

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Franklin Chris</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>762 W LANCASTER AVE.</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>BRYN MAWR PA 19010</u> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Essential Utilities, Inc. [ WTRG ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Chief Executive Officer</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/24/2024</u>	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)			4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price				
Common Stock	01/24/2024		A		23,058 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$0	240,724	D		
Common Stock 401k								38,195.2 <sup>(2)</sup>	I	401k	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$35.78	01/24/2024		A		43,098 <sup>(3)</sup>		01/24/2025	01/24/2034	Common Stock	43,098	43,098	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Represents award of restricted stock units. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Common Stock. The restricted stock units vest on 01/24/2027.
- Includes share acquired under the Company's 401k plan since the last filing.
- Grant of 43,098 shares of stock options which vest one-third each year on the anniversary of the grant, subject to achievement of designated performance goals.

/s/ Brian Dingerdissen, 01/26/2024  
attorney-in-fact for Mr. Franklin  
 \*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.