

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

Natural Gas Distribution Company
Account Number Look-Up Mechanism

Public Meeting- July 8, 2015
2468991-OCM
Docket No. M-2015-2468991

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER

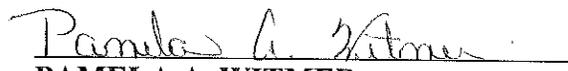
Before the Public Utility Commission (Commission) today for consideration is the recommendation from the Commission's Office of Competitive Market Oversight (OCMO) providing for procedures to better facilitate natural gas suppliers' (NGS) access to natural gas distribution company (NGDC) residential and small business customer account numbers in public places when the account number is not readily available from either the customer or the Eligible Customer List (ECL).

First, I want to thank my colleague Commissioner Cawley for his partnership in launching the Commission's Investigation of Pennsylvania's Retail Natural Gas Supply Market (Gas RMI or Investigation) in December 2014. The Investigation seeks to identify and implement changes to best allow customers to realize the benefits of choice in the retail gas market and to better facilitate competition. This effort is similar to that which was spearheaded by Commissioners Powelson and Cawley for the retail electric market. Today's action aligns with and furthers the goals of consumer choice and competition by directing NGDCs to submit compliance plans for the development of a secure website portal that will, with customer request and consent, provide NGSs with access to customer account numbers not available on the ECL.

Shopping in the natural gas retail market is, unfortunately, not as robust as in the retail electric market, due in large part to the currently low price of natural gas. It is imperative that all stakeholders take advantage of this point in the evolution of the retail gas market to review and set in place ways to encourage shopping. The enhancements made as a result of today's proceeding are a step in the right direction to help ensure that customers have the necessary tools in place to easily avail themselves of the advantages of a vigorous competitive market.

Accordingly, I support today's action and I look forward to continued dialogue and efforts to further remove obstacles to participation in the retail natural gas market.

DATE: July 8, 2015


PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER