



December 22, 2025

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank
400 North St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: Opposition to Pennsylvania American Water Proposed Rate Increase

Dear Chairman DeFrank and Commissioners,

On behalf of the New Cumberland Borough Council in Cumberland County, I write to formally and emphatically oppose the proposed rate increase by Pennsylvania American Water (PAWC). This proposed escalation imposes a severe financial hardship on our community, particularly on our many residents who are retired, on fixed incomes, or facing economic challenges considering rising costs across essential sectors such as food, healthcare, and utilities.

The proposed increases—approximately \$14 per month for water service, \$10 per month for wastewater, and up to \$20 per month for combined stormwater and wastewater customers—represent a substantial and unacceptable escalation in household expenses. For many families in New Cumberland Borough, these additional costs are unsustainable and jeopardize their ability to afford basic necessities.

While PAWC asserts that this increase is necessary to fund critical infrastructure improvements, our residents are deeply concerned about continuous rate hikes over recent years. These ongoing increases have effectively charged customers for infrastructure projects that should have been completed already. It is unreasonable for residents to bear the weight of deferred corporate inefficiencies and capital costs while PAWC continues to report robust profit margins and substantial returns for shareholders.

We urge the Commission to scrutinize PAWC's financial and project management practices and to explore alternative funding mechanisms that do not unduly penalize customers—especially vulnerable populations including seniors, working families, and individuals with disabilities. It is paramount that the Commission prioritize affordability, transparency, and fairness in its ruling.

The New Cumberland Borough Council looks forward to actively participating in the upcoming 2026 public hearings to ensure our community's voice is heard and its needs are considered.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you **deny this proposed rate increase** and instead work with PAWC to develop solutions that safeguard both critical infrastructure and the economic well-being of Pennsylvania residents.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

David H. Stone
Council President
New Cumberland Borough Council