



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

July 3, 2014

The Honorable Robert W. Godshall
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee
150 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Godshall:

Thank you for inviting the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) to testify at the House Consumer Affairs Committee's July 8, 2014, public hearing on the water treatment issues at the PA American Water/Norristown Water Treatment Plant on May 20-24, 2014. I regret to inform you that the Commission is unable to testify. The Commission must maintain its impartiality on this issue in order to protect parties' due process rights should a consumer file a complaint with the PUC regarding this incident. Accordingly, in lieu of testimony, I have attached to this letter a fact sheet on the Commission's regulations on water service interruptions and outages.

To a certain extent, the PUC and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have overlapping jurisdiction when it comes to ensuring that public utilities provide safe and adequate water service to the public. The PUC has jurisdiction to regulate the reasonableness, adequacy, and safety of the service by public water utilities under the Public Utility Code (66 P.S. §§1, et seq.). This jurisdiction includes the authority to adjudicate consumer complaints alleging that a public utility is supplying water that is unfit for domestic purposes, such as drinking, bathing, and washing clothes. In contrast, DEP is the state agency that administers the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act (Act). Under the Act, DEP is required to adopt and implement a public water supply program that includes: "establishing drinking water quality standards, monitoring, reporting, recordkeeping and analytical requirements, requirements for public notification, standards for laboratory certification and compliance and enforcement procedures." 35 P.S. § 721.5(a). DEP's focus under the Act is the protection of public health. The combination of regulation by the PUC and DEP ensures that the public has safe and reliable water service in Pennsylvania.

Again, thank you for your invitation to testify. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 787-3256.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "June M. Perry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

June M. Perry, Director
Office of Legislative Affairs

pc: Chairman Powelson