

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17101-3265**

**Recognition of National Cybersecurity  
Awareness Month**

**Public Meeting - October 2, 2014**

**STATEMENT OF**  
**COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER**

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, designed to educate the public about the importance of adopting and implementing proper cybersecurity practices. Over the last two years, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has done just that by educating ourselves and the companies we regulate on this important topic.

To mark the occasion, today the Commission is releasing Cybersecurity Best Practices for Small and Medium Pennsylvania Utilities. The guide is filled with tips and resources to help smaller utilities from all industries take initial basic steps toward protecting themselves from and responding to cybersecurity intrusions.

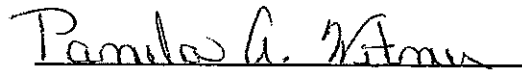
However, the guide is just one in a series of actions we have taken on the issue. Almost two years ago, through the initiative of Chairman Robert Powelson and now under the leadership of my office, we helped organize a Mid-Atlantic collaborative with other state commissions in order to share information and discuss best practices on cybersecurity. We have convened training and roundtables for Pennsylvania utilities to share practices and threat information. We have worked with counterparts in other state agencies to ensure greater coordination in how we address and respond to cybersecurity threats. We have also worked with several federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on education and exercises with the private sector.

I am pleased to say that throughout the Commonwealth we have found that many of our utilities across the industry sectors have worked diligently to confront the myriad of cybersecurity issues and the ever-changing threat environment. I commend our utilities for these efforts as well as their willingness to be partners in educating the Commission and each other about cybersecurity issues. Our work with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and FERC's Office of Energy Infrastructure Security in particular have helped broadly advance both the Commission's knowledge base and the cybersecurity profile of Pennsylvania's utility industry.

While we are proud of our accomplishments to date, this is an ever changing issue which demands constant education and vigilance. From the Shellshock Bash bug to the massive Home Depot

hack, cybersecurity intrusions are real, close to home, far too frequent and devastating to companies and individuals alike. As every aspect of life and business becomes more dependent on digital solutions, cybersecurity and its interplay with physical security will become even more critical within the utility industry. So today, as we mark National Cyber Security Awareness Month, I thank the industry for their work and implementation measures on this issue, but also caution that we all must continue to be vigilant and improve our efforts to prevent, detect and respond to cyber intrusions.

**DATE: October 2, 2014**



**PAMELA A. WITMER  
COMMISSIONER**