



**Matthew Olesh**  
215.665.3043  
matthew.olesh@obermayer.com  
www.obermayer.com

**Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP**  
Centre Square West  
1500 Market Street | Suite 3400  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2101  
P: 215.665.3000  
F: 215.665.3165

February 19, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**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, 2025-3058928, A-2025-3058929**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Earlier this week, on February 17, 2026, Intervenors, County of Delaware, City of Butler, East Whiteland Township, North York Borough, York Township, Spring Garden Township, West Manchester Township, and Manchester Township, submitted a Motion to Compel Production from Essential Utilities Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC dealing with the treatment of confidential information. A copy of the Confidentiality Order entered in this proceeding was intended to be included as Exhibit A to the filing, and was so included with the service email circulated to all parties and the Administrative Law Judges. However, the exhibit was inadvertently submitted separately for electronic filing and subsequently rejected. Consequently, we are re-submitting Exhibit A to the motion herewith.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Olesh", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew S. Olesh

cc: All parties (via electronic filing)

# Exhibit A

**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	:	A-2025-3058927
Sections 1102(A)(3) And 2210(C) of The Public	:	A-2025-3058928
Utility Code And All Other Necessary	:	A-2025-3058929
Approvals To Effect A Change of Control of	:	
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania	:	
Wastewater, Inc., And Peoples Natural Gas	:	
Company LLC	:	

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

This Protective Order is hereby GRANTED with respect to all documents and information, as identified below, produced or presented, or hereafter produced or presented in this proceeding. All persons now or hereafter granted access to such documents and/or information shall use and maintain the same only in strict accordance with this Protective Order.

This Protective Order is being entered to facilitate the orderly production of information and documents during discovery and the presentation of evidence at the hearings in this case and to provide adequate protection of Confidential Information without prejudicing the rights of parties to have reasonable access to information that becomes part of the evidentiary record.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Any information provided to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) or any parties in connection with the above-captioned proceeding that a producing party claims constitutes or contains Confidential Information shall be specifically

identified and marked as Confidential Information. The producing party shall designate data or documents as constituting or containing Confidential Information by affixing a conspicuous “CONFIDENTIAL” stamp or typewritten designation on such data or documents. Where only part of data compilations or multi-page documents constitutes or contains Confidential Information, the producing party, insofar as reasonably practicable within time constraints imposed in this proceeding, shall designate only the specific data or pages of documents which constitute or contain Confidential Information and shall serve such documents separately from non-confidential information.

2. Each document and the information contained therein designated as “Confidential Information” shall be used by the recipient solely for purposes relating to the prosecution, review and processing of this proceeding and for no other purpose; and such documents and information shall be maintained in secure files, separate from public information, until returned to the producing party or destroyed pursuant to the terms hereof. Confidential Information shall not be disclosed or otherwise uploaded, in whole or in part, to any publicly available or third-party artificial intelligence system (“AI”), large language model, generative AI tool, or similar machine-learning technology (including, without limitation, publicly accessible AI services or models), where such use could result in Confidential Information being retained, incorporated into training data, learned, reproduced, disclosed, or made accessible to any third-party.

3. With respect to all Confidential Information, it is further ORDERED that:

(a) Access to the documents designated as “Confidential Information,” and to the information contained therein, shall be limited to the parties and their identified attorneys, employees, and consultants whose examination of the Confidential Information is required for the conduct of this proceeding. For purposes of this Protective Order, a recipient may not be a “Restricted Person” absent agreement of the party producing the Confidential Information. A “Restricted Person” shall mean: (a) an officer, director, stockholder, partner, or owner of any competitor of the parties or an employee of such an entity if the employee’s duties involve

marketing or pricing of the competitor's products or services or advising another person who has such duties; (b) an officer, director, stockholder, partner, or owner of any affiliate of a competitor of the parties (including any association of competitors of the parties) or an employee of such an entity if the employee's duties involve marketing or pricing of the competitor's products or services or advising another person who has such duties; (c) an officer, director, stockholder, owner, agent, or employee of a competitor of a customer of the parties or of a competitor of a vendor of the parties if the Confidential Information concerns a specific, identifiable customer or vendor of the parties; and (d) an officer, director, stockholder, owner or employee of an affiliate of a competitor of a customer of the parties if the Confidential Information concerns a specific, identifiable customer of the parties; provided, however, that no expert shall be disqualified on account of being a stockholder, partner, or owner unless that expert's interest in the business would provide a significant motive for violating the limitations of permissible use of the Confidential Information. For purposes of this Protective Order, stocks, partnership or other ownership interests valued at more than \$10,000 or constituting more than a 1% interest in a business establish a significant motive for violation. A "Restricted Person" shall not include an expert for the Office of Small Business Advocate or Office of Consumer Advocate. If an expert for a party, another member of the expert's firm or the expert's firm generally also serves as an expert for, or as a consultant or advisor to, a Restricted Person (other than an expert or expert firm retained by the Office of Small Business Advocate or Office of Consumer Advocate), that expert must: (1) identify for the parties each Restricted Person and all personnel in or associated with the expert's firm that work on behalf of the Restricted Person; (2) take all reasonable steps to segregate those personnel assisting in the expert's participation in this proceeding from those personnel working on behalf of a Restricted Person; and (3) if segregation of such personnel is impractical, the expert shall give to the producing party written assurances that the lack of segregation will in no way adversely affect the interests of the parties or their customers. The parties retain the right to challenge the adequacy of the written assurances that the parties' or their customers' interests will not be adversely affected.

(b) Recipients of Confidential Information shall not disclose the contents of the documents produced pursuant to this Protective Order to any person(s) other than their identified employees and any identified witnesses/consultants whom they may retain in

connection with this proceeding, irrespective of whether any such expert is retained specially and is not expected to testify, or is called to testify in this proceeding. All employees (except Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement (“BI&E”) witnesses who are full-time employees and shall be entitled to receive documents without individually executing a Certification), consultants or experts of any of the parties bound by this Protective Order who are to receive copies of documents or information produced pursuant to this Protective Order shall have executed a copy of the Certification attached hereto as Appendix A, which executed Certification shall be forthwith provided to counsel for the producing party with copies to counsel for other parties. The BI&E Prosecutors who enter an appearance in this proceeding shall represent that all BI&E witnesses/employees will be bound by this Protective Order. The Consumer Advocate, the Deputy Consumer Advocate, the Small Business Advocate, and support staff in the OCA and OSBA do not need to execute a Non-Disclosure Certificate, provided that the OCA’s and the OSBA’s counsel execute the Certification attached as Appendix A.

(c) No other disclosure of Confidential Information shall be made to any person or entity except with the express written consent of the producing party or upon further order of the Commission or of any Court of competent jurisdiction which may review these matters.

4. The acceptance by the parties of documents or information which has been identified and marked as Confidential Information shall not serve to create a presumption that the material is in fact entitled to any special status in these or any other proceedings. Accordingly, as provided in 52 Pa. Code § 5.365, a party receiving Confidential Information retains the right, either before or after receipt of such Confidential Information, to challenge the legitimacy of the claim that the information is proprietary. Any party may initiate such a challenge by notifying the Commission, with reasonable notice to all other parties, that it wishes to challenge the designation of the material as Confidential Information. In that event, the producing party, as the provider of the Confidential Information, shall have the burden of proving that the material is entitled to protected status. However, notwithstanding such challenge, all parties shall continue to treat the documents and information subject to challenge as Confidential Information in accordance with

the terms of this Protective Order, pending resolution by the Commission of the dispute as to its status.

5. 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.

6. This Protective Order shall not operate as a determination, for any purpose, that any documents or information produced pursuant to this Protective Order are either admissible or inadmissible in these or any other proceedings.

7. Documents or other materials containing Confidential Information filed with the Commission in this proceeding, including but not limited to pre-filed testimony and pre-filed exhibits, shall be labeled “CONFIDENTIAL” and shall be deemed filed under seal. During evidentiary hearings, if any, in this proceeding, all persons present for such hearings shall be subject to the terms of this Protective Order and may be required to so affirm for purposes of the record. The portion of the record containing the Confidential Information, including the portions of transcripts of oral testimony discussing Confidential Information, shall be placed under seal.

8. The Commission and any other state agency that may have access to, or receive copies of, the Confidential Information will deem and treat such information as within the exemption from disclosure provided in the Public Utility Code set forth at 66 Pa.C.S. § 335(d), and the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act set forth in 65 P.S. § 67.708(b) until such time as the information may be found to be non-proprietary by the Commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

9. Confidential Information which is placed on the record of this proceeding under seal shall remain with the Commission under seal after the conclusion of the proceeding. If

such Confidential Information is provided to appellate courts for the purposes of appeal(s) from this proceeding, such information shall be provided, and shall remain, under seal.

10. Upon the final resolution of proceedings in which Confidential Information has been provided, which includes the exhaustion of appeals, if any, all documents and other materials containing Confidential Information shall, within thirty (30) days of the producing party's request, be either: (1) returned to counsel for the producing party; or (2) destroyed. If a receiving party chooses to destroy the Confidential Information, then it shall, in the case of the BI&E, notify the producing party, and in the case of all other parties, certify to the producing party, that the Confidential Information has been destroyed by it and its employees, consultants, and other representatives, and that the terms of this Protective Order have been satisfied. Provided, however, that the signatory parties may maintain in their official files copies of all pleadings, briefs, statements, exhibits and transcripts in this proceeding and, further provided, that all such pleadings, briefs, statements, exhibits and transcripts containing Confidential Information shall remain subject to the terms of this Protective Order.

11. A single copy of documents returned to the producing party or certified as destroyed upon resolution of this proceeding, as provided in this Protective Order, shall be kept on file at the producing party's offices for two years after the final resolution of this proceeding, as defined previously, for review by the parties under the terms of this Protective Order upon at least twenty days' notice to counsel for the producing party.

12. The issuance of this Protective Order shall not prejudice the producing party's right to challenge the production of any documents or information sought in discovery by any party on the grounds that such documents or information are not properly discoverable.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

Dated: January 26, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary D. Long  
Administrative Law Judge

**APPENDIX A**

**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	:	A-2025-3058927
Utility Code And All Other Necessary	:	A-2025-3058928
Approvals To Effect A Change of Control of	:	A-2025-3058929
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania	:	
Wastewater, Inc., And Peoples Natural Gas	:	
Company LLC	:	

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The undersigned is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(the receiving party).

The undersigned has read, and understands that, the Protective Order deals with the treatment of Confidential Information. The undersigned agrees to be bound by, and comply with, the terms and conditions of said Order, which are incorporated herein by reference.

---

SIGNATURE

---

PRINT NAME

---

ADDRESS

---

---

EMPLOYER

---

DATE

**A-2025-3058927, A-2025-3058928, & A-2025-3058929 - 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**

KENNETH M. KULAK ESQUIRE  
MARK A. LAZAROFF ESQUIRE  
CATHERINE G. VASUDEVAN ESQUIRE  
BROOKE E. MCGLINN ESQUIRE  
MORGAN LEWIS AND BOCKIUS LLP  
2222 MARKET STREET  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-2921  
215.963.5384  
215.963.4603  
215.963.5952  
215.963.5404  
[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)  
[bmclinn@morganlewis.com](mailto:bmclinn@morganlewis.com)  
Served via eService  
*(Counsel for American Water Works Company, Inc. and Alpha Merger Sub, Inc.)*

ALEXANDER R. STAHL ESQUIRE  
KIMBERLY JOYCE ESQUIRE  
762 WEST LANCASTER AVENUE  
BRYN MAWR PA 19010  
610.645.1130  
610.645.1077  
[astahl@aquaamerica.com](mailto:astahl@aquaamerica.com)  
[kajoyce@aquaamerica.com](mailto:kajoyce@aquaamerica.com)  
Served via eService  
*(Counsel for Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Essential Utilities, Inc.)*

ANTHONY D. KANAGY ESQUIRE  
GARRETT P. LENT ESQUIRE  
HAYLEY E. WILBURN ESQUIRE  
EMILY GRECU ESQUIRE  
17 NORTH 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET, 12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101-1601  
717.612.6034  
717.612.6032  
412.506.6362  
412.506.6368  
[akanagy@postschell.com](mailto:akanagy@postschell.com)  
[glent@postschell.com](mailto:glent@postschell.com)  
[hwilburn@postschell.com](mailto:hwilburn@postschell.com)  
[egrecu@postschell.com](mailto:egrecu@postschell.com)  
Served via eService  
*(Counsel for Essential Utilities, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC)*

MEAGAN MOORE ESQUIRE  
PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC  
375 NORTH SHORE DRIVE  
PITTSBURGH PA 15212  
412.208.6527  
814.490.4153  
[meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com](mailto:meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com)  
Served via eService  
*(Counsel for Peoples Natural Gas Company)*

STEVEN C. GRAY ESQUIRE  
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
ADVOCATE  
FORUM PLACE  
555 WALNUT STREET, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101  
717.783.2525  
717.783.2831  
[sgray@pa.gov](mailto:sgray@pa.gov)  
Served via Email

ALLISON C. KASTER RATE COUNSEL  
PA PUC BIE LEGAL TECHNICAL  
400 NORTH STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR WEST  
HARRISBURG PA 17120  
717.783.7998  
717.787.4887  
[akaster@pa.gov](mailto:akaster@pa.gov)  
Served via eService

HARRISON W. BREITMAN ESQUIRE  
\*JOEL H. CHESKIS ESQUIRE  
JOHNATHAN LONGHURST ESQUIRE  
CRYSTAL M. ZOOK ESQUIRE  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
FORUM PLACE  
555 WALNUT STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101  
717.780.4536  
717.783.5048  
[hbreitman@paoca.org](mailto:hbreitman@paoca.org)  
[jcheskis@paoca.org](mailto:jcheskis@paoca.org)  
[jlonghurst@paoca.org](mailto:jlonghurst@paoca.org)  
[czook@paoca.org](mailto:czook@paoca.org)  
[pawcaquaexternal@paoca.org](mailto:pawcaquaexternal@paoca.org)  
Served via eService  
\*Served via Email

RIA PEREIRA ESQUIRE  
LAUREN BERMAN ESQUIRE  
ELIZABETH R. MARX ESQUIRE  
JOHN SWEET ESQUIRE  
LEVI PHILLIPS ESQUIRE  
PA UTILITY LAW PROJECT  
118 LOCUST STREET  
HARRISBURG PA 17101  
717.710.3825  
717.236.9486  
717.701.3837  
[rpereira@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:rpereira@pautilitylawproject.org)  
[lberman@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:lberman@pautilitylawproject.org)  
[emarx@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:emarx@pautilitylawproject.org)  
[jsweet@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:jsweet@pautilitylawproject.org)  
[lphillips@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:lphillips@pautilitylawproject.org)  
Served via eService

THOMAS WYATT ESQUIRE  
MATTHEW OLESH ESQUIRE  
\*MATTHEW SELMASSKA ESQUIRE  
OBERMAYER REBMANN MAXWELL &  
HIPPEL LLP  
CENTER SQUARE WEST  
1500 MARKET STREET, SUITE 3400  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102  
215.665.3200  
215.665.3043  
215.665.3001  
[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)  
Served via eService  
\*Served via Email  
*(Counsel for York Twp., West  
Manchester Twp., Spring Garden Twp.,  
Manchester Twp., East Whiteland Twp.,  
County of Delaware, and City of Butler)*

ALEX J. BAUMLER ESQUIRE  
LAMB MCERLANE PC  
24 EAST MARKET STREET, BOX 565  
WEST CHESTER PA 19381  
**610.701.3277**

[alex@skilkennylaw.com](mailto:alex@skilkennylaw.com)

Served via eService

*(Solicitor for East Norriton Twp)*

JOSEPH W. JESIOLOWSKI ESQUIRE  
\*KEVIN D. KENT ESQUIRE  
CLARK HILL PLC  
CLARK HILL TWO COMMERCE SQUARE  
2001 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2620  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103  
**215.640.8500**

[jjesiolowski@clarkhill.com](mailto:jjesiolowski@clarkhill.com)

[kkent@clarkhill.com](mailto:kkent@clarkhill.com)

Served via eService

\*Served via Email

*(Counsel for Chester Water Authority)*

SAMUEL J. PASQUARELLI ESQUIRE  
SHERRARD GERMAN & KELLY PC  
535 SMITHFIELD STREET, SUITE 300  
PITTSBURGH PA 15222

**412.355.0200**

**412.606.2041**

[samuel.pasquarelli@sgkpc.com](mailto:samuel.pasquarelli@sgkpc.com)

Served via eService

SCOTT B. GRANGER ESQUIRE  
PA PUC BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
& ENFORCEMENT  
400 NORTH STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR WEST  
HARRISBURG PA 17120  
**717.425.7593**

[sgranger@pa.gov](mailto:sgranger@pa.gov)

Served via eService

MICHAEL MADDREN ESQUIRE  
MURPHY MADDREN LTD  
6 DICKINSON DRIVE, SUITE 115  
CHADDS FORD PA 19317  
**610.565.1210**

[mike@murphymaddren.com](mailto:mike@murphymaddren.com)

Served via eService

*(Counsel for Upland Borough)*

MAUREEN B. CARLTON ESQUIRE  
\*ANDREW GRIFFIN ESQUIRE  
\*AARON NELSON ESQUIRE  
CURTIN & HEEFNER LLP  
1040 STONY HILL ROAD  
YARDLEY PA 19067  
**215.736.2521**

[mbc@curtinheefner.com](mailto:mbc@curtinheefner.com)

[apg@curtinheefner.com](mailto:apg@curtinheefner.com)

[adn@curtinheefner.com](mailto:adn@curtinheefner.com)

Served via eService

\*Served via Email

*(Counsel for Twp of Lower Makefield)*