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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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COMMISSION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

September 29, 2022

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairwoman
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
Post Office Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Dear Chairwoman Brown Dutrieuille,

I write to request a review of the recently enacted rate increase by Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc (Aqua) for water and wastewater services in Chester County. I have heard from numerous constituents concerned that the rates now in place are not within the limits approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Despite overwhelming opposition from ratepayers, and myself, in May of 2022, PUC Commissioners voted to approve a rate increase for water and wastewater services provided by Aqua. While residents anticipated an increase, many have been surprised and frustrated to receive bills that have exceeded estimates previously provided by Aqua. Multiple constituents, including seniors on fixed incomes, have shared their bills have doubled, a cost burden that may require them to relocate.

According to the attached Commission Final Allowance, the PUC approved an overall rate increase of 54% for wastewater services in New Garden Township, Chester County. According to Keep Water Affordable, a local consumer advocate group, residential usage accounts for 82% of the wastewater revenue in the township. Only one of the 23 attached residential rate brackets submitted by Aqua received less than a 54% increase. The vast majority of rates have an increase of over 80%. While these figures do not consider commercial revenue, I believe it would be prudent to review the implemented amounts. Please advise what steps ratepayers can take to ensure their bill is true to their usage and the approved rates.

It is important to me that the PUC review this matter and recognize the immense difficulties this rate increase has caused for residents of the Commonwealth. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 484-200-8264.

Respectfully,

Christina D. Sappey
PA State Representative
158th Legislative District

Enclosures: Docket Nos. R-2021-3027385, R-2021-3027386, Commission Final Allowance
Aqua Wastewater Rate Comparison for New Garden Township, Keep Water Affordable

CC: Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General
Patrick Cicero, Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate

Docket Nos. R-2021-3027385, R-2021-3027386

Commission Final Allowance
AQUA PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

TABLE ACT 11 - WATER AND WASTEWATER REVENUE REQUIREMENT - SUMMARY

Line No.	Description	Total Company (a)	Water Operations (b)	Wastewater Base Operations (c)	Wastewater Limerick (d)	Wastewater East Bradford (e)	Wastewater Cheltenham (f)	Wastewater East Norriton (g)	Wastewater New Garden (h)
1	Percent Rate Revenue	\$ 548,225,086	\$ 511,148,592	\$ 19,011,761	\$ 3,978,573	\$ 1,014,569	\$ 7,258,740	\$ 2,923,770	\$ 2,888,080
2	Additional Revenue Requirement	69,328,876	39,323,400	15,616,866	5,581,376	777,094	2,752,339	2,739,266	2,538,455
3	Act 11 Allocation, Gross, Unadjusted ⁽¹⁾	(0)	11,264,438	(8,779,582)	(2,310,744)	(128,024)	2,033,271	(1,080,283)	(999,136)
4	Revenue Factor ⁽²⁾	-	70.27%	69.78%	69.78%	69.78%	69.78%	69.78%	69.78%
5	Net Income Available for Return ⁽³⁾	54,601	7,915,126	(6,126,516)	(1,612,470)	(89,337)	1,418,845	(753,837)	(697,211)
6	Act 11 Allocation Adjustment, Gross ⁽⁴⁾	(77,706)	(77,706)	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Act 11 Allocation, Gross, Adjusted ⁽⁵⁾	(77,706)	11,186,732	(8,779,582)	(2,310,744)	(128,024)	2,033,271	(1,080,283)	(999,136)
8	Proposed Revenues ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 617,476,255	\$ 561,658,784	\$ 25,843,065	\$ 7,249,205	\$ 1,663,639	\$ 12,044,410	\$ 4,582,752	\$ 4,428,339
9	Rate Increase/(Decrease) - \$	\$ 69,251,169	\$ 50,510,192	\$ 6,837,304	\$ 3,270,632	\$ 649,070	\$ 4,785,671	\$ 1,658,983	\$ 1,539,319
10	Rate Increase/(Decrease) - %	12.63%	9.88%	35.96%	82.21%	63.97%	65.33%	56.74%	53.28%
11	Total Rate Increase/(Decrease) - \$ For Wastewater Operations	\$ 18,740,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Total Rate Increase/(Decrease) - % For Wastewater Operations	50.55%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Aqua Wastewater Rate Comparison for New Garden Township

Provided by: Keep Water Affordable

September 22, 2022

Usage gallons	Previous Rate	New Rate	% Change
1000	112.91	159.64	41.4
2000	112.91	182.90	62.0
3000	112.91	206.16	82.6
4000	112.91	229.42	103.2
5000	112.91	252.68	123.8
6000	128.08	275.94	115.4
7000	143.25	299.20	108.9
8000	158.42	322.46	103.5
9000	173.59	345.72	99.2
10000	188.76	368.98	95.5
11000	203.93	392.24	92.3
12000	219.10	415.50	89.6
13000	234.27	438.76	87.3
14000	249.44	462.02	85.2
15000	264.61	485.28	83.4
16000	284.26	518.71	82.5
17000	303.91	552.14	81.7
18000	323.56	585.57	81.0
19000	343.21	619.00	80.4
20000	362.86	652.43	79.8
21000	382.51	685.86	79.3
22000	402.16	719.29	78.9
23000	421.81	752.72	78.5