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File #: 214162

February 20, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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, A-2025-3058929

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of American Water Works Company, Inc., Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC (the "Joint Applicants") is the Answer to the Motion to Compel Production of Interveners, County of Delaware, City of Butler, East Whiteland Township, North York, Borough, York Township, Spring Garden Township, West Manchester Township, and Manchester Township (collectively, the "Moving Interveners") in the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies will be provided in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett P. Lent

GPL/dmc
Enclosures

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
February 20, 2026
Page 2

cc: The Honorable Emily I. DeVoe (*via email; w/attachments*)
The Honorable Ann Quimby (*via email; w/attachments*)
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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Garrett P. Lent

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Joint Application of American Water Works :
Company, Inc., Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua :
Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania : Docket Nos. A-2025-3058927
Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas : A-2025-3058928
Company LLC, and Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. : A-2025-3058929
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 :

**ANSWER OF ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AQUA PENNSYLVANIA, INC., AQUA
PENNSYLVANIA WASTEWATER, INC., AND PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY
LLC TO THE MOTION TO COMPEL OF THE MOVING INTERVENORS**

**TO THE HONORABLE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES EMILY I. DEVOE, AND
ANN QUIMBY:**

Essential Utilities, Inc. f/k/a Aqua America, Inc. (“Essential”),¹ Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Aqua PA”) and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. (“Aqua PA WW”),² Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (“Peoples”), collectively the “Essential Utilities,” hereby file this Answer, pursuant to Section 5.342 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (“Commission”) regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 5.342, and the Prehearing Order dated January 26, 2026, to the Motion to Compel

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

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

Production (“Motion”) of Intervenors, County of Delaware, City of Butler, East Whiteland Township, North York, Borough, York Township, Spring Garden Township, West Manchester Township, and Manchester Township (collectively, the “Moving Intervenors”) of certain documents produced by the Essential Utilities in response to the Office of Consumer Advocates (“OCA”), Set I Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents, Numbers 4 and 5 (“OCA-JA Set I, Nos. 4 and 5”) on February 3, 2026. As explained below, the Motion should be denied because the documents produced by the Essential Utilities in response to OCA-JA Set I, Nos. 4 and 5 were properly limited in their distribution to the OCA, and the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”), and the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”)³ pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order issued in this matter.

In support thereof, the Essential Utilities state as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On November 26, 2025, American Water Works Company, Inc. (“American Water”), Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. (“Merger Sub”), and the Essential Utilities (collectively the “Joint Applicants”) filed a Joint Application for 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 Application”).

³ On February 3, 2026, the Essential Utilities produced these documents to the OCA and I&E, but not OSBA because at that time OSBA had not executed the Appendix to the Protective Order. OSBA executed the Appendix on February 13, 2026. The Essential Utilities produced these documents to the OSBA on February 20, 2026.

2. On December 26, 2025, Intervenors, County of Delaware, City of Butler, East Whiteland Township, York Township, Manchester Township, West Manchester Township, and Spring Garden Township, filed their Petitions to Intervene in this matter.

3. On January 12, 2026, Intervenor, North York Borough, filed its Petition to Intervene in this matter.

4. Also on January 12, 2026, OCA propounded certain discovery, including specifically OCA-JA Set I, Nos. 4 and 5. These discovery requests sought the following information:

OCA-JA-I-4 Due diligence documentation and reports.

- a. Provide copies of all due diligence and consultant reports prepared by or for each of the Joint Applicants, either individually or collectively, in connection with the proposed transaction. This request includes all due diligence analysis, including materials that are considered by either of the Joint Applicants to be confidential.
- b. Please provide the requested documents in electronic form with all spreadsheet links and formulas intact, source data used, and explain all assumptions and calculations used. To the extent the data requested is not available in the form requested, provide the information in the form that most closely matches what has been requested.

OCA-JA-I-5 Presentations to shareholders, board and senior management.

- a. Provide all reports, presentations, and analyses regarding the proposed transaction which have been given to shareholders, Board of Directors, and senior management of each of the Joint Applicants, individually and collectively.
- b. Please provide the requested documents in electronic form with all spreadsheet links and formulas intact, source data used, and explain all assumptions and calculations used. To the extent the data requested is not available in the form requested, provide the information in the form that most closely matches what has been requested.

5. On January 20, 2026, Joint Applicants filed a Petition for Protective Order. Prior to the submission of the Petition for Protective Order, the Joint Applicants conferred with the parties (including the Moving Intervenors) to this proceeding regarding the form of the proposed Protective Order. The Moving Intervenors did not object to or provide any feedback regarding the proposed Protective Order.

6. After verbally granting the Petition for Protective Order at the Prehearing Conference held on January 22, 2026, Administrative Law Judge Mary D. Long issued a Protective Order on January 26, 2026, that conformed to the form of Protective Order sought by the Petition. A copy of the Protective Order was attached to the Motion as Appendix A.

7. On February 3, 2026, the Essential Utilities produced several documents in response to OCA-JA Set I, Nos. 4 and 5. A copy of the cover letter accompanying this production, which was filed and served on the parties, is attached hereto as **Appendix A**.

8. As set forth in this letter, the following four password-protected documents contained highly-sensitive, non-public information, and were marked and identified as “**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY**,” and distributed only to the statutory advocates pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order (1) **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-4_ Attachment_1_EU; (2) **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_ Attachment_1_EU; (3) **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_ Attachment_2_EU; and (4) **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_ Attachment_3_EU.⁴

⁴ Collectively, the “Essential Eyes Only Documents.”

Indeed, due to the sensitive nature of the information contained in these documents, they were not even produced to American Water. The Essential Utilities further note that these documents were redacted to remove privileged information and information not relevant to this matter and, therefore, not subject to discovery under 52 Pa Code § 5.321(c).

9. On February 11, 2026, counsel for the Joint Applicants and counsel for the Moving Intervenors met and conferred regarding the Essential Eyes Only Documents, and the restrictions upon the distribution of these documents sought by the Essential Utilities on February 3, 2026.

10. On February 17, 2026, the instant Motion was filed.

11. After the submission of the Motion, counsel for the Essential Utilities and counsel for the Moving Intervenors conferred via e-mail and telephone regarding the Motion, but were unable to reach a resolution of this dispute.

12. The Essential Utilities hereby file this Answer to the Motion.

II. ANSWER TO THE MOTION TO COMPEL

13. As an initial matter, the Essential Utilities note the Motion claims that outside of the limitations upon discovery imposed by 52 Pa. Code § 5.361, “[n]o other limitations are included in the Rules for Formal Proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission.” *See* Motion ¶¶ 20, 21. This is not correct.

14. The Commission’s regulations provide for the issuance of protective order to limit the disclosure of confidential information on the public record. 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(a). In addition, the Commission’s regulations permit the issuance of protective orders that “prohibits the disclosure of . . . confidential information, [or] limits the disclosure to particular parties or representatives of parties. . .” 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(e).

15. Moreover, the Protective Order in this proceeding specifically contemplates and authorizes such restrictions in Paragraph 5, which states that:

The producing party retains the right to seek restrictions on the production, distribution and use by other parties of the Confidential Information beyond the protection expressly afforded such Confidential Information by this Protective Order, including, but not limited to, the limitation of disclosure to only specific parties that have executed the Certification and/or the prohibition of disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” information to specific parties even if such parties have executed the Certification.

16. Similar language is regularly approved in Protective Orders issued in proceedings before the Commission, including Protective Orders that may differ in form from the Protective Order in this proceeding.⁵ Moreover, the Commission has specifically accepted reliance by parties upon the language like that used in Paragraph 5 to restrict access and production of documents to only the statutory advocates, where such information is considered to be highly-sensitive, non-public information.⁶

⁵ See, e.g., *Pa. PUC v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation*, Docket Nos. R-2025-3057164, *et al.* (Protective Order Entered Feb. 3, 2026); *Pa. PUC v. Pennsylvania American Water Company*, Docket Nos. R-2025-3057983, *et al.* (Protective Order Entered Jan. 9, 2026); *Pa. PUC v. UGI Utilities Inc. - Gas Division*, Docket No. R-2024-3052716 (Protective Order Entered April 17, 2025); *Pa. PUC v. Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.*, Docket Nos. R-2024-3047822, *et al.* (Protective Order Entered Sept. 20, 2024); *Pa. PUC v. Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.*, Docket Nos. R-2021-3027385, *et al.* (Protective Order Entered Oct. 22, 2021); *Joint Application of Aqua America Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC for All of the Authority and Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC by Way of the Purchase of All of LDC Funding LLC's Membership Interests by Aqua America Inc.*, Docket Nos. A-2018-300606, *et al.* (Protective Order Entered Feb. 14 2019). While the language in these orders may differ, parties are afforded the right to seek additional protections and restrictions on the distribution of non-public information by these orders. In some cases, and unlike Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order here, the orders state specifically how parties must seek such additional protections.

⁶ See *Joint Application of Aqua America Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC for All of the Authority and Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC by Way of the Purchase of All of LDC Funding LLC's Membership Interests by Aqua America Inc.*, Docket Nos. A-2018-3006061, *et al.* (Opinion and Order Entered Jan. 24, 2020), at pp. 20, 195, 198-200 (redacting information from the Commission's final order that was considered to be HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL on only accessible to the statutory advocates, i.e., I&E, OCA and OSBA); *Joint Application of Aqua America Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc., and Peoples Natural*

17. Despite the protections afforded by the Commission’s regulations, the language contained in Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order, and Commission precedent that has permitted parties to restrict access to certain information to only the statutory advocates, the Motion claims that the restrictions on distribution sought by the Essential Utilities are improper. The Motion is mistaken.

18. The Motion first claims that Essential Utilities has “unilaterally restricted access to only the designated statutory advocates.” Motion ¶ 10; *see also* Motion ¶ 23. However, this claim ignores that the Essential Utilities are permitted to seek and have sought to limit the production of the Essential Eyes Only Documents pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order. The Essential Utilities’ February 3, 2026 letter serving the documents in dispute clearly stated the Essential Utilities’ intent to seek to limit distribution of these documents to just the statutory advocates. Appendix A, at p. 2. Moreover, it clearly stated the Essential Utilities’ reliance upon Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order. *Id.* Moving Intervenors, and all parties, were afforded notice of the Essential Utilities’ treatment of these documents.

19. Moreover, this claim appears to assume that the Moving Intervenors share the same status as I&E, OCA and OSBA. They do not. Each of I&E, OCA, and OSBA are state agencies

Gas Company LLC for All of the Authority and Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC by Way of the Purchase of All of LDC Funding LLC's Membership Interests by Aqua America Inc., Docket Nos. A-2018-3006061, *et al.* (Recommended Decision Entered Oct. 3, 2019), at pp. 98-101 (redacting information from the presiding officer’s Recommended Decision that was considered to be HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL and only accessible to the statutory advocates, i.e., I&E, OCA and OSBA). In this proceeding, the applicants identified information deemed to be of such a highly sensitive nature as a part of their rebuttal testimony, designated this information as being “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – STATUTORY ADVOCATES ONLY” in the April 30, 2019 cover letter serving this rebuttal testimony, and thereby “sought” to have this information restricted to solely the statutory advocates. This protection was ultimately adopted and utilized by the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the Commission.

authorized by statute to participate in proceedings before the Commission as a matter of right. None of the Moving Intervenors share this status.

20. The Motion next attempts to rely upon the production of certain materials marked as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by American Water to all parties except the Essential Utilities to question the Essential Utilities’ restriction of documents it marked as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY.” Motion ¶ 11. This argument has zero relevance for two reasons. First, as admitted by the Motion, American Water did not disseminate those materials to the Essential Utilities. Motion ¶ 11. The Essential Utilities do not know the nature of the information produced by American Water, and, therefore, did not rely upon and could not have relied upon how American Water may have determined to treat and did treat the information it produced in response to OCA-JA Set I, Nos. 4 and 5. Second, the Motion incorrectly insinuates that American Water and the Essential Utilities are one and the same. While the Joint Applicants have a common interest in obtaining Commission approval of the Merger Application, they are distinct entities and parties to this matter.

21. The Moving Intervenors next claim that they “would not have consented to the terms of the Protective Order” if the Essential Utilities were permitted to restrict access to the Essential Eyes Only Documents to only the statutory advocates. Motion ¶ 13. Paragraph 5 allows for such restriction. The Moving Intervenors reviewed the form of the Protective Order, did not propose any modifications to this language, and did not object to the entry of the Protective Order.

22. The Moving Intervenors further argue that the Essential Utilities “have not filed any request with the Commission seeking any additional restrictions outside of those contained in the Protective Order.” Motion ¶ 14. The Moving Intervenors, however, cite no language in the

Protective Order that required the Essential Utilities to petition to amend the Protective Order or petition for a further Protective Order to impose such restriction.⁷

23. The Motion finally asserts that the Moving Intervenors will be prejudiced if they are not afforded access to the Essential Eyes Only Documents, which they claim to need in order to assess “the potential costs and benefits of the proposed merger.” Motion ¶ 24; *see also* Motion ¶¶ 25-26. This interest should be weighed against the extent to which this information, if disclosed could, (1) cause unfair economic or competitive damage to the Essential Utilities, (2) the extent to which the Essential Utilities information contained in the Essential Eyes Only Documents is known by others or used in similar activities, (3) the worth or value of the information to the Essential Utilities or its competitors, and, among other things, (4) the degree of difficulty and cost of developing the information. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 5.365(a)(1)-(4).

24. The information contained in the Essential Eyes Only documents reflects evaluations and analysis as well as business strategy information prepared by or for the Essential Utilities at the cost of substantial time and resources. This information could be used by others (including competitors of the Essential Utilities) to obtain specific insight into the Essential Utilities’ operations to their economic and/or competitive disadvantage. Moreover, this information is not generally known by others outside of the highly-limited production of this information, and would not been known by others but for the discovery issued in this proceeding. Thus, any interest asserted by the Moving Intervenors in viewing this information is substantially outweighed by the harm that disclosure of this information could cause to the Essential Utilities.

⁷ Moreover, to the extent that the Moving Intervenors’ argument has any merit, Paragraph 4 of the Protective Order permits the Moving Intervenors to challenge the designation of information designated for protection under the Protective Order, which is what they have done by filing the instant Motion.

25. Finally, the Essential Utilities note that the Moving Intervenors have not submitted executed appendices to the Protective Order for any witnesses that they have identified in this proceeding. Thus, it is not clear at this time who, other than their counsel, the Moving Intervenors intend to have access to this highly-sensitive information. The Essential Utilities note that unless and until the Moving Intervenors provide executed appendices to the Protective Order on behalf of any witnesses and/or consultants they intend to utilize in this proceeding, there is no assurance that those individuals have read and understand the Protective Order and have agreed to be bound by and comply with the terms and conditions of such Protective Order.

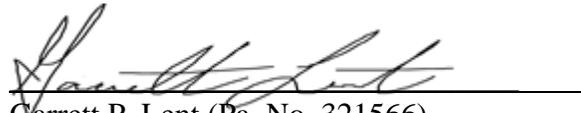
26. For the reasons more fully explained above, the Motion should be denied.

27. In the alternative, and in order to resolve this dispute, the Essential Utilities would propose the adoption of the following measure instead of the Moving Intervenors' requested wholesale disclosure of the Essential Eyes Only Documents. The Essential Utilities are willing to provide counsel for the Moving Intervenors with the ability conduct an in-person inspection and review of the Essential Eyes Only documents at the offices of the Essential Utilities' counsel, Post & Schell, P.C., in Philadelphia. The Essential Utilities submit that such review will afford the Moving Intervenors the ability to determine whether any of the specific Essential Eyes Only information is necessary for the preparation of their case and, if so, seek the production of such specific information with appropriate protections afforded to the same.

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, respectfully requests that Administrative Law Judges Emily I. Devoe and Ann Quimby deny the Motion to Compel of the Moving Intervenors dated February 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 20, 2026

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

Appendix A

Garrett P. Lent

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February 3, 2026

VIA EMAIL (PAWCAQUAEXTERNAL@PAOCA.ORG)

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Re: Joint Application of American Water Works Company, Inc., Essential Utilities 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., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC
Docket Nos. A-2025-3058927, A-2025-3058928, and A-2025-3058929

Dear Counsel:

On behalf of Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC (the "Essential Utilities") please find enclosed the following password-protected, **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** responses to the Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents of the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") Set I:

- **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-4_Attachemnt 1_EU
- **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_Attachemnt 1_EU
- **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_Attachemnt 2_EU
- **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ESSENTIAL EYES ONLY** OCA-JA-I-5_Attachemnt 3_EU

Joel Cheskis, Esquire
February 3, 2026
Page 2

These responses contain highly sensitive, non-public information, and are only being provided to representatives of OCA, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's ("Commission") Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement ("I&E"), and the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA"), collectively the "Statutory Advocates," who have executed an appropriate Non-Disclosure Certificate pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order issued in this proceeding. More specifically, pursuant to Paragraph 5 of the Protective Order issued in this proceeding, these documents are not to be distributed to or viewed by representatives of American Water Works Company, Inc., and/or any other party except the Statutory Advocates.

Please direct any questions regarding this submission to the undersigned. Copies of this letter will be provided in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,


Garrett P. Lent

GPL/dmc
Enclosures

cc: Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary (*Letter and Certificate of Service only*)
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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Garrett P. Lent

**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
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.,
LLC, AND PEOPLES NATURAL GAS
COMPANY LLC**

**DOCKET NO. A-2025-3058927
DOCKET NO. A-2025-3058928
DOCKET NO. A-2025-3058929**

VERIFICATION

I, Daniel Schuller, hereby declare that I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Essential Utilities, Inc., that, as such, I am authorized to make this verification on its behalf; that the facts set forth in the foregoing 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: February 20, 2026

Signed by:
Daniel Schuller
9DA7D0592516469...

Daniel Schuller
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
Essential Utilities, Inc.