

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2026-3061282
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	
Margaret O'Brien	:	C-2026-3061627
Alex Arduino	:	C-2026-3061588
	:	C-2026-3061478
v.	:	
	:	
Montgomery Sewer Co., Inc.	:	

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

On March 23, 2026, Montgomery Sewer Co., Inc (Montgomery), Utility Code 230284, filed proposed Sewer-Pa. P.U.C. No. 2 (Tariff No. 2) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) containing proposed changes in rates, terms, and other provisions calculated to produce \$84,600 (51.1%) in additional annual revenues, an increase in residential customer's bills per year from \$400.00 to \$700.00 (75%), to become effective July 1, 2026.

On March 31, 2026, Margaret O'Brien filed a Formal Complaint to the proposed rate increase. The Complaint was docketed at C-2026-3061588. On April 1, 2026, Alex Arduino filed a Formal Complaint to the proposed rate increase. The Complaint was docketed at C-2026-3061478.

On April 7, 2026, Steven C. Gray, Esq. entered a Notice of Appearance on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA). Additionally, OSBA filed a Formal Complaint, a Public Statement and Verification at Docket No.C-2026-3061627.

By Order entered on April 30, 2026, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) instituted an investigation into the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the

proposed rates, rules and regulations contained in the Montgomery Sewer Co., Inc.'s proposed Sewer- PA P.U.C. No. 2 and that the proposed Sewer- PA P.U.C. No. 2 is suspended by operation of law until February 1, 2027, unless otherwise directed by Order of the Commission. In addition, the Commission ordered that the investigation include consideration of the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of Montgomery's existing rates, rules, and regulations. The matter was assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for Alternative Dispute Resolution and for the prompt scheduling of hearings, as may be necessary, culminating in the issuance of a Recommended Decision.

In accordance with the Commission's April 30, 2026, Order, the matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Barbara Shadie Nause.

A Prehearing Conference is scheduled in this case for **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** To participate in the hearing, you must dial the toll-free number listed below. You will be prompted to enter a PIN number, which is also listed below. You will be asked to speak your name and then the telephone system will connect you to the hearing.

Toll-free Bridge Number: 1.888.793.8227

PIN Number: 20823222

You must call into the conference on the scheduled day and time. Failure of any party to attend the prehearing conference without good cause shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and matters decided at the prehearing conference. You will not be called by the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. That a request for a change of the scheduled Prehearing Conference date must state the agreement or opposition of other participants and must be submitted in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the Prehearing Conference. 52 Pa.Code § 1.15(b). Requests for

changes of the Prehearing Conference date must be sent to me and all participants of record. Our correct address is:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
801 Market Street, Suite 4063
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Telephone: 215-560-2105
Fax: 717-231-4764

2. That absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled Prehearing Conference. Failure of a party to participate in the conference, after being served with notice of the date, time, and location thereof, without good cause shown, shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached, and an order or ruling with respect thereto.

3. That the Commission's regulation concerning prehearing conferences in rate proceedings is located at 52 Pa.Code § 5.224. Accordingly, we will discuss the following:

- 1) A proposed plan and schedule of discovery;
- 2) Possibility of settlement;
- 3) Issues;
- 4) Amount of hearing time needed;
- 5) Witnesses;
- 6) Schedule for submission of testimony, hearings, and briefs; ¹
- 7) Public Input hearings; and
- 8) Any other appropriate matter.

4. That each active participant must file and serve, on or before Friday, May 8, 2026, a prehearing conference memorandum which sets forth the history of these proceedings and addresses the agenda items listed above. **If more than one attorney represents a party, your prehearing memorandum should identify one attorney who will speak as the lead attorney for the purposes of the prehearing conference.**

¹ As of the date of the Order, the proposed hearing dates, close of the record, main briefs and reply briefs dates have not been suggested because the 2027 Public Meeting scheduled has not been published. A proposed scheduled will be discussed at the May 12, 2026, Prehearing Conference.

5. That the parties shall review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa.Code § 5.331(b), which provides, inter alia, that “[a] party shall initiate discovery as early in the proceeding as reasonably possible,” and 52 Pa.Code § 5.322, which encourages participants to exchange information on an informal basis. All participants are urged to cooperate in discovery. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.361, 5.371-372.

6. That pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.21-1.23, you may represent yourself, if you are an individual, or you may have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted pro hac vice, represent you. **However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, joint venture, other business organization, trust, trustee, legal representative, receiver, agency, governmental entity, municipality, or other political subdivision, you must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted pro hac vice represent you in this proceeding.** Unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall ensure that their appearance is entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b).

7. That pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.21-1.23, **Montgomery Sewer Company, Inc. shall have an attorney enter his or her appearance on its behalf on or before May 8, 2026.**

8. That the parties must serve me directly with a copy of any document that they file in this proceeding. Also, if a party sends any correspondence or document, that party must send a copy to all other parties that have declared they are actively participating in these proceedings. Parties may serve documents electronically by 4:30 p.m. to meet any required due date. Since documents can be submitted to me and the participants by e-mail, e-mail addresses are included on the attached service list. Please check the list for omissions and errors and contact my office to make corrections. My e-mail address is bshadienau@pa.gov.

9. That the parties shall stipulate to any matters they reasonably can to expedite this proceeding, lessen the burden of time and expense in litigation on all parties and conserve precious administrative hearing resources. 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.232 and 5.234. All

**R-2026-3061282, C-2026-3061627, C-2026- 3061588 – PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC
UTILITY COMMISSION v. MONTGOMERY SEWER COMPANY INC**

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