

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Secretarial Letter Seeking
Comments on Planning Issues for
Act 129 Energy Efficiency and
Conservation Programs After May
31, 2013**

**Public Meeting March 1, 2012
CEP-2289411
Docket No. M-2012-2289411**

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON**

Today we begin engaging the public in the planning for a potential second phase of the Act 129 Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) programs.

Three years after the passage of Act 129, we are fortunate to enjoy low energy prices throughout the Commonwealth – a dramatic change from the historically high natural gas and electricity prices that were in place in 2008 when the Act was passed. While an abundance of inexpensive and clean natural gas in Pennsylvania will continue to suppress energy prices, we cannot ignore the importance of empowering Pennsylvanians to take control over their energy usage to reduce their household costs. It is something that is as significant now as it was back in 2008. We have worked aggressively to provide consumers with a portfolio of options such as choosing an electric generation supplier; switching fuel sources, and participating in the EE&C programs made possible by Act 129. These options allow consumers to noticeably reduce their energy bills, keeping money in their pockets.

Throughout my tenure on the Commission, I have championed the programs resulting from Act 129 and I remain a strong supporter of energy efficiency and demand response. It is essential, however, that any future Act 129 programs are effective uses of consumers' money. We must have all of the facts at our disposal to ensure the costs and benefits of these programs truly weigh in on the side of consumers. In order to do this, I strongly encourage all interested parties to participate in this process. I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders to perform a thorough examination of these programs and the benefits to consumers.

Lastly, I wish to thank our staff for all of their many hours of hard work in getting us to a point where we are ready to engage the stakeholders to examine our next steps. I personally want to thank Wayne Williams and Darren Gill for all their efforts on the implementation of this Act.



**ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN**

DATE: March 1, 2012