

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Greater Hazleton Community :
Area New Development Organization Inc. t/a :
CAN DO, INC., Pursuant to Section 1102(a) :
of the Code, for Approval of (1) the Right to :
Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Waster Service :
to the Public in an Additional Portion of Hazle :
Township, together with portions of Sugarloaf : A-2026-3059809
Township and West Hazleton Borough, :
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and :
(2) Abandonment of Portions of its Water :
Service Territory in Hazle Township, Luzerne :
County, Pennsylvania and East Union Township, :
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania :

**INTERIM ORDER #1
GRANTING PETITION FOR LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

This interim order grants the petition for leave to withdraw the protest of
Melissa Ritz.

HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDING

On January 13, 2026, Greater Hazleton Community Area New
Development Organization Inc., t/a CAN DO, INC. (CAN DO), filed an application with
the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), pursuant to Section 1102(a)
of the Public Utility Code (Code), for approval of (1) the right to offer, render, furnish or
supply water service to the public in an additional portion of Hazle Township, together
with portions of Sugarloaf Township and West Hazleton Borough, Luzerne County,
Pennsylvania and (2) abandonment of portions of its water service territory in Hazle

Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and East Union Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.¹

Notice of the application was published in the January 31, 2026 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, 56 Pa.B. 737. The notice specified a protest deadline of on or before February 16, 2026.

On February 17, 2026, Melissa Ritz (Ms. Ritz) filed a protest in opposition of the application.²

On February 25, 2026, the Commission issued an Initial Telephonic Prehearing Conference Notice to alert the parties that a prehearing conference would be held on March 25, 2026. Also on February 25, 2026, the undersigned issued a Prehearing Order.

On March 6, 2026, CAN DO filed a preliminary objection to Ms. Ritz's protest. A Notice to Plead appropriately accompanied the preliminary objection.

On March 9, 2026, Ms. Ritz emailed the undersigned, copying counsel for CAN DO, "I would like to withdraw my protest and no longer wish to participate in docket number A-2026-3059809."

Ms. Ritz's March 9 email will be treated as a petition for leave to withdraw her protest to the application. By email dated March 9, 2026, counsel for CAN DO indicated that CAN DO has no objection to the withdrawal of Ms. Ritz's protest.

¹ On January 22, 2026, CAN DO filed an amended application to correct an administrative error related to Exhibit 6.

² Ms. Ritz's protest was postmarked February 14, 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Commission's regulations permit the withdrawal of pleadings in a contested proceeding:

§ 5.94. Withdrawal of pleadings in a contested proceeding.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a party desiring to withdraw a pleading in a contested proceeding may file a petition for leave to withdraw the appropriate document with the Commission and serve it upon the other parties. The petition must set forth the reasons for the withdrawal. A party may object to the petition within 10 days of service. After considering the petition, an objection thereto and the public interest, the presiding officer or the Commission will determine whether the withdrawal will be permitted.

52 Pa. Code § 5.94.

Here, Ms. Ritz indicated that she wished to withdraw her protest and no longer participate in the application proceeding. After consideration, the undersigned find there is no prejudice against any other party or the public in allowing the withdrawal.

Thus, Ms. Ritz's Petition for Leave to Withdraw Protest will be granted in the ordering paragraphs below.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Melissa Ritz's Petition for Leave to Withdraw Protest of the Application of CAN DO, INC., at Docket No. A-2026-3059809, is granted.

2. That the Preliminary Objection to Melissa Ritz's Protest to the Application filed by CAN DO, INC., at Docket No. A-2026-3059809, is moot.

Date: March 10, 2026

/s/
Emily A. Farren
Administrative Law Judge

/s/
Steven K. Haas
Administrative Law Judge

A-2026-3059809 - EXPANSION OF ITS SERVICE TERRITORY TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL PORTION OF HAZLE TOWNSHIP, TOGETHER WITH PORTIONS OF SUGARLOAF TOWNSHIP AND WEST HAZLETON BOROUGH, ALL IN LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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