

NAPOLEON NELSON, MEMBER  
154TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

325 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202154  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2154  
(717) 783-1079  
FAX: (717) 787-2713

115 E. GLENSIDE AVE., SUITE 8  
GLENSIDE, PA 19038-4618  
(215) 572-5210  
TOLL-FREE: (833) 787-5115  
FAX: (215) 517-1423



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS, *CHAIR*  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
COMMERCE  
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY  
CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY & UTILITIES  
EDUCATION

January 27, 2025

Via E-File

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

To the Honorable Commission:

We write to you in request to challenge the rate increases proposed by Aqua Pennsylvania Inc. and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc., and the settling parties, for the wastewater customers of Aqua's Cheltenham system in the current Rate Zone 9 and to request a final rate determination that considers rate gradualism for these customers.

As a State Senator and a State Representative, we are deeply concerned about the impact that Aqua's proposed rate increase will have on the residents of our districts in Cheltenham Township. Under this proposal and the settlement, Aqua aims to consolidate certain wastewater rate zones, which would move Cheltenham Township from Rate Zone 9 to Rate Zone 1, resulting in an overall bill increase of approximately 65.29%.<sup>1</sup> This will increase their monthly service charge by \$15.78 and raise their monthly consumption charge by \$4.66 per 1,000 gallons used. We respectfully request that you decide to reject the consolidation of Rate Zone 9 to Rate Zone 1 in Aqua's wastewater rate tariff, and instead raise the volumetric rate as proposed but do not raise the monthly consumer charge. We believe this result would be a just and reasonable rate for both Aqua and the Cheltenham customers, as it would permit rates to increase for Aqua while respecting the ratemaking principle of rate gradualism for the impacted consumers.

This request must be considered in context. In 2022, Aqua imposed a 65% sewer rate increase on Cheltenham Township, which doubled the amount they were paying five years prior to Aqua purchasing Cheltenham Township's sewer system. If approved, this will be the second major rate increase (of 65%) in this Township within only a five-year period. The Township sold the sewer system to Aqua due to crippling pressure from the Department of Environmental Protection and their call for massive infrastructure investment that the municipality was not capable of. To date, we have not yet seen significant infrastructure improvements while we have withstood these rate increases. We can continue to move towards the system-wide rate structures that the original rate

<sup>1</sup> Assuming monthly wastewater bill based on 3,870 gallons per month.

case intends, but to claim that we are there now would be a financial burden and, frankly, an insult to the residents of Cheltenham.

Therefore, we reiterate our request to reinstate the Zone 9 rate tariff, blending the consumption rate of Zone 1 while freezing the service charge that the customers currently face in Zone 9.

On behalf of our constituents, we urge you to take this amended structure into account when making your final decision on Aqua's proposed rate increase. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please consider this letter in making a final determination in this case. The Commission in its discretion may consider this filing and to protect due process of all parties the Commission could issue a Secretarial Letter to all parties of record providing a short window of time (e.g. 5 days) to file comments in response to this letter, should they so choose to do so. We have served a copy of this letter on all parties of record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M' followed by a flourish.

Art Haywood  
State Senator  
4th Senatorial District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Nelson' followed by a flourish.

Napoleon J. Nelson  
State Representative  
154th Legislative District

NN/nu

cc:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Kimberly M. Barrow, Vice Chair  
Ralph V. Yanora, Commissioner  
Kathryn L. Zerfuss, Commissioner  
John F. Coleman, Jr., Commissioner  
Parties of Record (per Certificate of Service)

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
v.	:	Docket Nos. R-2024-3047822 (Water)
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and	:	R-2024-3047824 (Wastewater)
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.	:	

I hereby certify that on this day, January 24, 2025, I have served a true copy of the Letter of State Representative Napoleon J. Nelson, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below.

### SERVICE BY E-MAIL ONLY

Melanie Joy El Atieh, Esq.  
Jacob D. Guthrie, Esq.  
Katherine M. Kennedy, Esq.  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
5th Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923  
OCAAqua2024@paoca.org  
*Counsel for OCA*

Steven Gray, Esq.  
Rebecca Lyttle, Esq.  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
1st Floor, Forum Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
sgray@pa.gov  
relyttle@pa.gov  
*Counsel for OSBA*

John W. Sweet, Esq.  
Ria M. Pereira, Esq.  
Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.  
Lauren N. Berman, Esq.  
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
PULP@pautilitylawproject.org  
*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*

Carrie B. Wright, Esq.  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
carwright@pa.gov  
*Counsel for I&E*

Adeolu A. Bakare, Esq.  
Charis Mincavage, Esq.  
Harrison Ryan Block, Esq.  
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC  
100 Pine Street  
P. O. Box 1166  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1166  
abakare@mcneeslaw.com  
cmincavage@mcneeslaw.com  
rblock@mcneeslaw.com  
*Counsel for Aqua Large Users Group*

Kimberly A. Joyce, Esq.  
Alexander R. Stahl, Esq.  
Aqua Pennsylvania  
762 W. Lancaster Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
kajoyce@essential.co  
astahl@aquaamerica.com  
*Counsel for Aqua*

Michael W. Hassell, Esq.  
Garrett P. Lent, Esq.  
Nicholas Stobbe, Esq.  
Post & Schell  
17 North Second Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601  
mhassell@postschell.com  
glent@postschell.com  
nstobbe@postschell.com  
*Counsel for Aqua*

Renardo L. Hicks, Esq.  
Bryce R. Beard, Esq.  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
213 Market St., 8th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
rhicks@eckertseamans.com  
bbeard@eckertseamans.com  
*Counsel for SCH USA*

John Day  
614 Runyon Avenue  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
john@johnday.us

Robert J. Fogarty  
628 Fair Street  
Nescopeck, PA  
Rjf12@verizon.net

Susan Unvarsky  
151 Brook Street  
Sugar Notch, PA 18706  
sunvarsky24@gmail.com

Lauren M. Burge, Esq.  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
600 Grant Street, 44th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
lburge@eckertseamans.com  
*Counsel for SCH USA*

Carl R. Shultz, Esq.  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
213 Market St., 8th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
kmoury@eckertseamans.com  
*Counsel for New Wilmington Municipal Authority*

Steven Boyanowski  
34 Willow Way  
Dallas, PA 18612  
judybccd@gmail.com

Elana D. Schnall, Esq.  
Scott T. Wyland, Esq.  
Salzmann Hughes, P.C.  
1801 Market Street, Suite 300  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
eschnall@salzmannhughes.com  
swyland@salzmannhughes.com  
*Counsel for Sandy Township, Treasure Lake Property Owners Association, Inc., Barry Abbott, and Richard Whitaker*

/s/ Napoleon J. Nelson

Napoleon J. Nelson  
State Representative  
154th Legislative District

Dated: January 24, 2024