

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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**IN RE: APPLICATION OF THE CITY  
OF PITTSTON, *NUNC PRO TUNC*,  
PURSUANT TO 66 PA. C.S. § 1102(A),  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC  
CONVENIENCE TO OFFER,  
FURNISH, RENDER, AND SUPPLY  
WASTEWATER SERVICE TO THE  
PUBLIC IN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF DURYEA, THE  
BOROUGH OF HUGHESTOWN AND  
PITTSTON TOWNSHIP, ALL IN  
LUZERNE COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA**

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**DOCKET A-2026-3059911**

**VERIFIED RESPONSES TO THE INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF  
CONSUMER ADVOCATE, SET I TO CITY OF PITTSTON**

1. Was the City aware it needed a Certificate of Public Convenience before providing service outside its municipal authority? If yes, please explain why one was not obtained.

**Response:** Please refer to paragraph number 9 in the City's *Nunc Pro Tunc* Application (the "Application"). The City believes its system was installed as many as 100 years ago or more. The City believes it started providing service to customers outside of its boundaries around the same time and certainly before the codification of the Public Utility Code in 1976.

Application of City of Pittston, Nunc Pro Tunc, for a Certificate of Public Convenience to Offer, Furnish, Render, and Supply Wastewater Service to the Public in Certain Portions of the Borough of Duryea, the Borough of Hughestown, and Pittston Township, All in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

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### **Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

2. Please provide schedules of the City of Pittston's rates over the last ten year. State the date of any changes in rates during this period.

**Response:**

Rates effective as of January 1, 2019:

Annual fixed usage and maintenance fee of \$290 per equivalent dwelling unit

Rates effective as of January 1, 2022

Annual fixed usage and maintenance fee of \$330 per equivalent dwelling unit

Rates effective as of January 1, 2024

\$82.50 for 0 to 15,000 gallons per calendar year quarter

\$4.05 for each additional 1,000 gallons per quarter or fraction thereof per quarter over 15,000 gallons

\$82.50 minimum charge per quarter

Rates effective as of January 1, 2025:

\$82.50 for 0 to 15,000 gallons per calendar year quarter

\$4.25 for each additional 1,000 gallons per quarter or fraction thereof per quarter over 15,000 gallons

\$82.50 minimum charge per quarter

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3. Does the City of Pittston intend to increase rates at any time during 2026? If yes, please provide the date, dollar and percentage increase.

**Response:** The City does not intend to increase rates during 2026 at this time. If the Public Utility Commission does not approve the sale of the system to Pennsylvania American Water in 2026, the City will likely have to raise rates which is typically done in December through the budget process.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

4. Please provide the date on which the City of Pittston first began providing wastewater services to customers living outside of the City of Pittston.

**Response:** Please refer to paragraph 9 of the City's Application and the answer to Question 1 above.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

5. For each year the City provided wastewater services to customers living outside of the City, please provide the following by year:
  - A. Total revenue collected from customers

**Response:** Please see chart below which was recently provided to us by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (“WVSA”). The revenue numbers for 2024 are different than the revenue numbers provided in Exhibit B to the Application. The City believes the difference in revenue numbers in 2024 is due to the City’s use of unaudited numbers for 2024 because the audited numbers were not available prior to the filing date. The revenue numbers below are based on the final audited numbers that include accounting adjustments for bills paid in January 2025 but incurred the previous year of 2024 and the release and establishment of accruals.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

Year	Municipality	Flat Billed	Meter Billed	Totals
2020	Duryea	8,305.60	1,134.51	9,440.11
	Hughestown	180,832.67	21,904.94	202,737.61
	Pittston City	894,037.73	296,816.61	1,190,854.34
	Pittston Twp.	1,304.98	297.25	1,602.23
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,084,480.98</b>	<b>320,153.31</b>	<b>1,404,634.29</b>

Year	Municipality	Flat Billed	Meter Billed	Totals
2021	Duryea	8,149.00	319.00	8,468.00
	Hughestown	181,025.50	14,785.99	195,811.49
	Pittston City	904,621.11	301,934.88	1,206,555.99
	Pittston Twp.	1,233.16	290.00	1,523.16
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,095,028.77</b>	<b>317,329.87</b>	<b>1,412,358.64</b>

Year	Municipality	Flat Billed	Meter Billed	Totals
2022	Duryea	8,901.84	1,976.29	10,878.13
	Hughestown	206,410.35	21,446.22	227,856.57
	Pittston City	1,042,488.61	344,380.38	1,386,868.99
	Pittston Twp.	1,419.00	320.00	1,739.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,259,219.80</b>	<b>368,122.89</b>	<b>1,627,342.69</b>

Year	Municipality	Flat Billed	Meter Billed	Totals
2023	Duryea	9,528.84	354.75	9,883.59
	Hughestown	205,419.73	20,963.95	226,383.68
	Pittston City	1,048,806.40	336,469.69	1,385,276.09
	Pittston Twp.	1,403.33	338.25	1,741.58
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,265,158.30</b>	<b>358,126.64</b>	<b>1,623,284.94</b>

Year	Municipality	Flat Billed	Meter Billed	Totals
2024	Duryea	9,264.75	338.25	9,603.00
	Hughestown	205,423.00	18,898.64	224,321.64
	Pittston City	1,061,141.03	352,496.45	1,413,637.48
	Pittston Twp.	1,427.25	330.00	1,757.25
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,277,256.03</b>	<b>372,063.34</b>	<b>1,649,319.37</b>

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B. Total operating expenses are associated with providing services to customers outside of the City.

**Response:** Please see chart below. The expense numbers for 2024 are different than the expense numbers provided in Exhibit B to the Application. The City believes the difference in expense numbers in 2024 is due to the City’s use of unaudited numbers for 2024 because the audited numbers were not available prior to the filing date. The expense numbers below are based on the final audited numbers.

Year	Pittston Township	Hughestown	Duryea
2020	\$1,187	\$166,186	\$7,122
2021	\$1,459	\$204,291	\$8,755
2022	\$1,386	\$193,978	\$8,313
2023	\$1,716	\$240,198	\$10,294
2024	\$2,047	\$286,566	\$12,281

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6. Please refer to question No. 4. If the information is not available for the entire period, please provide for the last 25 years.

**Response:** The City does not have and cannot obtain the requested information before 2020 as the City changed billing systems and that information is no longer available.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

7. For each year the City provided wastewater services to customers living outside of the City, please provide the total amount billed to each customer by year.

**Response:** The City is endeavoring to provide the OCA with this information promptly which the City must obtain from the WWSA.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

8. Please refer to question No. 7. If the information is not available for the entire period, please provide for the last 25 years.

**Response:** The City does not have and cannot obtain the requested information before 2020 as the City changed billing systems and that information is no longer available.

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### **Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

9. Please state the number of customers at December 31 for each year the City provided wastewater services to customers living outside of the City, broken down by customer class. (e.g. residential, commercial) and residency (inside/outside of City)

**Response:** Please refer to paragraph 10 of the City's Application. The City believes the customer numbers provided in the Application have remained essentially the same with possibly minimal changes over the last 25 years in Hughestown. The City believes that the customer numbers in the Township of Pittston and in Duryea have not changed over the last 25 years.

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10. Please refer to question No.9. If the information is not available for the entire period, please provide for the last 25 years.

**Response:** Please see answer to Question 9 above.

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### **Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

11. Describe any changes in the number of utility customers located outside the City's municipal boundaries since providing service, including the number of new connections and disconnections, and identify whether utility service to such customers has been provided on a continuous basis during that period.

**Response:** Please see answer to question 9 above. The service has been continuous since inception of the system.

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### **Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

12. Provide the total number of unique customer accounts registered for utility customers located outside the City's municipal boundaries since the City began providing utility services.

**Response:** Please see answer to question 9 above.

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13. Please refer to question No. 8. If the information is not available for the entire period, please provide for the last 25 years.

**Response:** This question is unclear. It appears the question referenced in question 13 was not the intended question. If the question should have referenced question 12 not 8, the City's response is: the City does not have the specific information requested prior to 2020 due to the change in its billing system.

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14. Please provide the total operating expenses are associated with providing services to customers outside of the City by year since providing service.

**Response:** Please see answer to question 5B above.

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15. Please refer to question No. 10. If the information is not available for the entire period, please provide for the last 25 years.

**Response:**

The question is unclear. It appears the question referenced in question 15 was not the intended question. If question 15 should have referenced question 14 not 10, the City's response is: Please see answer to question 5B above.

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16. What action(s) did the City take once they identified they needed a Certificate of Public Convenience to service customers outside of the municipality?

**Response:** In the process of determining whether or not the City needed to file the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience, the City also discovered that some customers of the system located outside the City had not been billed. See paragraph 13 of the Application. The City added those customers to the list of customers provided to its outside billing company for billing in the next billing cycle after the discovery. The billing company has confirmed that those customers who had not been billed previously, received bills for the last quarter of 2025 in January 2026. Please see paragraph 13 of the Application.

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**Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

17. Has the City received any complaints from customers outside of the municipality in the last five years? If so, please provide details and date of complaint.

**Response:** The City is not aware of any such complaints.

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### **Responses to OCA Interrogatories Set I**

18. Please state the amount of capital expenditures related to the wastewater system expended by the City of Pittston over the last 25 years.

**Response:** The City could not find any records of capital expenditures made to the system located in Hughestown, Duryea or the Township of Pittston.

In 2017-2019, the City was forced to replace a major transmission main along Panama Street in the City of Pittston from the Hughestown border to North Main Street, Pittston, due to partial collapse and impending additional collapse at a cost of more than \$2.1 million. Parts of the transmission main dated to the 1870s and were originally an open stone culvert. The City had to install a 60 inch replacement main along the entire length of Panama Street and the associated infrastructure such as custom designed manholes, because of the large volume of sewerage conveyed through this main from Hughestown. If the City did not have to take the wastewater from the customers in Hughestown, the City could have installed a much smaller main at much less cost. The replacement of the main benefits the Hughestown customers as much as the customers in the City, however, efforts to have the Borough of Hughestown participate in the project were not successful.

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19. Provide all documents the City relied on to support its request for nunc pro tunc approval.

**Response:** Please refer to the Exhibits to the Application. In addition, in the process of preparing the Application, the City reviewed minutes from City Council meetings to try to determine when the service to the extra territorial customers began and why, but could not find answers to those questions.

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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**DOCKET A-2026-3059911**

**VERIFICATION**

I, David Hines, Chief Financial Officer of the City of Pittston, Pennsylvania, hereby state that the facts set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Dated: 4 MARCH 2026

  
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David Hines

**BEFORE THE  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the electronically filed *Verified Responses to the Interrogatories of the Office of Consumer Advocate, Set 1 to City of Pittsburgh* upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

Secretary Matthew Homsher  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room N-201  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
*via eService*

Steven Gray, Esquire  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Pl., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
*via eService*

Ryan Morden, Esquire  
Harrison Breitman, Esquire  
Olivia Spergel, Esquire  
Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923  
*via eService*

Michael Podskoch, Esquire  
Allison Kaster, Esquire  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
*via eService*

Mr. Paul Diskin, Director  
Bureau of Technical Utility Services  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
*Via UPS, Next Day Air*

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Matthew Olesh, Esquire  
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Erin Fure, Esquire  
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*Counsel for PAWC  
via eService*

E. Lee Stinnett II, Esquire  
Isaac Wakefield, Esquire  
Luke Gibson, Esquire  
1801 Market Street, Suite 300  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
*Counsel for Wyoming Valley Sanitary  
Authority  
via eService*

Dated this 4th day of March, 2026

/s/ Elizabeth Preate Havey  
Elizabeth Preate Havey, Esquire  
*Counsel for the Applicant, City of Pittston*