

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility  
Commission, Bureau of Investigation  
and Enforcement v. Columbia Gas of  
Pennsylvania, Inc.**

**Public Meeting: November 9, 2016  
2378672-OSA  
Docket No. M-2016-2378672**

**STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is a Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement Agreement (Settlement) filed on May 5, 2016, by the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia or Company) (collectively, Parties).

This Settlement resolves two separate events. The first involved the installation of a plastic main to replace an existing steel main. While locating and repairing an identified leak in the newly installed main, a contractor cut into a pressurized section of pipe, causing the end cap to fail, striking a contractor's employee in the lower leg and resulting in a severe injury. In the second event, an unqualified contractor's employee sustained injuries to his foot and ankle while performing a pigging operation.

The Settlement Parties are to be commended for working cooperatively to identify corrective procedures and I fully support the implementation of the safety improvements articulated in the Settlement. However, both events resulted from failures of procedure, training and oversight, causing avoidable, severe injuries. Although the Settlement Parties fully support the fines proposed, I would be interested in any comments that address the issues in the Settlement including the fines imposed.

**DATE: November 9, 2016**

  
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**Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman**