

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

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2024
3044549-TUS
DOCKET NO. R-2023-3044549**

v.

**PEOPLES NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, LLC**


STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DeFRANK

Today, the Commission suspends by operation of law until September 27, 2024 the distribution tariff and supplier tariff filings made by Peoples Natural Gas, LLC proposing changes in rates, rules and regulations calculated to produce \$156 million in additional revenues, or an increase of approximately 18.7%. As usual, this action allows for the investigation of the lawfulness, justness and reasonableness of Peoples' filings by sending the matter to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for the prompt scheduling of hearings as may be necessary culminating in the issuance of a Recommended Decision.

I write today to commend our staff for expeditiously putting this matter on the Public Meeting agenda. The filing was made on December 29, 2023 and the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a formal complaint on January 5, 2024. This matter could have been suspended for investigation at our Public Meetings of February 1, 2024 or February 22, 2024. Yet, by putting this matter on today's Public Meeting agenda, the case will be sent to the Office of Administrative Law Judge earlier, a prehearing conference can be scheduled earlier, and the interested parties can begin their review of the filing earlier. In this instance, all of this can happen up to one month earlier thereby providing important additional time for the parties to conduct their review of the filing in the beginning of the proceeding and the Commission to conduct its review of the results of the litigation at the end of the proceeding.

Filings such as these can have significant impact on the public interest and the additional time for review allowed by having this matter suspended at the earliest opportunity will help ensure that the resulting rates, rules and regulations are just and reasonable and in the public interest. The staff's efforts in this regard are appreciated and I hope that this is the process moving forward on these cases.

January 18, 2024
Date


Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman