

OBJECTIONS TO SETTLEMENT

Please sign this sheet if you would like to **oppose** the Joint Petition for Approval of Partial Settlement signed by York Water Company, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, and the Office of Small Business Advocate on **November 10, 2025**, in the case of *Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. York Water Company*, Docket Nos. R-2025-3053442 (Water), R-2025-3053573 (Wastewater). **You are encouraged to provide written comments below and/or attach additional pages**, setting forth any facts and explanation for your objections.

By adding my signature below, I am indicating that I have read the terms of the Settlement Agreement and wish to **oppose** the Settlement. I understand that I may file objections (below and/or by attachment to this Objections Page) to the Settlement and exceptions to a Recommended Decision and that my complaint will be resolved as part of the PUC order resolving this case.

Sheri A Stein

Please Print Your Full Name

Date: 11/10/2025

Please Write Your Address Here:

Sheri Stein

Please Sign Your Full Name

161 Rustic Wood Dr
Gettysburg, PA
17325

Docket Numbers of Your Complaint(s) (begins with C-2025):

~~R-2025-3053442~~

C-2025-3056225-AEL-11/12/25

Written Comments and reasons for objecting (may attach additional sheets):

Objection Details 2 pages
Attached

Objection to Proposed Settlement Agreement

Monopoly Concerns and Lack of Alternatives

York Water is a publicly traded company with stockholders, and for Amblebrook residents, it operates as a capitalistic monopoly. Residents have no alternative providers and are entirely dependent on the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for protection. Final prices are imposed without recourse, leaving customers with no choice but to comply.

Utilities Parity and Cost Comparison

There is a clear disparity in utility costs. My current monthly water/sewer bill stands at \$150/month on average. The water and sewer bill is projected to be \$195 per month after the proposed increases. In comparison, gas is on budget billing at \$222 per month, and electricity averages \$180 per month. The proposed settlement offers residents no opportunity to reduce their bills. York Water's new flat fee for sewer, set at \$112.80, represents an increase of \$25.90 per month. This pricing structure is monopolistic, leaving customers with no control or alternatives, and is not a temporary expense. Most homes in the area have just one or two occupants and it seems unfair to charge all homes the same amount of money for existing. Historical evidence suggests continuous rate increases, with no end in sight.

Inflation and Rate Increases

Inflation rates over six years total actual and estimated futures cumulatively total 20.6%:

- 2023: 4.1%
- 2024: 3%
- 2025: 3%
- 2026-2029 (estimated cumulative): 10.5%

In contrast, rate increases for water services are significantly higher, with a cumulative total of 68.8%:

- 2022 (previous): 39%
- 2026 (current proposed): 29.8%

Over a six-year period, cumulative U.S. inflation is about 20%, while rate increases approach 68.8%. This pattern underscores the monopolistic nature of the business and highlights the need for PUC intervention and protection.

Investment Regret and Rate Structure

The expectation of a return on investment (ROI) for a project originally planned as a ten-year build-out is unacceptable. York Water entered Amblebrook fully aware of the long-term commitment. Now, due to apparent buyer's remorse and insufficient funding plans for systemwide maintenance and repairs, the company seeks to accelerate revenue collection, disproportionately impacting senior citizens. It would be reasonable to have the sewer rate include an expiration date, like an investment or bond, specifically for Amblebrook residents. Eternal and ever-increasing rates are not acceptable. The question arises: will York Water offer dividends to Amblebrook residents in six years, when construction is complete and sewer revenue exceeds \$2.7 million annually?

Concerns Regarding Age Discrimination

Questions remain about York Water's understanding of Amblebrook's demographics. False information about anything other than residents affected suggests a lack of accurate data. Amblebrook appears to be receiving different treatment, due to buyer's remorse. The proposed rate increase targets senior citizens, possibly because they receive reliable income from Social Security. Seniors may be less able to advocate for themselves, facing medical and cognitive challenges that limit their ability to respond. York Water's offer of financial assistance to those in distress may further burden the most vulnerable and make them feel diminished. Limited responses from Amblebrook residents likely reflect these challenges and a sense of futility. York Water may assume that new homes indicate financial capacity to absorb shareholder-driven costs. The ripple effect of these unchecked rate increases goes beyond monthly billing and impacts include:

- Increased HOA fees, which if increased at the same rate equals and additional \$105/monthly per household.
- Negative impact on potential buyer decisions
- Decreased home value due to decreased buyer interest.
- Decreased financial ability to support Adams County needs and organizations.

While residents are willing to contribute their fair share, the need for PUC to intervene and halt this situation is clear, especially for those unable to advocate for themselves.