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## NEWS RELEASE

**September 4, 2012**

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### **WATER & SEWER CONCESSION RESPONDANTS NOTIFIED**

The City of Allentown has reviewed the qualifications packages of nine entities that responded to the City of Allentown's Request for Qualifications as part of its exploration of a Concession and Lease Agreement for its water and sewer services.

On Friday, August 31, seven of the nine bidders were notified that at this stage they are pre-qualified to bid on Allentown's water and sewer system concession. They are: Aqua Pennsylvania, American Water, Access Capital, Lehigh County Authority, Macquarie, NDC Housing and United Water.

Among the many entities that submitted packages, the qualifying entities demonstrated longer, stronger and broader experience with water and wastewater facilities management and/or showed more significant experience in the region.

Allentown Forward was advised it was not qualified because it lacks an operator but could be included if it secured an operator that was satisfactory to Allentown.

This completes the first stage of Allentown's due diligence in screening entities that will be invited to submit bids for a concession of the city's water and sewer systems.

The city will continue to conduct ongoing due diligence on these firms -- asking questions, checking performance, confirming finance plans, etc. The city is reserving the right to eliminate some of these initially pre-qualified firms from further consideration.

In keeping with that position, the city stated in the notice that prior to issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) it may further reduce the pool of eligible bidding teams to receive the RFP to a subset of those that received the notice of pre-qualification.

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