

Re: Docket C-2026-3060873 — Complainant's Response to Preliminary Objections
Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101

To the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

Complainant Adam M. Copenhaver respectfully submits this response to Columbia Water Company's Preliminary Objections filed March 25, 2026.

As a threshold matter: Complainant has not yet received service of these objections as of March 31, 2026 — six days after filing. The Certificate of Service indicates First Class Mail to 339 Cherry Street, Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512. That document has not arrived. The ten-day response window under 52 Pa. Code § 5.101 cannot be said to have commenced. This response is filed voluntarily, on the record, and in the interest of judicial economy.

I.

Complainant supports Respondent's request that the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice.

I am prejudiced. Not in the legal sense Respondent intends — but in the only honest sense available. I am prejudiced against a water system delivering disinfection byproducts above peer-reviewed cancer-risk thresholds to my neighbors, and against a regulatory structure that has repeatedly ratified it. That is not a posture I arrived at frivolously. It is the conclusion this process produced.

II.

Respondent's Preliminary Objection 1 deserves special attention. In arguing that the Commission lacks jurisdiction over PENNVEST loan compliance, Columbia Water Company cites 35 P.S. § 751.14 — which grants the PUC authority, for the limited and special purpose of ensuring loan repayment, to approve rate increases. Respondent argues this is the boundary of the Commission's authority here.

Complainant did not discover this at hearing. He sees it now, clearly, in Respondent's own filing.

Respondent has stated, on the record, under counsel's signature, that this Commission's statutory function with respect to these loans is rate approval — and nothing more. A body whose jurisdiction is bounded by billing cannot examine the public health conditions, infrastructure failures, or loan irregularities that produced the rates under review. It can only ratify them.

Respondent has confirmed it in a formal legal filing. Complainant thanks counsel for the clarity.

III.

It is procedurally irregular to file preliminary objections to a withdrawn complaint. Complainant filed his Petition to Withdraw on March 13, 2026. Respondent filed these objections on March 25, 2026 — twelve days later, into a technically open but complainant-vacated proceeding. Complainant withdrew at the implicit advisement of the tribunal during the emergency hearing. The Commission invited his exit. Respondent's counsel thereafter filed a formal legal document objecting to it.

The substance of that objection — that this Commission lacks jurisdiction over the gravamen of the complaint — is precisely what Complainant wrote in direct correspondence to all parties prior to withdrawal. Counsel has restated it, more elegantly, under a firm letterhead. Complainant does not begrudge the editing.

IV.

To the Commission, this proceeding likely represents twenty-three cents.

To Complainant, it represents his neighbors' welfare.

If a final order with prejudice is the only instrument this Commission retains the authority to issue in this matter, Complainant demands it. Close this docket. Let the record stand as written. Let it be known that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through its utility billing department, reviewed the water my neighbors drink — and found the rate acceptable.

Complainant asks only to be permitted to pay for water — water that does not meet the thresholds at which peer-reviewed literature associates elevated cancer risk — in peace, and in whatever health remains available to those of us downstream of this system.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam M. Copenhaver

Pro Se Complainant

Whitney E. Snyder, Esq.'s Lay Man

339 Cherry Street

Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512

adamcopenhaver22@gmail.com

(570) 452-2344

Docket C-2026-3060873

Dated: March 31, 2026

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on March 31, 2026, I served a true copy of the foregoing upon the following parties via electronic email.

Administrative Law Judge F. Joseph Brady (fbrady@pa.gov)

Pamela McNeal, Legal Assistant (pmcneal@pa.gov)

Whitney E. Snyder, Esq. (wesnyder@hmslegal.com)

Verification

I verify that the facts set forth in this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Adam M. Copenhaver

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March 31, 2026