

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
AQUA OHIO, INC. TO INCREASE ITS
RATES AND CHARGES FOR ITS
WATERWORKS SERVICE.

CASE NO. 21-595-WW-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
AQUA OHIO WASTEWATER, INC. TO
INCREASE ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR
ITS WASTEWATER SERVICE.

CASE NO. 21-596-ST-AIR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 2, 2022

{¶ 1} R.C. 4909.18 requires, in part, that any public utility seeking to establish, modify, amend, change, increase, or reduce any rate must file an application with the Commission.

{¶ 2} Aqua Ohio, Inc. (Aqua) and Aqua Ohio Wastewater, Inc. (AWI)¹ are waterworks and sewage disposal system companies as defined by R.C. 4905.03(G) and (M), respectively, and public utilities as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} On June 28, 2021, the Companies filed separate applications for an increase in their waterworks and wastewater service rates pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 in Case No. 21-595-WW-AIR and 21-596-ST-AIR, respectively.

{¶ 4} By Entry issued February 17, 2022, the attorney examiner scheduled a prehearing conference for March 16, 2022, an evidentiary hearing for April 11, 2022, and other procedural deadlines.

{¶ 5} The prehearing conference was held as scheduled on March 16, 2022. During the prehearing conference, the parties discussed the possibility of requesting an extension

¹ Collectively, Aqua and AWI will be referred to as “the Companies.”

of the remaining dates in the case based on concerns as to complying with the case deadlines, as well as to allow additional time for potential settlement negotiations.

{¶ 6} Following the prehearing conference, the parties contacted the attorney examiner to advise that they were united in seeking to extend the case deadlines and asking to reschedule the evidentiary hearing.

{¶ 7} By Entry issued March 18, 2022, the attorney examiner granted the parties' request to extend deadlines and reschedule the evidentiary hearing. Pursuant to the Entry, the following procedural schedule was established: the deadline for filing motions to strike objections to the staff reports was extended until April 11, 2022; and the deadline for filing both memoranda contra motions to intervene and memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the staff reports was extended until April 18, 2022. Further, the evidentiary hearing was continued until May 9, 2022.

{¶ 8} On April 27, 2022, Staff filed an unopposed motion to modify the procedural schedule and request for expedited ruling. To afford the parties additional time to negotiate a settlement, Staff requested that outstanding procedural deadlines be suspended and the May 9, 2022 hearing date be rescheduled. By Entry issued May 5, 2022, the attorney examiner granted Staff's motion, setting the deadline to file Staff testimony for June 2, 2022, and scheduling the hearing to reconvene on June 9, 2022.

{¶ 9} On June 1, 2022, Staff filed an unopposed motion to continue testimony and hearing dates. As stated in the motion and supporting memorandum, the parties are continuing to negotiate a settlement but request additional time to allow for further discussions. Staff, therefore, requests that the procedural schedule be amended such that the deadline to file Staff testimony be set for June 16, 2022, and that the hearing be rescheduled to resume on June 23, 2022. Staff represents that it discussed the motion with all the parties and no party opposes either the requested extension or expedited treatment of the motion.

{¶ 10} Having reviewed the filing, the attorney examiner finds that Staff's unopposed motion to continue testimony and hearing dates is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the evidentiary hearing will be continued until June 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The hearing shall take place at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission), Hearing Room 11-C, 11th Floor, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The parties should register at the lobby desk and then proceed to the 11th Floor in order to participate in the hearing. Further, as a result of the rescheduled hearing date, Staff testimony shall now be filed by June 16, 2022.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Staff's unopposed motion to continue testimony and hearing dates should be granted, as stated in Paragraph 10. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing be rescheduled to June 23, 2022, and that Staff testimony be filed by June 16, 2022, as described in Paragraph 10. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all interested persons and parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/David M. Hicks

By: David M. Hicks
Attorney Examiner

MLW/hac

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in

Case No(s). 21-0595-WW-AIR, 21-0596-ST-AIR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that Staff's unopposed motion to continue testimony and hearing dates should be granted and that the evidentiary hearing be rescheduled to June 23, 2022, and that Staff testimony be filed by June 16, 2022 electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of David M. Hicks, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio