

# Morgan Lewis

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December 11, 2025

## **VIA eFILING**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v.  
Pennsylvania-American Water Company  
Docket Nos. R-2025-3057983 and R-2025-3058051**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matters is the **Prehearing Memorandum of Pennsylvania-American Water Company** (the “Prehearing Memorandum”).

Copies of the Prehearing Memorandum have been served upon Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey A. Watson, Administrative Law Judge Emily I. DeVoe, and the parties that are listed on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth M. Kulak

KMK/ap  
Enclosures

c: Per Certificate of Service (w/encls.)

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**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION</b>	:	
	:	<b>Docket No. R-2025-3057983</b>
	:	<b>(Water)</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	<b>Docket No. R-2025-3058051</b>
<b>PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY</b>	:	<b>(Wastewater)</b>

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this date served true and correct copies of the **Prehearing Memorandum of Pennsylvania-American Water Company** on the following individuals in the matter specified in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54:

**VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL OR ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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Dated: December 11, 2025

*Counsel for Pennsylvania-American Water  
Company*

**\*W - Filed a Water Complaint**  
**\*WW - Filed a Wastewater Complaint**

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION</b>	:	
	:	
	:	<b>Docket No. R-2025-3057983 (Water)</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	<b>Docket No. R-2025-3058051(Wastewater)</b>
	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY</b>	:	
	:	

**PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF  
PENNSYLVANIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**

This memorandum is submitted in response to the Prehearing Conference issued by Administrative Law Judges Jeffrey A. Watson and Emily I. DeVoe dated December 5, 2025.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On November 14, 2025, the Pennsylvania-American Water Company (“PAWC” or the “Company”) filed Supplement No. 58 to Tariff Water – Pa. P.U.C. No. 5 (“Water Tariff Supplement”) and Supplement No. 61 to Tariff Wastewater – Pa. P.U.C. No. 16 (“Wastewater Tariff Supplement”), requesting an increase in its total annual operating revenues to become effective January 13, 2026. The amount of the requested increase equals \$168.7 million or approximately 14.6% above the level of pro forma revenues for the fully projected future test year (“FPFTY”) ending June 30, 2027. By Orders entered December 4, 2025, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (the “Commission”) instituted a formal investigation at Docket Nos. R-2025-3057983 (Water) and R-2025-3058051 (Wastewater) to determine the lawfulness, justness and reasonableness of the Company’s existing and proposed rates, rules and regulations. Accordingly, the Water Tariff Supplement and Wastewater Tariff Supplement were suspended by operation of law until August 13, 2026, unless permitted by Commission order to become effective at an earlier date.

Accompanying the Water and Wastewater Tariff Supplements, PAWC filed the extensive and detailed supporting information required by the Commission's regulations, including the prepared direct testimony of the Company's fourteen initial witnesses and the various exhibits to be sponsored by them. During the course of this case, the Company may submit additional testimony and exhibits in response to the presentations of, or cross-examination by, other parties. In addition, the Company may revise certain statements and exhibits during the course of the Commission's investigation to reflect known and measurable changes reasonably expected to occur during the applicable test periods.

In support of its proposed rate increase, the Company has presented data for the historic test year ("HTY") ended June 30, 2025, the future test year ("FTY") ending June 30, 2026 and the FPFTY ending June 30, 2027. The Company intends to rely primarily on the FPFTY data in support of its proposed rate increase. It is the Company's belief that the record at the close of this proceeding will demonstrate the justness and reasonableness of its proposed rates.

## **II. ISSUES**

Generally, every rate case presents two major issues for resolution: (1) the total amount of the revenue increase to which the utility is entitled; and (2) the allocation of the increased revenues among the utility's customer classifications through a rate structure and rate design that will produce the required revenue. As discussed below, the Company's computation of its required revenue increase and its proposed allocation of the increase to each customer classification have been developed by applying principles and procedures that, for the most part, the Commission has reviewed and approved in numerous prior cases.

A determination of the total revenue increase to which a utility is entitled involves a number of elements that may be grouped under three headings and characterized as the following major sub-issues:

(1) **Total Return.** The total return is the operating income required by the utility to achieve an overall fair rate of return on its claimed rate base. Identifying a fair rate of return involves determining the appropriate cost rate, expressed as a percentage, for each form of capital (debt, preferred stock and common equity) the Company and its investors have committed to furnishing water and wastewater service. The total return allowed by the Commission must be sufficient to enable the Company to maintain the financial integrity of its existing capital and to attract additional investment on reasonable terms. In particular, the Company must be permitted a reasonable opportunity to earn a return on the portion of its rate base financed by common equity that is commensurate with the returns on equity realized by investments in other enterprises having similar risks. The appropriate rate of return for the Company, and in particular the appropriate return rate for the Company's common equity, is an issue that is critical to the well-being of the Company and its ability to continue to provide the service that its customers have been receiving and are entitled to receive in the future.

(2) **Operating Expenses.** Operating expenses consist of the future or ongoing level of the utility's total operating expenses, including depreciation and taxes, that must be recovered from customers through rates in order for a utility to have a reasonable opportunity to achieve its allowed rate of return.

(3) **Revenues.** This component consists of the total revenue from utility operations that is normally available to the utility under present rates and will be produced by the proposed rate levels.

The increase in revenue and rate levels required to produce a fair rate of return is determined by comparing the revenue produced by the utility's present rates with its total required operating income and anticipated operating expenses, depreciation and taxes.

The allocation of the proposed revenue increase and the Company's proposed rate structure and rate design are explained in the Statement of Specific Reasons for Proposed Increase in Rates submitted with the Company's initial filing and further described in the direct testimony of PAWC witnesses Christina Chard and Max McClellan. As set forth therein, the Company's proposed rate structure continues to implement the Commission-approved concept of establishing a uniform set of rates to apply Company-wide.

### **III. WITNESSES**

Set forth below are the anticipated case-in-chief witnesses for the Company and a brief description of the subject matter of their testimony and exhibits:

**Justin L. Ladner** (PAWC Statement No. 1) is the President of PAWC. Mr. Ladner provides an overview of PAWC's initial filing, including an introduction of the Company's other witnesses that are providing direct testimony in this case and a discussion of the major drivers of the Company's request for rate relief in this proceeding; addresses the Company's overall management performance in relation to the factors identified in Section 523 of the Code; and discusses PAWC's community involvement and customer outreach.

**Dr. Christina Chard** (PAWC Statement No. 2) is the Senior Director of Rates and Regulatory for PAWC. Dr. Chard discusses the Company's principal accounting exhibit in the case; PAWC's commitment to affordability of water and wastewater service under present and proposed rates and a description of its customer assistance programs; an overview of PAWC's rate structure and rate design proposals; the Company's proposed regulatory accounting treatment for pension and OPEB costs; the Company's use of authority conferred by Section 1311(c) of the Code to mitigate the impact of revenue increases on wastewater customers by recovering a portion of the Company's wastewater revenue requirement from its total water and wastewater customer

base; the Company's proposed Customer Assistance Program Rider; and the Company's other proposed tariff changes in this case.

**Jim Runzer** (PAWC Statement No. 3) is the Vice President of Operations for PAWC. Mr. Runzer discusses the general operations of the Company; PAWC's commitment to supplying high quality water and wastewater service; initiatives taken to increase efficiency, enhance service and control costs, including efforts to control non-revenue water and implementation of advanced metering infrastructure; the Company's investment in troubled systems and receiverships; employee and customer safety and employee training and development; and support for employee levels and compensation.

**Anthony M. Nokovich** (PAWC Statement No. 4) is the Vice President of Engineering for PAWC. Mr. Nokovich's testimony discusses the Company's capital investment planning process; PAWC's plant additions to be placed in service during the FTY and FPFTY; operational and regulatory risks associated with maintaining safe and adequate water quantity and water quality and complying with applicable drinking water and environmental regulations associated with owning and operating facilities for supplying water and wastewater services to the public; complying with environmental regulations applicable to owning and operating facilities for furnishing wastewater service to the public; the challenges climate variability could create for water and wastewater utilities; and the Company's strategic investment in acquired systems.

**Jared Deason** (PAWC Statement No. 5) is Director, Rates and Regulatory for American Water Works Service Company, Inc. ("AWWSC"). His testimony discusses the Company's claims for rate base, depreciation and amortization and acquisitions since its last rate case that PAWC has reflected in its proposed rate base in this case.

**Lori O'Malley** (PAWC Statement No. 6) is Senior Manager Regulatory Services for AWWSC. Her testimony addresses the Company's claims for labor and labor-related expenses, Service Company expenses, other operation and maintenance ("O&M") expenses, miscellaneous expenses, rate case and regulatory expense, and taxes other than income; and describes the allocation of expenses between water and wastewater operations.

**Don Wieczenski** (PAWC Statement No. 7) is Senior Director of Business Development for PAWC. He describes various acquisitions that PAWC has included in this base rate case; provides support for the Company's request for acquisition adjustments pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 1327 (relating to acquisition of water and sewer utilities) and 52 Pa. Code § 69.711 (statement of policy regarding small nonviable water and wastewater systems); and describes the Company's proposed demand-based wastewater riders and receivership tariff provisions.

**Linda Schlessman** (PAWC Statement No. 8) is Director of Tax Regulatory for AWWSC. She addresses the Pennsylvania state tax rate change; the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax; and the tax treatment of acquisitions included in the Company's rate case.

**Deba F. Ather** (PAWC Statement No. 9) is Senior Manager of Regulatory Services for AWWSC. She presents the Company's affordability analyses for water and wastewater service.

**Max McClellan** (PAWC Statement No. 10) is a Principal Regulatory Analyst for AWWSC. His testimony explains the design of current and proposed tariff rates; describes the Company's analysis of residential, commercial, and municipal water consumption; and discusses PAWC's claimed revenues.

**John J. Spanos** (PAWC Statement No. 11) is President of Gannett Fleming Valuation and Rate Consultants LLC. Mr. Spanos' testimony explains the development of the depreciated

original cost of the Company's utility plant in service and its claims for annual depreciation expense.

**Gregory R. Herbert** (PAWC Statement No. 12) is Assistant Project Manager, Rate Studies for Gannett Fleming Valuation and Rate Consultants, LLC. Mr. Herbert's testimony explains the allocation of the cost of service to customer classifications and the identification of stormwater-related costs of service of combined sewer systems.

**Ann E. Bulkley** (PAWC Statement No. 13) is a Principal with The Brattle Group. Ms. Bulkley provides a recommendation regarding PAWC's authorized return on equity and assesses the reasonableness of its proposed capital structure for ratemaking purposes.

**John Popiolek** (PAWC Statement No. 14) is a Retirement Plan Actuary and Director with Willis Towers Watson. Mr. Popiolek presents the actuarial projections that support the Company's claim for pension and OPEB expense.

The business addresses of PAWC's witnesses are set forth in their respective written statements of direct testimony. The Company may present additional witnesses to address the direct testimony of other parties; however, such witnesses cannot be identified until the direct testimony of such parties is reviewed and evaluated.

#### **IV. DISCOVERY**

To date, PAWC has been served with approximately 255 interrogatories, many of which contain multiple subparts. PAWC encourages informal exchanges of information and is prepared to meet with representatives of the parties to discuss issues of interest to them.

The discovery modifications proposed by the OCA in its prehearing memorandum are acceptable to PAWC.

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.341(b) and § 5.342(e), respectively, neither discovery requests and responses, nor objections to interrogatories, are to be served on the Commission or the

Administrative Law Judge, although a certificate of service should be filed with the Commission's Secretary.

In addition, by separate Petition being filed contemporaneously with the Company's Prehearing Memorandum, the Company is requesting that the Administrative Law Judge enter a Protective Order to cover confidential and proprietary information and documents. As explained in the Company's Petition, the proposed Protective Order is substantially the same as Protective Orders approved in other recent base rate proceedings.<sup>1</sup>

## **V. PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS**

PAWC has prepared and attached as Appendix A to this Memorandum a proposed schedule for the submission of testimony, the conduct of evidentiary hearings, and the filing of briefs. This schedule is consistent with the guidance of the Administrative Law Judges in the Prehearing Conference Order in these proceedings issued on December 5, 2025. PAWC will continue to work in good faith with the parties to reach agreement on a consensus schedule.

## **VI. SETTLEMENT**

PAWC is willing to pursue with the parties, and encourages, the possible stipulation of individual issues or more far-ranging settlement discussions that might lead to a comprehensive resolution of this case with some or all of the parties.

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<sup>1</sup> *E.g., Pa. P.U.C. v. Pa.-Am. Water Co.*, Docket Nos. R-2023-304189 and R-2023-304190, Order Granting Petition for a Protective Order (January 5, 2025) (Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Christopher P. Pell and Administrative Law Judge John M. Coogan); *Pa. P.U.C. v. Pa.-Am. Water Co.*, Docket Nos. R-2022-3031672 and R-2022-3031673, Order Granting Motion for a Protective Order (July 15, 2022) (Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Joel H. Cheskis); *Pa. P.U.C. v. Pa. P.U.C. v. Pa.-Am. Water Co.*, Docket Nos. R-2020-3019369 and R-2020-3019371, First Interim Order Granting Respondent's Petition for Protective Order (June 26, 2020) (Administrative Law Judge Conrad A. Johnson).

## VII. SERVICE LIST

PAWC requests that the official service list entry for the Company be as follows:

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PAWC also requests that a copy of all correspondence, discovery, testimony and other materials sent to the Company be provided to:

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Additionally, PAWC also requests that a copy of all correspondence, discovery, testimony and other materials sent to the Company be provided to Andrea Preate via electronic mail at [andrea.preate-regni@morganlewis.com](mailto:andrea.preate-regni@morganlewis.com).

Attorney Teresa K. Harrold will speak as the lead attorney for the Company for the purposes of the prehearing conference.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence summarized above, it is the position of Pennsylvania-American Water Company that the rates proposed in Supplement No. 58 to Tariff Water – Pa. P.U.C. No. 5 and Supplement No. 61 to Tariff Wastewater – Pa. P.U.C. No. 16 are just, reasonable and lawful in all respects and, accordingly, the requested rate increases should be approved by the ALJs and the Commission at the close of this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Counsel for*  
*Pennsylvania-American Water Company*

Dated: December 11, 2025

**APPENDIX A**

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE**

Initial Filing	November 14, 2025
Prehearing Conference	December 12, 2025
Public Input Hearings	Weeks of January 5 and January 12, 2026
Opposing Party Direct Testimony	January 30, 2026
Rebuttal Testimony (all parties and all issues)	February 27, 2026
Surrebuttal Testimony (all parties and all issues)	March 13, 2026
Written Rejoinder or Outlines of Oral Rejoinder	March 19, 2026
Evidentiary Hearings (including oral rejoinder)	March 23-25, 2026 *PAWC witness Ladner unavailable beginning March 24 (p.m.)
Main Briefs due	April 6, 2026
Reply Briefs due	April 15, 2026
Public Meeting	July 16, 2026
End of Suspension Period	August 13, 2026