

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

Public Meeting held January 18, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman, Statement
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission

Docket Number:
R-2023-3044549

v.

Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On December 29, 2023, Peoples Natural Gas LLC, which includes Peoples Natural Gas Division (PNGD) and Peoples Gas Division (PGD) (collectively Peoples), Utility Code 122250, filed original Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 48 and original Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C No. S-4 to become effective February 27, 2024, containing proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations calculated to produce \$156 million (18.7%) in additional annual revenues. Under the proposed filing, a PNGD residential customer bill using 80 Mcf will increase from \$73.16 to \$88.79/month or 21.4% and a PGD residential customer bill using 80 Mcf will increase from \$84.00 to \$90.35/month or 7.6%.

On January 5, 2024, the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a Formal Complaint.

Peoples stated that the requested increase in its base rates is necessary due to an increase in rate base driven by approximately \$1 billion of capital expenditures. Peoples also stated that the tariff changes in the filing include the merger of the rate districts for PNGD and PGD, the addition of a weather normalization adjustment, and changes to several existing tariff riders including the Tax Repairs Surcredit, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Surcharge, and the Allegheny Valley Capacity Charge.

Pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. §1308(d), the filing will be suspended by operation of law until September 27, 2024, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date.

Investigation and analysis of this proposed tariff filing and the supporting data indicate that the proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations may be unlawful, unjust, unreasonable, and contrary to the public interest. It also appears that consideration should be given to the reasonableness of Peoples' existing rates, rules, and regulations; **THEREFORE,**

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation on Commission motion be, and hereby is, instituted to determine the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the rates, rules, and regulations contained in the proposed original Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 48 and proposed Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C No. S-4.

2. That the proposed original Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 48 and proposed Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. S-4 are suspended by operation of law until September 27, 2024, unless otherwise directed by Order of the Commission.

3. That pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §53.71 tariff supplements shall be filed with the Commission and posted at the company to announce that the aforementioned Original Tariff is suspended until the date stated in the Commission Order. Attached is a sample copy of a suspension supplement which shall be filed in triplicate or, if applicable, e-filed with the Commission within 10 days following the Order entry date.

4. That this investigation shall include consideration of the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC's existing rates, rules, and regulations.

5. That the case be assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for the prompt scheduling of such hearings as may be necessary culminating in the issuance of a Recommended Decision.

6. That a copy of this Order shall be served upon Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and any persons who have filed Formal Complaints against the proposed tariff supplement.

BY THE COMMISSION,



Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: January 18, 2024

ORDER ENTERED: January 18, 2024

ATTACHMENT

Supplement No. _____ to

Pa. P.U.C. No. _____

(COMPANY'S NAME)

(TERRITORY SERVED BY COMPANY)

The application of rates proposed in Supplement No. _____ to Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ filed to become effective _____ (and voluntarily postponed to become effective _____, is hereby suspended until _____, at Docket No. _____). Presently effective rates contained in Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ and supplements thereto, will continue in effect until otherwise amended.

Issued:

Issued in compliance with

Title 66 PA C.S.