

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

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January 10, 2018

Honorable Conrad A. Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Piatt Place, Suite 220  
301 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Office of Consumer Advocate

v.

Pine-Roe Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Docket No. R-2017-2618332

Your Honor:

Pursuant to the November 16, 2017 First Interim Order in the above-referenced matter, the Office of Consumer Advocate provides the enclosed status report.

Copies have been served on the parties as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hayley E. Dunn".

Hayley E. Dunn  
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Enclosures  
cc: Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Pine Roe Natural Gas Company  
Docket No. R-2017-2618332

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, the Status Report of the Office of Consumer Advocate upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

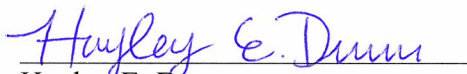
SERVICE BY E-MAIL & INTER-OFFICE MAIL

Erika McClain Esquire  
Pa Public Utility Commission  
Bureau Of Investigation & Enforcement  
Po Box 3265  
Harrisburg Pa 17105-3265

SERVICE BY EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID

Honorable Conrad A. Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
Piatt Place, Suite 220  
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Pauline Griebel, Accountant  
Pine Roe Natural Gas Co.  
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Clarion, PA 16214  
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BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:		
Office of Consumer Advocate	:		
	:	Docket No.	R-2017-2618332
v.	:		
	:		
Pine Roe Natural Gas Company, Inc.	:		

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STATUS REPORT  
OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

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Pursuant to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Conrad A. Johnson’s November 16, 2017 First Interim Order in the above-referenced matter, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) submits the following information regarding the status of mediation:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Pine Roe Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Pine Roe) is a natural gas distribution company (NGDC) that serves approximately 165 residential customers in portions of Beaver, Clarion, Monroe, and Piney Townships in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. On August 7, 2017, Pine Roe filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) Supplement No. 40 to Tariff Gas Pa. PUC No. 1 in which it requested an increase in base rates. Under its proposal, Pine Roe would receive additional annual revenues of \$50,000 through an increase in its customer charge. The proposed customer charge would include the first 2 Mcf of natural gas and increase from \$6.61 to \$31.86, or by approximately 382%.

**II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

As detailed above, Pine roe submitted its rate filing on August 7, 2017. On October 12, 2017, Pine Roe voluntarily postponed its rate filing to December 8, 2017 through

Supplement No. 42. On October 17, 2017, the OCA filed its Formal Complaint and Public Statement. On October 19, 2017, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) entered its appearance in this matter. On November 8, 2017, the Commission entered an Order by which it suspended Pine Roe's rate filing until July 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 1308(d) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. § 1308(d).

Pine Roe's rate filing was assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) and further assigned to ALJ Johnson. On November 9, 2017, ALJ Johnson issued a Prehearing Conference Order directing the parties to distribute prehearing memorandums by November 17, 2017, and scheduled a Call-In Telephonic Prehearing Conference for November 20, 2017. On November 15, 2017, the OALJ issued a Mediation Notice stating that the parties consented to use the mediation process in this matter. Also on November 15, 2017, the OCA requested that the Prehearing Conference be held in abeyance pending mediation. On November 16, 2017, in his First Interim Order, ALJ Johnson granted the OCA's request and directed the OCA to provide a status report regarding the mediation process by January 19, 2018.

### **III. STATUS OF MEDIATION**

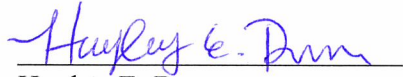
On November 29, 2017, the parties participated in an initial mediation session with Mediator Tiffany A. Hunt, Esquire. On December 7, 2017, I&E and the OCA attended a site visit at Pine Roe. The parties subsequently engaged in settlement discussions and, on December 21, 2017, the parties participated in a second mediation session at which a Settlement in Principle was reached. Accordingly, no further mediation session was scheduled.

In early January, the parties agreed to written Settlement Terms and Conditions. The parties are presently working to prepare a Joint Petition for Settlement for ALJ Johnson's consideration. The parties will file the Joint Petition for Settlement in the near future.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The OCA submits this status report pursuant to ALJ Johnson's First Interim Order and reports that the parties have reached a Settlement in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 10, 2018

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