



VIA E-FILING

March 31, 2026

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Steet
2nd Floor, Room-N201
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Application of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. pursuant to Section 1102 of the Public Utility Code for Approval of its Acquisition of the Water System Assets of Ulster Municipal Authority, Bradford County
Docket No. A-2026-3060010**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Please find enclosed here the Joint Stipulation between Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Aqua") and the Office of Small Business Advocate ("OSBA") in the above captioned proceeding. The Joint Stipulation resolves the OSBA's issues with the Application, requests that the OSBA's intervention be withdrawn, and that the Application be referred back to the Bureau of Technical Utility Services from the Office of Administrative Law Judge for further processing.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 610-645-1130 or by email at astahl@aquaaamerica.com.

Sincerely,



Alexander R. Stahl
Regulatory Counsel

cc: Matthew Lamb, Bureau of Technical Utility Services (via email, mlamb@pa.gov)

Enclosure

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. :
pursuant to Section 1102 of the Public :
Utility Code for Approval of its : **Docket No. A-2026-3060010**
Acquisition of the Water System Assets of :
Ulster Municipal Authority, Bradford :
County :

**JOINT STIPULATION OF AQUA PENNSYLVANIA, INC. AND THE OFFICE OF
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

Pursuant to Section 5.234 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (“Commission”) regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 5.234, and Section 69.401 of the Commission’s Policy Statements, 52 Pa. Code § 69.401, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Aqua”) and the Office of the Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) (collectively, the “Parties”) submit the following Joint Stipulation for the record of the above-captioned Application proceeding. This Joint Stipulation is intended to be binding on the Parties with respect to the matters so stipulated. For the reasons that follow, the Parties respectfully request that this Joint Stipulation be accepted into the evidentiary record of this proceeding, and that the Presiding Officer, Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Steven K. Haas, reassign this Application proceeding to the Bureau of Technical Utility Services (“TUS”) for review and recommendation to the Commission on the grounds that an evidentiary hearing on this Application is no longer being requested and is not necessary.

1. On January 23, 2026, Aqua filed with the Commission an Application for approval of: (1) the acquisition by Aqua of the water system assets of Ulster Municipal Authority (“UMA”) situated within a portion of Ulster Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania; and (2) the right of

Aqua to begin to offer, render, furnish and supply water service to the public in a portion of Ulster Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

2. Notice of this Application was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin with a protest and/or intervention date of February 23, 2026.

3. On February 3, 2026, the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) filed a Notice of Appearance of Rebecca Lyttle and Steven C. Gray.

4. On February 18, 2026, the OSBA filed a Withdrawal of Appearance of Steven C. Gray.

5. On February 19, 2026, the OSBA filed a Notice of Intervention and Public Statement, requesting that evidentiary hearings be scheduled before the Commission.

6. Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Steven K. Haas was assigned by the Commission to preside over this matter.

7. ALJ Haas contacted the parties via email on February 25, 2026 to discuss scheduling a prehearing conference, and inquired whether the Parties would like to confer prior to scheduling a prehearing conference, to which the Parties agreed. ALJ Haas requested the Parties provide a status update by March 13, 2026

8. Discussions between Aqua and the OSBA aimed at resolving the OSBA’s request for evidentiary hearings continued, and on March 20, 2026, the Parties informed the ALJ that a resolution had been reached. The Parties requested that the procedural schedule for this proceeding be suspended and advised the ALJ that the Parties intended to serve and file a Joint Stipulation.

9. The Parties have agreed that upon the filing and incorporation of the Joint Stipulation into the evidentiary record by the ALJ, the OSBA withdraws its request for evidentiary hearings in this matter and will withdraw its Petition to Intervene.

10. Aqua has agreed that it will include information about the OSBA in Aqua's welcome letter to UMA customers after closing. Aqua has also agreed that the UMA system will not be included in a base rate case proceeding under Aqua's ownership prior to January 1, 2027.

11. As part of this Joint Stipulation, the Parties respectfully request that the Application be reassigned from the Office of Administrative Law Judge to TUS for review and disposition on the merits.

12. The Parties submit that the terms of this Joint Stipulation and the resultant avoidance of further litigation of the Application are in the public interest and consistent with this Commission's strong support for negotiated stipulations. Section 69.401 of the Commission's Policy Statement provides that the results of a negotiated stipulation are "often preferable to those achieved at the conclusion of a fully litigated proceeding." 52 Pa. Code § 69.401.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons specified above, Aqua and the OSBA respectfully request that the ALJ accept and enter it into the evidentiary record of this proceeding this Joint Stipulation that provides for: (i) the OSBA's withdrawal of its request for evidentiary hearings in this Application and (ii) the reassignment of the Application from the Office of Administrative Law Judge to TUS for review and disposition on the merits.


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

Honorable Steven K. Haas
Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
sthaas@pa.gov

Rebecca Lyttle, Esq.
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
relyttle@pa.gov

Date: March 31, 2026



Alexander R. Stahl