

October 15, 2026

Secretary Matthew L. Homsher, Esq.
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Docket No. A-2026-3063219 - Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc.
Formal Objection to Application, Request to Accept Late Protest/Petition to Intervene, and Request to Postpone the October 22, 2026 Decision**

Dear Secretary Homsher and Members of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

We are residents of the Witney Ridge and Mount Allen Heights neighborhoods in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. We respectfully submit this objection to Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc.'s application for approval to acquire certain real estate easements associated with the proposed elevated water storage tank in our community.

We ask the Commission to **deny Veolia's application as currently presented or, at a minimum, postpone its scheduled October 22, 2026 vote** until affected residents have had a meaningful opportunity to review the proposal, raise concerns, require that Veolia provide documentation that explains why other land options were not selected. We also respectfully request that the Commission accept this filing after the published protest deadline for good cause, given the circumstances described below.

1. Residents did not receive meaningful notice or an opportunity to participate.

Veolia's public notice appeared on June 23 and June 30, 2026 in the Carlisle Sentinel newspaper. However, many residents in Witney Ridge and Mount Allen Heights did not see those notices because they do not subscribe to a newspaper that generally serves the Carlisle area. We are concerned that this absence of any resident objections did not reflect a lack of community concern, but rather that many directly affected residents were unaware of the proposal. As a result, residents did not have an opportunity to protest or petition to intervene on or before the July 13th, 2026 deadline to appeal Veolia's application.

We request an opportunity for residents to participate in a public hearing with the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to voice our concerns on this important matter, before a decision is made by the Board.

Veolia did not directly contact any residents in either neighborhood to explain the project, its proposed location, its scale, or its potential effects on the surrounding homes. Most residents first became aware of this project after a neighbor posted notices on garage doors in Witney Ridge on or about September 16, alerting residents to the Upper Allen Township September 28 Planning Commission meeting. Our first and only direct contact with Veolia representatives did not occur until the October 7 Board of Commissioners meeting.

2. The Cumberland County and Upper Allen Township Planning Commissions specifically recommended outreach to nearby residents.

In correspondence dated June 24, 2026, Cumberland County Planning Commission Director of Planning Kirk D. Stoner to Michael Klein, ESQ, representing Veolia, stated:

“Given the close proximity of the elevated water storage tank to existing housing, Veolia should consider outreach to residents to explain the project. Further, the elevated storage tank should be designed to be as compatible as possible with the surrounding residences.”

Likewise, at their June 29, 2026 meeting, the Upper Allen Township Planning Commission recommended that, “Given the close proximity of the elevated storage tank to existing housing, Veolia should consider reaching out to residents to explain the project. Furthermore, the design of the elevated storage tank should strive to be as compatible as possible with the surrounding residences.”

Despite these recommendations, Veolia did not undertake the recommended outreach. We believe the proximity of this proposed structure to existing homes and its impact on the surrounding ecosystem makes timely communication, transparency, and meaningful public participation particularly important.

The urgency illustrated by Veolia to file a “Carry-In” agenda item ahead of the October 1st, 2026 PUC public meeting, further illustrates this deliberate lack of transparency and good faith.

3. The Settlement Agreement between Veolia and Upper Allen Township was not provided to residents in advance of the October 7 Board of Commissioners meeting.

The settlement agreement was not sent to any resident until 8:52 a.m. on October 7, 2026, the same day the Board considered and approved it. Residents were therefore not provided the required 24 hours as a reasonable opportunity to review the agreement, understand its implications, and prepare informed comments before the scheduled 6:30pm vote.

We ask the Commission to consider whether the public process provided residents with a meaningful opportunity to understand and comment on the proposal before decisions affecting their neighborhoods were made.

4. Residents deserve and need a meaningful opportunity to understand the project and its alternatives.

Residents recognize the importance of reliable water service. Our objection is not to that goal. Our concern is that a project of this scale and proximity to existing homes should proceed only after its location, design, impacts, and alternative locations have been adequately evaluated with meaningful public participation and consideration by Upper Allen Township representatives and residents.

At this stage, residents are being told to accept an agreement before having seen all of the information necessary to understand the full impact of the huge project.

Before approving Veolia’s application, we respectfully ask the Commission to ensure that the record adequately addresses the project’s proposed location and dimensions, visual compatibility with nearby residences, exact tree removal, lighting, noise, construction impacts, stormwater management, easements, and long-term maintenance.

At the October 7, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting, Veolia shared four exhibits for public viewing. The ‘aerial shot’ of the proposed water tower in the land, surrounded by trees, was very inaccurate and misrepresented the size and location of water tower.

Upper Allen Township officials have suggested at least six potential alternative sites of this project, in addition to those purportedly considered by Veolia. We request documentation of alternative sites or configurations considered and the reasons for selecting this location. If previously studied sites are confidential, we would ask that the PUC review the documentation to ensure that the chosen residential location is truly the best site to build a 3 million gallon water tank.

If this location must be used, residents should, at a minimum, receive a fair and acceptable compensation, based upon a mutually agreed, independent professional appraisal, on how this will affect each of the residents in the impacted area.

5. Veolia has not presented justification to the PUC for their request for expedited consideration of their application “due to reasons related to water supply reliability”.

Veolia has maintained this water tank is needed to replace an in-ground tank that is approaching the end of its useful life, and they are under pressure from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to eliminate that tank. No evidence has been presented to validate this claim, nor has DEP reported any such pressure.

Therefore, there is no urgency or valid justification for expedited approval of Veolia’s Application.

6. Veolia has not demonstrated due diligence in evaluating the environmental impacts of the proposed site.

This site is an undeveloped wooded tract in its natural state. Construction of a 3 million gallon water tank will have enormous impact on the environment and surrounding ecosystem. Water runoff, sedimentation, and the elimination of over 100 trees will have an irreversible impact, as well as the permanent destruction of the existing wildlife habitat.

Veolia has not presented any studies that may have been undertaken pertaining to geologic, hydrologic, and water runoff mitigation issues, or any environmental impact statement.

7. Safety Concerns

The elevation of Veolia’s proposed site is situated on the highest tract of land in the Mt. Allen Heights and Witney Ridge communities, within 20 feet of residential property lines. A steep drop off of approximately 70 feet on the site’s southern boundary exposes the homes below. From this base elevation, the water tower would rise at least 100 feet above ground.

If the water tank were to rupture or fail for ANY reason, the consequences to the surrounding neighborhoods would be catastrophic. Lives would be lost and many homes would be completely destroyed. (The site also happens to lie directly below the flight path to Harrisburg International Airport).

Veolia has not provided any evidence of precautions and safety amenities that would be added to this project to prevent such a tragic occurrence. Nor have any safeguards been shared to prevent vandalism or sabotage at this site.

Resident requests

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission:

1. **Postpone the October 22, 2026 vote** to allow affected residents a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
2. **Accept this late-filed protest petition to intervene and request to participate for good cause**, in light of residents' reported lack of effective notice and the late distribution of the settlement agreement.
3. **Provide an opportunity for residents to participate in a public hearing with the Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission to voice our concerns** before a decision is made.
4. **Require a thorough review of the project's location, design, environmental impact studies on the water runoff erosion and sedimentation controls to resident homes, and site alternatives** before acting on Veolia's application.
5. **Deny the application as currently presented** if the record does not adequately demonstrate that the proposed easements and associated project are justified and that affected residents' concerns have been properly considered.

We respectfully ask that this letter and any accompanying resident statements be placed in the official record for Docket No. A-2026-3063219 and brought to the attention of the Commissioners before their scheduled vote.

The residents of Witney Ridge and Mount Allen Heights deserve a fair opportunity to understand and be heard regarding a project proposed so close to their homes. We ask the Commission to ensure that the decision is made on a complete record and through a process that meaningfully considers the concerns of the two neighborhoods most directly affected and of the alternative sites for this project.

Thank you for time and your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Residents of Witney Ridge and Mount Allen Heights

Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

Primary contact: Jack F. Huston
Address: 119 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Email: jhuston202@gmail.com
Telephone: 717-706-4635

Additional residents and signatures: See attached resident signature sheet.

Name	Address	Signature	Date
Jack F. Huston	119 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg, PA	Jack F. Huston	10/15/2026
Janis L. Huston	119 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg, PA	Janis L. Huston	10/15/2026
JOSEPH K. PIERCE	111 STANDLAKE WAY, MECHANICSBURG, PA	Joseph K. Pierce	10.15.26 4

Additional residents and signatures: See attached resident signature sheet.

Name	Address	Signature	Date
Ronald W. Blough	120 Standlake Way, Mech, PA	Ronald W. Blough	10/15/2026
Lorraine Blough	120 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055	Lorraine Blough	10/15/2026
Terrence Challenger	118 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg PA 17055	Terrence Challenger	10/15/26
Denise Challenger	118 Standlake Way, Mechanicsburg PA 17055	Denise Challenger	10/15/26
(Alfred)		Alfred	10/15/26
Bob Risaliti	534 Appalachian Ave, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055	Bob Risaliti	10/15/26
Carol Risaliti	534 Appalachian Ave, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055	Carol Risaliti	10/15/26
Chris Cavan	526 Appalachian Ave, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055	Chris Cavan	10/15/26
Thomas NEE	538 APPALACHIAN AVE MECHANICSBURG PA 17055	Thomas NEE	10/15/26
Ray Boyer	531 Appalachian Ave Mech PA	Ray Boyer	10/15/26
Mary B. Nee	538 Appalachian Av. Mech, PA	Mary B. Nee	10-15-26
Joey Boyer	531 Appalachian Ave Mech PA	Joey Boyer	10-15-26
Nicole Kepes	529 Appalachian Ave	Nicole Kepes	10-15-26
Michelle Hardiman	533 APPALACHIAN AVE.	Michelle Hardiman	10/15/26
Lucia Michener	533 APPALACHIAN AVE	Lucia Michener	10/15/26
Rick DuBois	548 Appalachian Ave	Rick DuBois	10/15/26
Kim Shuster	548 Appalachian Ave	Kim Shuster	10-15-26
Allison Govern	529 Appalachian Avenue	Allison Govern	10/15/26
Michelle Zettlemoyer	552 Appalachian Ave	Michelle Zettlemoyer	10/15/26
Alsaider Zettler	552 Appalachian Ave	Alsaider Zettler	10/15/26

Additional residents and signatures: See attached resident signature sheet.

Name	Address	Signature	Date
Robert Coyne	116 Standlake Way	Robert Coyne	15 Oct 2026
Marie Coyne	116 Standlake Way	Marie Coyne	Oct 15, 2026
Jennifer Ryan	108 Standlake Way	Jennifer Ryan	10/15/26
Tim Ryan	108 Standlake Way	Tim Ryan	10/15/26