

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Licensing Requirements
for Natural Gas Suppliers**

Public Meeting: August 15, 2013
Agenda No. 2266832-LAW
Docket No. L-2011-2266832

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER

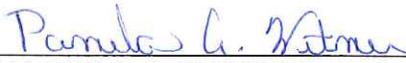
Before the Commission today is the Final Rulemaking Order concerning revisions to the Commission's requirements for Natural Gas Supplier (NGS) licensing that, among other things, removes the exemption for marketing services consultants, establishes new definitions and clarifies the NGS licensing requirements for "aggregators" and "brokers." These changes better reflect the statute as well as current business standards and practices. Importantly, these changes also provide better symmetry and continuity between the treatment of licensed entities on the electric side with entities subject to our NGS licensing requirements, both of which are providing the same service to the competitive market.

As I stated in October 2011 when the Commission first initiated this rulemaking process, "I believe it is necessary for the Commission to periodically review both the Public Utility Code and our regulations to ensure that their purpose is being properly effectuated." I continue to believe that it is appropriate to periodically review statutory requirements, regulations, and policy statements to ensure that all are in synch, are being properly effectuated and reflect current standards.

I want to commend the good work of staff as well as the thoughtful comments received that resulted in today's Final Rulemaking Order. This rulemaking recognizes the important role aggregators and brokers have come to play in the natural gas competitive retail market and provides more clarity to the natural gas industry and more transparency to consumers regarding what is expected of these entities. Furthermore, using similar terminology across the electric and natural gas industries will reduce customer confusion and will allow companies that supply or sell both commodities to more easily market their products across the Commonwealth.

I remain steadfast in my belief that a functioning natural gas competitive retail market represents an economic opportunity and that this Commission should continue to actively explore ways to remove barriers to retail natural gas competition. I look forward to working with all interested parties going forward to further strengthen the state of natural gas competition in Pennsylvania.

DATE: August 15, 2013



PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER