

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17120**

**LeRon Alston**

**vs.**

**Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc.**

**Public Meeting of January 29, 2026**

**3052978-OSA**

**Docket No. F-2025-3052978**

**STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIR KIMBERLY BARROW**

The Complainant, LeRon Alston, raised several issues in his Complaint including an allegation that he is being charged for wastewater service that he does not use since he does not have a wastewater meter (deduct meter)<sup>1</sup> to accurately measure his wastewater usage.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Alston avers that his Community Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. (CUPA) bill increased from \$74.73 in July 2024 to \$338.57 in August 2024, which is not the monthly rate of \$112.51 that he expected, based upon the information contained in a notice sent to him by CUPA regarding the Company's 2023 base rate case proceeding. Exc. at 1.

CUPA disputed the Complainant's allegations stating that the rates being disputed by Mr. Alston were fully set forth in a Commission-approved settlement between CUPA, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Company's 2023 base rate case.<sup>3</sup> I.D. at 2-3. CUPA stated that it bills its wastewater customers metered rates based on the customer's actual water usage from the water provider.<sup>4</sup> Tr. at 43-44; 70-71.

I agree with the ALJ's decision to dismiss the Complaint for failure of the Complainant to prove that CUPA violated its Commission-approved tariff. I understand that CUPA's current wastewater rates are derived from the revenue requirement agreed upon by the settling parties in the 2023 base rate case proceeding. However, the record is also clear that CUPA billed the Complainant for usage that did not pass through its wastewater system because of the absence of a deduct meter to account for such usage. Similar to my position in the *Marotto*,<sup>5</sup> *Showers*,<sup>6</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Deduct meters are secondary meters owned and installed by customers to receive a wastewater billing deduction for the measured water consumption that is used but does not enter the Company's wastewater system.

<sup>2</sup> The Complainant raised several issues during the evidentiary hearing, including that: (1) CUPA did not provide him with notice of the 2023 base rate case proceeding; (2) the rates approved as a result of the 2023 base rate case proceeding did not match the rates originally proposed by the Company; and (3) he should not be charged the same amount for wastewater that he is being charged for water because he does not have a wastewater meter to measure his actual wastewater usage. I.D. at 11-14.

<sup>3</sup> See, *Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n v. Cmty. Utils. of Pa., Inc.*, Docket No. R-2023-3042804 at 15-16 (Opinion and Order entered Aug. 1, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (Aqua) provides water service for the Complainant. CUPA uses the water readings from Aqua to bill the Complainant for wastewater. I.D. at 2.

<sup>5</sup> See, *Richard S. Marotto v. Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.*, Docket No. F-2024-3048888 (Initial Decision issued March 26, 2025) (*Marotto*).

<sup>6</sup> See, *Jason Showers v. Community Utility of Pennsylvania, Inc.*, Docket No. C-2025-3052795 (Initial Decision issued August 18, 2025) (*Showers*).

*Pfaff*<sup>7</sup> cases, while I agree that CUPA's billing is in compliance with its tariff, I do not believe it is proper for a utility to charge a customer for service it did not provide. Therefore, I would like to use this medium to implore CUPA and other wastewater utilities with deduct meter usage customers to promptly address this issue by filing and obtaining approval for a deduct meter tariff from the Commission.

Further, I encourage Mr. Alston to participate in CUPA's next base rate case in order to address this deduct meter issue.

**January 29, 2026**



**Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair**

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<sup>7</sup> See, *Bret Pfaff v. Community Utility of Pennsylvania, Inc.*, Docket No. C-2025-3053638 (Initial Decision issued October 30, 2025) (*Pfaff*).