

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Investigation of Pennsylvania's Retail
Natural Gas Market: Joint Natural Gas
Distribution Company-Natural Gas
Supplier Bill**

**Public Meeting- August 20, 2015
2474802-OCM
Docket No. M-2015-2474802**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER

Before the Public Utility Commission (Commission) today for consideration are recommendations from the Commission's Office of Competitive Market Oversight (OCMO) to enhance the natural gas supplier (NGS) information included on the natural gas distribution company (NGDC) bill. These recommendations include: the addition of the NGS's logo on the bill, expansion of bill messaging space allotted to NGSs, and the inclusion of a Shopping Information Box.

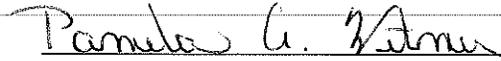
I want to first thank my colleague Commissioner Cawley, who has been an unwavering proponent of strong competitive markets, for his partnership in launching the Commission's Investigation of Pennsylvania's Retail Natural Gas Supply Market (Gas RMI or Investigation) in December 2014. The Investigation is similar to the effort led by Commissioner Powelson, who is an equally strong advocate for competitive markets, and Commissioner Cawley for the retail electric market. It seeks to facilitate competition and implement changes to best allow residential and small commercial customers the opportunity to realize the benefits of choice in the retail gas market. The enhancements approved today will not only help consumers develop a recognition of and relationship with their NGS, but will also create increased consumer awareness of the competitive retail natural gas market as a whole. I am encouraged by this progress. These measures, along with evaluation of the current status and future needs of pipeline infrastructure by the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force, are an integral part of the Commonwealth's realization of the full potential of the opportunities provided by the Marcellus Shale.

Ensuring that we have market designs that allow consumers to make informed choices will become even more important as more of Pennsylvania's electric generation shifts toward natural gas in light of the EPA's Clean Power Plan under Section 111 (d) of the Clean Air Act. For a one month period in April, the nation's electric generation fueled by natural gas exceeded that of coal for the first time since the start of the U.S. Energy Information Administration's monthly generation data in 1973.¹ In Pennsylvania, our generation mix remains diversified, but natural gas is closing the gap.

¹ Available at: <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=22312> (Last accessed Aug. 19, 2015).

These dynamics, combined with our proximity to the Marcellus Shale and our responsibility to ensure that Pennsylvanians can fully avail themselves of the opportunities it provides, make consumer education critical. Accordingly, I wholeheartedly support today's action and I look forward to continued efforts to enhance and encourage active participation in Pennsylvania's retail natural gas market.

DATE: August 20, 2015


PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER