

# Morgan Lewis

**Mark A. Lazaroff**

Partner

+1.215.963.4603

mark.lazaroff@morganlewis.com

January 20, 2026

**VIA eFILING**

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

**Re: Joint Application Of American Water Works Company, Inc., Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, And Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. For A Certificate Of Public Convenience Under Sections 1102(a)(3) And 2210(c) Of The Public Utility Code And All Other Necessary Approvals To Effect A Change Of Control Of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., And Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC  
Docket Nos. A-2025-3058927, A-2025-3058928 and A-2025-3058929**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed please find the **Answer of American Water Works Company, Inc., Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, and Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. to the Late-Filed Petition to Intervene of North York Borough** in the above captioned matter.

As indicated in the Certificate of Service, copies have been served upon all parties of record.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 215.963.4603. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Mark A. Lazaroff

MAL/ap

Enclosures

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

DB1/ 165717886.1

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

2222 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3007  
United States

**T** +1.215.963.5000  
**F** +1.215.963.5001

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**JOINT APPLICATION OF AMERICAN :  
WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC., :  
ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AQUA :  
PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA :  
PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC., :  
PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY :  
LLC AND ALPHA MERGER SUB, INC. :  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC : Docket Nos. A-2025-3058927  
CONVENIENCE UNDER SECTIONS : A-2025-3058928  
1102(A)(3) AND 2210(C) OF THE PUBLIC : A-2025-3058929  
UTILITY CODE AND ALL OTHER :  
NECESSARY APPROVALS TO EFFECT :  
A CHANGE OF CONTROL OF AQUA :  
PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA :  
PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC., :  
AND PEOPLES NATURAL GAS :  
COMPANY LLC :**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this date served true and correct copies of the **Answer of American Water Works Company, Inc., Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, and Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. in Opposition to the Late-Filed Petition to Intervene of North York Borough** on the following individuals in the matter specified in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54:

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mary D. Long  
Office of Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
[malong@pa.gov](mailto:malong@pa.gov)

Harrison W. Breitman  
Joel Cheskis  
Johnathan M. Longhurst  
Crystal Zook  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
5th Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923  
[PAWCAquaExternal@paoca.org](mailto:PAWCAquaExternal@paoca.org)  
*Counsel for the Office of Consumer Advocate*

Scott B. Granger  
Director and Chief Prosecutor  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[sgranger@pa.gov](mailto:sgranger@pa.gov)  
*Counsel for the Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement*

Steven C. Gray  
Small Business Advocate  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
1st Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[sgray@pa.gov](mailto:sgray@pa.gov)  
*Counsel for the Office of Small Business  
Advocate*

Thomas Wyatt  
Matthew S. Olesh  
Matthew E. Selmasska  
Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP  
Centre Square West  
1500 Market Street, Suite 3400  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
[Thomas.Wyatt@obermayer.com](mailto:Thomas.Wyatt@obermayer.com)  
[Matthew.Olesh@obermayer.com](mailto:Matthew.Olesh@obermayer.com)  
[Matthew.selmasska@obermayer.com](mailto:Matthew.selmasska@obermayer.com)  
*Counsel for City of Butler, County of Delaware,  
East Whiteland Township, Manchester  
Township, North York Borough, Spring Garden  
Township, West Manchester Township and York  
Township.*

Sean Kilkenny  
Alex J. Baumler  
Kilkenny Law, LLC  
519 Swede Street  
Norristown, PA 19401  
[sean@skilkennylaw.com](mailto:sean@skilkennylaw.com)  
[alex@skilkennylaw.com](mailto:alex@skilkennylaw.com)  
*Counsel for East Norriton Township*

Ria M. Pereira  
Lauren N. Berman  
Elizabeth R. Marx  
John W. Sweet  
Levi A. Phillips  
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[pulp@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:pulp@pautilitylawproject.org)  
*Counsel for the Coalition for Affordable  
Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in  
Pennsylvania*

Maureen B. Carlton  
Andrew P. Griffin  
Aaron D. Nelson  
Curtin & Heefner LLP  
1040 Stony Hill Road, Suite 150  
Yardley, PA 19067  
[mbc@curtinheefner.com](mailto:mbc@curtinheefner.com)  
[apg@curtinheefner.com](mailto:apg@curtinheefner.com)  
[adn@curtinheefner.com](mailto:adn@curtinheefner.com)  
*Counsel for Township of Lower Makefield*

Kevin Dooley Kent  
Joseph W. Jesiolowski  
Clark Hill PLC  
Two Commerce Square  
2001 Market Street, Suite 2620  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
[kkent@clarkhill.com](mailto:kkent@clarkhill.com)  
[jjesiolowski@clarkhill.com](mailto:jjesiolowski@clarkhill.com)  
*Counsel for Chester Water Authority*

Michael L. Maddren  
Murphy Maddren Ltd  
6 Dickinson Drive  
Suite 115  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
[mike@murphymaddren.com](mailto:mike@murphymaddren.com)  
*Counsel for Upland Borough*

Samuel J. Pasquarelli  
Sherrard, German & Kelly PC  
535 Smithfield Street  
Suite 300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
[samuel.pasquarelli@sgkpc.co](mailto:samuel.pasquarelli@sgkpc.co)  
*Counsel for Utility Workers Union of  
America, AFL-CIO, Local 612*



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Kenneth M. Kulak (Pa. No. 75509)  
Mark A. Lazaroff (Pa. No. 315407)  
Catherine G. Vasudevan (Pa. No. 210254)  
Brooke E. McGlinn (Pa. No. 204918)  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
2222 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
[ken.kulak@morganlewis.com](mailto:ken.kulak@morganlewis.com)  
[mark.lazaroff@morganlewis.com](mailto:mark.lazaroff@morganlewis.com)  
[catherine.vasudevan@morganlewis.com](mailto:catherine.vasudevan@morganlewis.com)  
[brooke.mcglinn@morganlewis.com](mailto:brooke.mcglinn@morganlewis.com)

Dated: January 20, 2026

DB1/ 165717812.1

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>JOINT APPLICATION OF AMERICAN</b>	:	
<b>WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,</b>	:	
<b>ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AQUA</b>	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA</b>	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC.,</b>	:	
<b>PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY</b>	:	
<b>LLC AND ALPHA MERGER SUB, INC.</b>	:	<b>DOCKET NOS. A-2025-3058927</b>
<b>FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC</b>	:	<b>A-2025-3058928</b>
<b>CONVENIENCE UNDER SECTIONS</b>	:	<b>A-2025-3058929</b>
<b>1102(A)(3) AND 2210(C) OF THE PUBLIC</b>	:	
<b>UTILITY CODE AND ALL OTHER</b>	:	
<b>NECESSARY APPROVALS TO EFFECT A</b>	:	
<b>CHANGE OF CONTROL OF AQUA</b>	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA</b>	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC.,</b>	:	
<b>AND PEOPLES NATURAL GAS</b>	:	
<b>COMPANY LLC</b>	:	

**ANSWER OF AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC., ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AQUA PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC., PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC, AND ALPHA MERGER SUB, INC. TO THE LATE-FILED PETITION TO INTERVENE OF NORTH YORK BOROUGH**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

Pursuant to the 52 Pa. Code § 5.66, American Water Works Company, Inc. (“American Water”), Essential Utilities, Inc. f/k/a Aqua America, Inc. (“Essential”),<sup>1</sup> Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Aqua PA”) and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (“Aqua PA WW”),<sup>2</sup> Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (“Peoples”), and Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. (“Merger Sub”) (collectively, the “Joint Applicants”) submit this Answer to the Late-Filed Petition to Intervene (the “Petition”) of North

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<sup>1</sup> Aqua America, Inc. changed its name to Essential Utilities, Inc. on February 3, 2020 following its acquisition of Peoples.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise specified herein, references to Aqua PA also include Aqua PA WW, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aqua PA.

York Borough (the “Borough”) in the above-referenced proceedings.<sup>3</sup> The application filed by the Joint Applicants (“Joint Application”) seeks Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approval under Chapters 11 and 22 of the Public Utility Code for a change in control of Aqua PA and Peoples to be effected by the proposed merger of Essential and Merger Sub, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (the “Merger”). As explained below, the Joint Applicants oppose the Petition because the Borough has no legally recognizable interest in the instant merger proceeding and, therefore, cannot meet the eligibility criteria set forth in the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (the “Commission’s”) regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 5.72.

First, the Borough’s stated interest in this proceeding, as set forth in its Petition, arises from its bulk agreement with Pennsylvania American-Water Company (“PAWC) pursuant to which PAWC provides wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment services to the Borough. PAWC is an American Water operating subsidiary. However, PAWC is not a party to this proceeding, and the Merger only involves a change in the ultimate ownership and control of Aqua PA and Peoples – not PAWC. Following completion of the Merger, American Water will remain the ultimate corporate parent of PAWC, and Aqua PA, Peoples and PAWC will remain separate utilities as they are today. In short, the Commission’s decision in this proceeding will have no impact on PAWC, including its ownership, operations, service, and rates.

The Borough also seeks to intervene to make sure its residents that are currently PAWC customers will receive wastewater service at reasonable rates in accordance with the Public Utility Code if American Water decides to consolidate PAWC and Aqua PA WW operations in the future.

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<sup>3</sup> The Petition was filed on January 12, 2026. However, as of the date of this Answer, the Joint Applicants have not received service of the Petition and learned of the filing based on a review of the docket for these proceedings.

However, a general interest in full compliance with the law does not confer standing to intervene in a Commission proceeding.<sup>4</sup> Following the proposed merger, PAWC's rates, including the rates set forth in the bulk agreement, will be subject to review in future base rate proceedings in which the Borough will be able to participate. In any event, the interests of all utility customers are adequately represented by the statutory parties that are actively participating in this proceeding.<sup>5</sup> The Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement ("I&E"), which has the broadest mandate, functions as an independent prosecutorial bureau within the Commission and, as such, is charged with representing the public interest ratemaking and service matters.<sup>6</sup> The Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") has a statutory obligation to protect the interests of residential consumers of public utility service,<sup>7</sup> and the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA") represents the interests of small businesses.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore and contrary to the Borough's assertions, completing the proposed Merger will have no effect on PAWC's prior acquisition of the wastewater assets of the City of York ("York"), including the settlement commitments approved by the Commission at Docket No. A-2021-3024681. As a consequence, the Borough has not demonstrated either that it has an "interest

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<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *Application of Artesian Water Pennsylvania, Inc., for Approval to Begin to Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Water Serv. to the Pub. in Additional Territory in Portions of New Garden Twp., Chester Cty., Pennsylvania*, A-2014-2451241, 2015 WL 1976284, at \*9 (Apr. 22, 2015) (citing *Ken R. ex rel. C.R. v. Arthur Z.*, 682 A.2d 1267, 1270 (Pa. 1996); *In re El Rancho Grande, Inc.*, 437 A.2d 1150 (Pa. 1981); *William Penn Parking Garage, Inc. v. City of Pittsburgh*, 346 A.2d 269, 282-284 (Pa. 1975)).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., *Hoffman Industries, Inc. v. PPL Elec. Utils., Inc.*, Docket Nos. C-00003811 et al., 2001 WL 36256543 (Opinion and Order entered Oct. 15, 2001) (denying intervention in a formal complaint proceeding against PPL's Generation Rate Adjustment rider to a consulting firm representing commercial and industrial clients in Pennsylvania because, among other things, the statutory parties adequately represented the interests of PPL's commercial and industrial customers).

<sup>6</sup> See *Implementation of Act 129 of 2008 Organization of Bureaus and Offices*, Docket No. M-2008-2071852 (Final Order entered Aug. 11, 2011), p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> See 71 Pa.C.S. §§ 309-1 et seq.

<sup>8</sup> See 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 et seq.

which may be directly affected ... and as to which the petitioner may be bound by the action of the Commission in [this] proceeding” or that it has an “interest of such nature” that its participation “may be in the public interest.” Finally, the Petition was filed beyond the deadline of December 29, 2025 set forth in the Commission’s Notice published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on December 13, 2025. For all of these reasons, the Petition should be denied.

In further support of their opposition to the Petition, the Joint Applicants respond to the specific paragraphs of the Petition as follows:

## **II. ANSWER TO SPECIFIC AVERMENTS**

1. Admitted.

2. Admitted in part, denied in part. It is admitted that PAWC acquired the York wastewater system and that PAWC provides wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment services to the Borough and retail wastewater service to the Borough’s residents. The Joint Applicants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations of Paragraph No. 2 and, therefore, deny those allegations and demand proof thereof, if deemed relevant.

3. Denied. The averments of Paragraph No. 3 are denied for the reasons set forth in Section I above, which are incorporated herein by reference. By way of further answer, it is denied that The Borough’s alleged interest in ensuring that the customers PAWC acquired from York “retain the same benefits and protections provided for in that transaction” gives rise to an “interest” in the instant merger proceeding that satisfies the minimum requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a)(2) for the Commission to authorize intervention. This averment amounts to no more than a general interest in compliance with the law, which, as previously explained, is insufficient to convey a direct, immediate, and substantial interest in the subject matter of a proceeding.

4. Denied. The averments of Paragraph No. 4 seek to characterize the Commission's regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 5.72, which as a written document speaks for itself.

5. Denied. The averments of Paragraph No. 5 are denied for the reasons set forth in Section I and Paragraph No. 3 above, which are incorporated herein by reference. By way of further answer, the Joint Application seeks Commission approval under Chapters 11 and 22 of the Public Utility Code for a change in control of Aqua PA and Peoples to be effected by the Merger. When the Merger is complete, Essential will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Water. As explained in the Joint Application, American Water is not proposing to merge Aqua PA and PAWC at this time. The fact that PAWC currently provides service to the Borough and its residents is not an "interest" that could be directly affected in any way by the Commission's granting the Joint Application. Moreover, I&E, the OCA, and the OSBA are actively participating in this case<sup>9</sup> and adequately represent the interests of customers regarding any potential impacts of the Merger on rates and service. Accordingly, the Borough has no interest in this proceeding sufficient to warrant granting its Petition.

6. The allegations of Paragraph No. 6 are conclusions of law to which no response is required and, therefore, are deemed denied.

7. Denied. The averments of Paragraph No. 7 are denied for the reasons set forth in Section I, Paragraph No. 3, and Paragraph No. 5 above, which are incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, it is specifically denied that the Borough and its residents that are PAWC customers are directly affected by the Joint Application. Aqua PA and PAWC will remain separate utilities

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<sup>9</sup> The OCA filed a Notice of Appearance and Protest on December 15, 2016, the OSBA filed a Notice of Intervention on December 16, 2025, and I&E filed a Notice of Appearance on January 7, 2026.

following completion of the Merger. American Water is not seeking Commission approval to merge Aqua PA and PAWC or consolidate any Pennsylvania operations in this proceeding.

8. The Joint Applicants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations of Paragraph No. 8 and, therefore, deny those allegations and demand proof thereof, if deemed relevant.

9. Admitted in part, and denied in part. The Borough's acknowledgement of the lateness of its Petition is admitted. It is denied that the Borough's alleged delay in "getting the necessary authority to seek to intervene" constitutes "good cause shown" under 52 Pa. Code § 5.74(b)(2) to permit the Borough to intervene out of time.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

**WHEREFORE**, for the foregoing reasons, the Joint Applicants respectfully request that the Commission deny the petition to intervene filed by North York Borough and reject all other relief requested therein.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

Respectfully submitted,



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Anthony D. Kanagy (Pa. No. 85522)  
Garrett P. Lent (Pa. No. 321566)  
Hayley E. Wilburn (Pa. No. 336055)  
Emily S. Grecu (Pa. No. 337777)  
Post & Schell P.C.  
17 North Second Street, Suite 500  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Phone: (717) 731-1970  
Email: akanagy@postschell.com  
glent@postschell.com  
hwilburn@postschell.com  
egrecu@postschell.com

---

Kenneth M. Kulak (Pa. No. 75509)  
Mark A. Lazaroff (Pa. No. 315407)  
Catherine G. Vasudevan (Pa. No. 210254)  
Brooke E. McGlinn (Pa. No. 204918)  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
2222 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: (215) 963-5384  
Email: ken.kulak@morganlewis.com  
mark.lazaroff@morganlewis.com  
catherine.vasudevan@morganlewis.com  
brooke.mcglinn@morganlewis.com

Kimberly A. Joyce (Pa. No. 86605)  
Vice President, Regulatory Counsel and Corporate Secretary  
Essential Utilities, Inc.  
762 W. Lancaster Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Phone: (610) 645-1077  
Email: kajoyce@essential.co

*Counsel for American Water Works Company, Inc. and  
Alpha Merger Sub, Inc.*

Alexander R. Stahl (Pa. No. 317012)  
Regulatory Counsel  
Aqua Services, Inc.  
762 W. Lancaster Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Phone: (610) 645-1130  
Email: astahl@aquaamerica.com

Meagan Moore (Pa. No. 317975)  
Senior Counsel  
PNG Companies LLC  
375 North Shore Drive, Suite 600  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Phone: (412) 208-6527  
Email: Meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com

*Counsel for Essential Utilities Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.,  
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas  
Company LLC*

Date: January 20, 2026

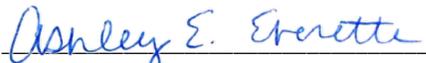
**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>JOINT APPLICATION OF AMERICAN</b>	:	
<b>WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,</b>	:	
<b>ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AQUA</b>	:	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA</b>	:	
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<b>PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC.,</b>	:	
<b>AND PEOPLES NATURAL GAS</b>	:	
<b>COMPANY LLC</b>	:	

**VERIFICATION**

I, Ashley E. Everette, hereby declare that I am Vice President, Rates and Regulatory at American Water Works Service Company, Inc.; that I am authorized to make this verification; that the facts set forth in the foregoing Answer are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; and that I make this verification subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4904 pertaining to false statements to authorities.

DATE: January 20, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley E. Everette  
Vice President, Rates and Regulatory  
American Water Works Service Company, Inc