, Esq., appeared on behalf of RSWC. Mr. Beard subsequently entered his notice of appearance in this proceeding on July 29, 2025.

On July 24, 2025, I issued Prehearing Order #3, setting forth the procedural matters addressed during the July 23, 2025 Prehearing Conference, including establishment of a new litigation schedule.

On September 2, 2025, Ferguson Township filed a letter to the docket of this proceeding, requesting a public input hearing on September 30, 2025. On September 9, 2025, a Notice of In-Person Public Input Hearings was issued, setting two in-person public input hearings for September 30, 2025, in Ferguson Township. Also on September 9, 2025, I issued Prehearing Order #4, modifying the litigation schedule to include the public input hearings and extend the due date for filing of pre-served surrebuttal testimony.

On September 30, 2025, two in-person public input hearings were held in Ferguson Township.

On October 3, 2025, DEP filed an Application for the Issuance of a Subpoena. On October 8, 2025, I issued an order granting DEP's Subpoena request.

The evidentiary hearing was held as scheduled on October 20, 2025. During the hearing, testimony and exhibits were admitted into the record, witnesses were cross-examined, and parties were provided briefing instructions. The hearing concluded on October 20, 2025. With no further matters to address at an evidentiary hearing, the second day of hearings scheduled for October 21, 2025 was cancelled.

The purpose of this order is to provide further instructions on the submission of briefs.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Main Briefs are due on or before Friday, November 7, 2025;
2. That Reply Briefs are due on or before Friday, November 21, 2025;
3. That briefs may not exceed 60 pages in length;
4. That the briefs must substantially comply with the Commission's regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.501, 5.502;
5. That the briefs must contain: (a) a concise statement or counter-statement of the case; (b) an argument, with sufficient citations to record evidence, preceded by a summary; and (c) a conclusion with requested relief;
6. That Main Briefs shall include (a) proposed Findings of Fact, together with page references to statements of testimony and exhibits; (b) proposed Conclusions of Law, together with legal citations; and (c) proposed Ordering Paragraphs;
7. That proposed Findings of Fact, proposed Conclusions of Law, and proposed Ordering Paragraphs do not count towards the 60-page limit for Main Briefs;
8. That the parties shall file the original copy of the Main Brief with the Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date due;
9. That the parties shall file the original copy of the Reply Brief with the Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date due;

P-2024-3051313 - PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ENFORCEMENT PETITION TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION OPEN A SECTION 529 INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACQUISITION OF ROCK SPRING WATER COMPANY

Revised: October 20, 2025

CARRIE B WRIGHT ESQUIRE
PA PUC BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AND ENFORCEMENT
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17120
717.783.6156
carwright@pa.gov
Served via eService October 22, 2025

ALEXANDER R STAHL ESQUIRE
AQUA PENNSYLVANIA INC
762 W LANCASTER AVENUE
BRYN MAWR PA 19010
610.645.1130
astahl@aquaamerica.com
Served via eService October 22, 2025
(Counsel for Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.)

ROD BEARD ESQUIRE
BEARD LAW COMPANY
101 N ALLEGHENY STREET
BELLEFONTE PA 16823
rod@beardlawco.com
Served via email October 22, 2025
(Counsel for Rock Spring Water Company)

REBECCA LYTTLE ESQUIRE
STEVEN C. GRAY ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCATE
FORUM PLACE
555 WALNUT STREET 1ST FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101
relyttle@pa.gov
sgray@pa.gov
717.783.2525
Served via email October 22, 2025

JANNA E WILLIAMS ESQUIRE
DARRYL A LAWRENCE ESQUIRE
MELANIE JOY EL ATIEH ESQUIRE
JACOB GUTHRIE ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
555 WALNUT STREET
5TH FLOOR FORUM PLACE
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.5048
OCARockSpring@paoca.org
Served eService October 22, 2025

ERIN K FURE ESQUIRE
DAVID P ZAMBITO ESQUIRE
JONATHAN P NASE ESQUIRE
COZEN OCONNOR
17 NORTH SECOND STREET
SUITE 1410
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.703.5892
erin.fure@amwater.com
dzambito@cozen.com
jnase@cozen.com
Served via eService October 22, 2025
(Counsel for Pennsylvania-American Water Company)

ROBERT A MIX ESQUIRE
ROBERT MIX LAW
211 KIMPORT AVENUE
BOALSBURG PA 16827

Bmix470@gmail.com

814.880.2366

Served via eService October 22, 2025
*(Counsel for State College Borough
Water Authority)*

DAVID S GAINES JR ESQUIRE
MILLER KISTLER & CAMPBELL
720 SOUTH ATHERTON STREET
SUITE 201

STATE COLLEGE PA 16801

814.234.1500

dgaines@mkclaw.com

Served via eService October 22, 2025
*(Counsel for State College Borough
Water Authority)*

AMANDA CHAPLIN ESQUIRE
GLENN MASSER ESQUIRE
NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
208 WEST THIRD STREET
SUITE 101
WILLIAMSPORT PA 17701

achaplin@pa.gov

gmasser@pa.gov

570.321.6568

Served via eService October 22, 2025
*(Counsel for Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, Department of
Environmental Protection)*

J ROY CAMPBELL
ROCK SPRING WATER COMPANY
1750 TADPOLE ROAD
FURNACE PA 16865

rsw5@comcast.net

Served via eService and first-class mail
October 22, 2025

ELIZABETH ANN DUPUIS ESQUIRE
MORGAN M MADDEN ESQUIRE
BABST CALLAND CLEMENTS &
ZOMNIR

330 INNOVATION BLVD SUITE 302
STATE COLLEGE PA 16803

814.867.8055

bdupuis@babstcalland.com

mmadden@babstcalland.com

Served via eService October 22, 2025
(Counsel for the Township of Ferguson)