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July 1, 2018

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Via Federal Express and First Class Mail

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary PA Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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Re:

Philadelphia Gas Works Universal Service Plan for 2017-2020 Submitted in Compliance with <u>52</u> Pa. Code § 62.4, Docket No. M-2016-2542415 – July 1, 2018 Report

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Please accept this July 1, 2018 Quarterly Status Update on behalf of Philadelphia Gas Works ("PGW") regarding its ongoing Hardship Funds discussions with the Utility Emergency Services Fund ("UESF") as required by Ordering Paragraph 7 of the Commission's August 3, 2017 Order ("Order").

I. <u>Hardship Funds</u>: Since the time of the April Quarterly Status Update, PGW has continued to engage in discussions with UESF regarding UESF's zero balance requirement for CRP customers, and one UESF grant every two-year requirement. UESF's Board of Directors has approved removing the zero balance requirement for CRP customers. This change will now be presented to the Grantor of the funds used for UESF's primary utility grant for review and potential approval.

With respect to a modification to its policy regarding one UESF grant every two years, UESF has continued to assert that this policy is important to its mission because it allows the program to serve as many families as possible with the funding available. In addition, as explained in prior updates, UESF finds that this requirement provides an element of housing stabilization as the UESF grant does not act as an annual income supplement, such as LIHEAP. Also as previously reported, UESF has stated it is still considering the possibility of making this change in the future.

PGW would continue to note that to the extent that PGW is required to make changes that are not approved by UESF, PGW requests that the Commission allow for recovery of such payments, as well as the costs of administering the program (which is currently administered by UESF), through PGW's Universal Service and Energy Conservation Surcharge.

Copies to be served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely

Graciela Christlieb, Es

cc:

Cert. of Service w/enc.

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of PGW's Quarterly Report upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54.

## Via First Class Mail

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