

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Office of Consumer Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Et al

v.

UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division

Public Meeting October 8, 2020
3015162-ALJ
Docket Nos. R-2019-3015162
C-2020-3018289
C-2020-3018858
Et al

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLADYS BROWN DUTRIEUILLE

Before the Commission is the Recommended Decision of Administrative Law Judge Christopher P. Pell (ALJ) pertaining to the Joint Petition for Approval of Unopposed Settlement of All Issues (Joint Settlement) in the base rate proceeding of UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division (UGI). The ALJ recommends approval of the Joint Settlement without modification.

I would like to commend UGI, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, and all other parties in the proceeding (Parties) for reaching a Joint Settlement which I believe is in the public interest. Of particular interest to me are the numerous provisions included in the Joint Settlement providing expanded customer assistance. These include, but are not limited to, the provisions listed below, which remain in effect during the pendency of the Commission’s March 13 Emergency Order on Service Terminations (Emergency Order).

- Waiver of late fees
- Enhanced customer outreach and screening activities for CAP and LIHEAP eligibility¹
- Suspension of CAP recertification requirements
- Enhanced communications to residential and non-residential customers describing opportunities for grants and available emergency funds
- Allowance for self-certification of income for CAP activity
- Expanding access to the UGI Gas Operation Share grant program

The Joint Settlement also includes a COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program (ERP) designed to provide temporary relief to customers experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Pandemic). The enrollment window for the program

¹ Customer Assistance Program & Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program

would open upon Commission approval of the Joint Settlement and close at the end of the December 2020 billing period. Customers eligible for ERP participation may receive the assistance listed below:

- Residential customers may receive a one-time bill credit of 25% of arrears, up to \$400, and a payment arrangement for the remaining balance of arrears.
- Small business customers may receive a payment arrangement for outstanding arrears

The Joint Settlement also includes an expansion of the Company's LIURP program.²

During these extraordinarily challenging times, I believe measures like those agreed upon by the Parties here are necessary and prudent to ensure reasonable access to service, and, to protect public health. Again, I applaud the Parties, including UGI, for reaching these terms. Consequently, I am pleased to vote in support of the Recommended Decision and approve the Joint Settlement without modification.

Date: October 8, 2020



**GLADYS BROWN DUTRIEUILLE
CHAIRMAN**

² Low-income Usage Reduction Program