
Nicholas A. Stobbe

nstobbe@postschell.com
717-612-6033 Direct
717-731-1985 Direct Fax
File #: 199787

February 9, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: PA Public Utility Commission v. Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC
Docket Nos. R-2023-3044549, et al.**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing are the Proofs of Publication indicating that the Public Notice of the above-referenced proceeding was published as follows:

Altoona Mirror on December 29, 2023
Beaver County Times on December 29, 2023
Butler Eagle on December 29, 2023
Clarion News on January 2, 2024
Connellsville Courier on December 29, 2023
Indiana Gazette on December 29, 2023
Johnstown Tribune Democrat on December 29, 2023
Kittanning Leader Times on December 29, 2023
New Castle News on December 29, 2023
Oil City Derrick/Franklin News on December 29, 2023
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on December 31, 2023
Punxsutawney Spirit on December 29, 2023
Sharon Herald on December 29, 2023
Somerset Daily American on December 29, 2023
Tribune Review on December 29, 2023
Uniontown Herald Standard on December 29, 2023
Washington Observer-Reporter on December 29, 2023

Rosemary Chiavetta
February 9, 2024
Page 2

Copies will be provided as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "NAS", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Nicholas A. Stobbe

NAS/kl
Attachments

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA EMAIL

Steven C. Gray, Esquire
Rebecca Lyttle, Esquire
Office of Small Business Advocate
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
sgray@pa.gov
relyttle@pa.gov

Gina L. Miller, Esquire
Aron J. Beatty, Esquire
Christopher M. Andreoli, Esquire
Jacob D. Guthrie, Esquire
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
gmliller@paoca.org
abeatty@paoca.org
candreoli@paoca.org
jguthrie@paoca.org
OCAPNG2023BRC@paoca.org

Scott Granger, Esquire
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
sgranger@pa.gov

Kevin J. Moody, Esquire
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Asso.
212 Locust Street, Suite 600
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1510
kevin@pioga.org
PIOGA

John W. Sweet, Esquire
Elizabeth R. Marx, Esquire
Ria M. Pereira, Esquire
Lauren N. Berman, Esquire
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
pulp@pautilitylawproject.org
*Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and
Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania*

Joseph L. Vullo, Esquire
Burke Vullo Reilly Roberts
1460 Wyoming Avenue
Forty Fort, PA 18704
jlv@bvrrlaw.com
*Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers
Task Force Inc.*

Charis Mincavage, Esquire
Adeolu A. Bakare, Esquire
Kenneth R. Stark, Esquire
McNees Wallace & Nurick, LLC
100 Pine Street
P.O. Box 1166
Harrisburg, PA 17108
cmincavage@mcneeslaw.com
abakare@mcneeslaw.com
kstark@mcneeslaw.com
Peoples Industrial Intervenors

Date: February 9, 2024



Nicholas A. Stobbe

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE IN ALTOONA MIRROR

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

To Our Customers:

Peoples Natural Gas Company ("Peoples" or the "Company") is filing a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") to increase your natural gas distribution rates as of February 27, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Peoples, which includes the Peoples Natural Gas Division and the Peoples Gas Division, has collectively requested an overall net distribution rate increase of \$156.0 million per year. In this filing, Peoples is proposing to unify the distribution rates of the two divisions. This filing also includes a request for the approval of a Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) as an alternative rate mechanism in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1330. The WNA would adjust certain customers' bills to reflect normalized weather conditions. In addition, Peoples is proposing revisions to existing Riders, including the Tax Repairs Surcredit ("TRS"), the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Surcharge ("TCJA") and the Allegheny Valley Capacity Charge ("AVC"). Changes to these existing Riders and application thereof may apply to one or both divisions. Under the Company's proposal, the WNA, AVC and TRS will apply to both divisions. The TCJA will only apply to Peoples Gas Division customers.

If you are a Peoples Natural Gas Division customer and if the Company's entire request is approved:

- The total bill for a Peoples Natural Gas Division residential customer using 80 Mcf per year would increase from \$73.16* to \$88.79 per month or by 21.4%.
- The total bill for a Peoples Natural Gas Division commercial customer using 250 Mcf per year would increase from \$174.25* to \$212.76 per month or by 22.1%.
- Rates for a Peoples Natural Gas Division industrial customer using 1,750 Mcf per year would increase from \$1,126.15* to \$1,282.10 per month or by 13.8%.

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To find out which division you are in, your customer class or how the requested increase may affect your natural gas bill, contact Peoples at 1-800-764-0111. The rates requested by the Company may be found in the Company's Proposed Tariff, PA PUC No. 48. You may examine the material filed with the PUC which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Peoples' office. Upon request, the Company will send you the Statement of Reasons for Tariff No. 48, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency which approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.

The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase or decrease requested by the utility for each division and customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you may be different than the rate requested by the Company and shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a Company's request to change its rates:

1. You can file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before February 27, 2024. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
2. You can send us a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes us aware of problems with the Company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request.

Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

3. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the Commission opens an investigation of the Company's rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the Company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. The hearings are held in the service area of the Company.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

* Please note that this amount excludes the one-time GCA Refund Credit in effect from Oct-Dec 2023.



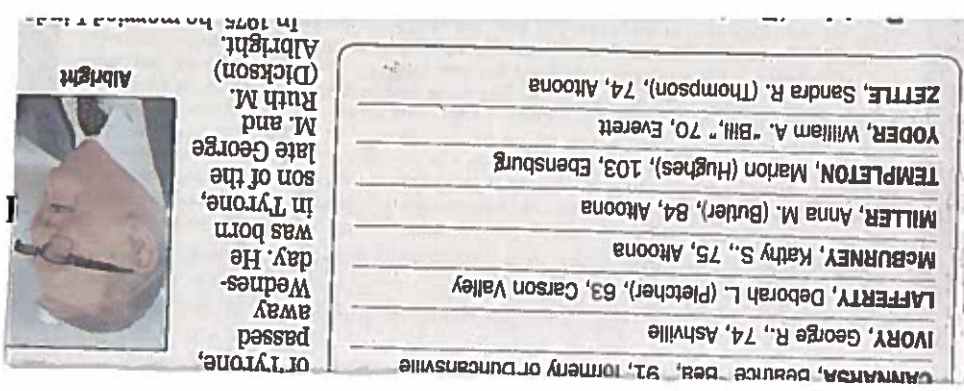
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ALTOONA

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Health of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
D. Miller, Notary Public
Blair County
Commission expires July 25, 2025
Commission number 1112043
Pennsylvania Association of Notaries



MIRROR

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF BLAIR

Daniel N. Slep, being duly sworn says: That he is the Publisher of the ALTOONA MIRROR, a newspaper of general circulation, published at Number 301 Cayuga Avenue, Township of Logan, City of Altoona, County of Blair, and State of Pennsylvania.

That said newspaper was established as a daily newspaper of general circulation on the Thirteenth Day of June 1874, since which date said newspaper has been published daily in the City of Altoona; that a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular edition of the daily ALTOONA MIRROR published on the following date(s), viz:

December 29, 2023

The affiant further deposes and declares that he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice of publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place and character of publication are true.

Daniel N. Slep

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 5 day of January, 2024.

Debra D. Miller

Debra D. Miller, Notary Public

My Commission expires

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Debra D. Miller, Notary Public
Blair County
My commission expires July 25, 2025
Commission number 1112043
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

LOCALiQ

Erie Times-News | The Intelligencer
Bucks County Courier Times
The Daily American | Beaver County Times
Pocono Record | Burlington County Times

PO Box 630531 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0531

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Francine Schmidley
Pipitone Group
3933 Perrysville AVE
Pittsburgh PA 15214-1735

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF BEAVER

The Beaver County Times, Ellwood City Ledger, a daily newspaper of general circulation, published and having its place of business at Aliquippa, Beaver County, PA; that attached hereto is a facsimile of the printed notice which is exactly as printed and published in said newspaper issue dated on:

12/29/2023

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

Sworn to and subscribed before on 12/29/2023

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$312.50

Order No: 9450182

of Copies:

Customer No: 554095

0

PO #:

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

VICKY FELTY
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Proof of Publication of Notice in Butler Eagle

Under Act No. 587, Approved May 16, 1929

State of Pennsylvania,
County of Butler.

Cassidy L. Nixon Of the Eagle Printing Company, Inc., of the County and State aforesaid, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the BUTLER EAGLE, a newspaper of general circulation published at 114 West Diamond Street, City of Butler, County and State aforesaid, was established 1869, since which date the BUTLER EAGLE has been regularly issued in said County, and that the printed notice or publication attached hereto is exactly the same as was printed and published in the regular editions and issues of the said BUTLER EAGLE on the following dates, viz.

_____ and the
29th Day of December A.D. 2023

Affiant further deposes that the Ad Taker is duly authorized by the EAGLE PRINTING COMPANY, a corporation, publisher of said BUTLER EAGLE, a newspaper of general circulation, to verify the foregoing statement under oath, and Affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or advertisement, and that all allegations in the foregoing statements as to time, place and character of publication are true.

Cassidy L. Nixon
Butler Eagle

Copy of Notice or Publication

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th
Day of December 2023

Carolyn E. Ortiz
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
CAROLYN ELAINE ORTIZ - Notary Public
Butler County
My Commission Expires March 25, 2027
Commission Number 1348650

Statement of Advertising Costs

Peoples Natural Gas

3933 Perrysville Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15214

TO BUTLER EAGLE, Dr.
For publishing the notice or publication attached
Hereto on the above stated dates \$ 480.00
Probating same \$ 3.00
Total \$ 483.00

Publisher's Receipt for Advertising Costs

The EAGLE PRINTING COMPANY, publisher of the BUTLER EAGLE, a newspaper of general circulation, hereby acknowledge receipt of the aforesaid notice and publication costs and certifies that the same have been duly paid.

EAGLE PRINTING CO., a Corporation, Publisher
Of BUTLER EAGLE, a Newspaper of General Circulation.

By _____

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Under Act No. 587, Approved May 16, 1929

State of Pennsylvania,
County of Butler.

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Cassidy L. Nixon
Butler Eagle

scribed before me this 29th
December 2023

W.E. Ortiz
Notary Public

Expires:
Notary Seal
LAINE ORTIZ - Notary Public
Butler County
Commission Expires March 25, 2027
Commission Number 13-48650

Advertising Costs
Natural Gas
_____ Mile Avenue
_____ PA 15214
_____ O BUTLER EAGLE, Dr.
The notice or publication attached
above stated dates \$ 480.00
\$ 3.00
\$ 483.00

Costs
per of general circulation, hereby acknowledge
to have been duly paid.
EAGLE PRINTING CO., a Corporation, Publisher
of the BUTLER EAGLE, a Newspaper of General Circulation.

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The state agency which approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.

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There are three ways to challenge a Company's request to change its rates:

1. You can file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before February 27, 2024. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
2. You can send us a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes us aware of problems with the Company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request.

Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

3. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the Commission opens an investigation of the Company's rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the Company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. The hearings are held in the service area of the Company.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

* Please note that this amount excludes the one-time GCA Refund Credit in effect from Oct-Dec 2023.



Affidavit of Publication

State of Pennsylvania,
County of Clarion, SS:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Robert Gregory who being duly sworn according to law, doth depose and say that she is a advertising representative of the Clarion News, a newspaper of general circulation, published at Clarion, in Clarion County; that its said place of business was established in 1840; that the notice, of which the annexed clipping from one of said newspaper is a copy, was printed and published in the regular editions and issues of said newspaper on the following date(s):

January 2, 2024

that the affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the said advertisement; and that all of the allegations of this statement as to time, place and character of publications are true.

.....
Robert Gregory
Signature of affiant

sworn to and subscribed before me this... 25.....day of

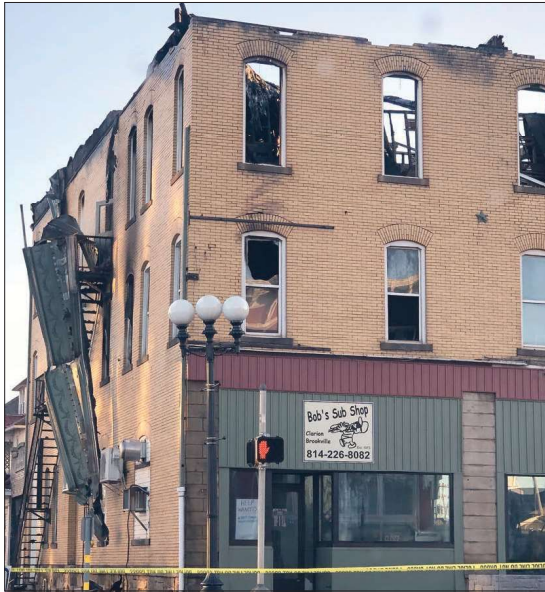
January.....A.D. 2024.....

.....
Kimberly J. Jony
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Kimberly J. Jony, Notary Public
Clarion County
My commission expires October 16, 2027
Commission number 1052250
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

2023: A look back in pictures



CLARION NEWS photo by Ryan S. Pugh.
 In early April, the Hahne Building which housed Bob's Sub Shop burned. The building was later demolished. Bob's Sub Shop moved to a new location on Main Street as it now located at the former home of the Tavern.



CLARION NEWS photo by Ryan S. Pugh.
 Area veterans salute the American flag during last year's Mayfest parade held in Fryburg. Mayfest is held every Memorial Day weekend in Fryburg.



CLARION NEWS photo by Ryan S. Pugh.
 This John Travolta lookalike from the Clarion Christian School grooved his way down the Autumn Leaf Festival parade route last October. The theme of last year's ALF Parade was Groovin' into Autumn.



CLARION NEWS photo by Ryan S. Pugh.
 Smokey Bear gets a ride on the back of the Knox Fire Department's vintage brush truck during the 2023 Hoisetheil Days parade through downtown Knoxville.



CLARION NEWS photo by Randy Bartley.
 A member of the U.S. Navy got the front row seat in the bucket of the Clarion Fire & Hose Truck 17 during the Corsica Fourth of July parade.

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For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

* Please note that this amount excludes the one-time GCA Refund Credit in effect from 04/01/2023.



PROOF OF PUBLICATION

State of Pennsylvania

County of Fayette

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SS.

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for Said state and county, the undersigned, who being duly sworn According to law, deposed and says, for the publisher, that the CONNELLSVILLE DAILY COURIER is a newspaper of general Circulation, established on the 10th day of November 1902, and published daily in the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and State of Pennsylvania, and that the advertisement, Of which a copy is hereto attached, was published in the Regular edition and issues on the following date

December 29, 2023

And is in all respects as ordered and that neither the affiant nor Publisher is interested in the subject matter of the notice and That all of the allegations of the statement as to time, place and Character of publication are true.

Joanne Kich
Publisher

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this

3rd Day of January, 2024 A.D.
Rosemary Furman
Notary Public

...studying at the great
university in Northern Italy,
he apprenticed under Valli,

...mashed spread in 20 min-
utes, and quickly condense
fruit into deeply flavorful

...avors now for sale at
Botolino.
Valli nodded to Gatti-

institution."
Story provided via AP Story-
Share.

tholomai, Cheryl Chico-
tella and husband Dennis
at www.paulginkfuneral-
home.com.

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Proof of Publication

State of Pennsylvania
County of Indiana

SS

On this _____ day of _____ January _____ 2024 A.D.

before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared:

Sherri L. Bash

who being duly sworn according to laws, deposes and says, that (s)he is the Solicitor of the Indiana Gazette, that the said Indiana Gazette is a daily newspaper of general circulation, published in the borough of Indiana, in the County of Indiana, State of Pennsylvania, by the Indiana Gazette Inc., and was established in said Borough on the second day of July 1890, since which date, said daily newspaper has been regularly issued in said Borough and County, that annexed hereto is a true copy of a notice in the above matter exactly as the same was printed in the regular editions and issues of the said daily newspaper on the following dates, viz:

12/29

Affiant further deposes and says that (s)he is an employee of the publisher of the said daily newspaper and has been authorized to verify the foregoing statement and the (s)he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place, and character of publication are true.

By: Sherri L. Bash

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
DAWN A HAYES - Notary Public
Indiana County
My Commission Expires August 31, 2025
Commission Number 1406600

Signature of notarial officer

Proof of Publication	\$675.00
Proof of Intent	\$ 8.00
Total	\$683.00

Indiana Gazette Inc., publishers of the Indiana Gazette, a daily newspaper, hereby acknowledges receipt of the aforesaid publication costs, and certifies the same have been fully paid.

Indiana Gazette Inc.
P.O. Box 10, 899 Water Street, Indiana, PA 15701

By _____

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }
County of Cambria } **SS**

On this 2nd day of January A.D. 2024, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Christine Marhefka, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as Advertising Director of the Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA, a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the "Newspaper Advertising Act", a merger September 8, 1952, of the Johnstown Tribune, established December 7, 1853; and of the Johnstown Democrat, established March 5, 1863,

published continuously at Johnstown Pa. in the County of Cambria, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that the annexed is a true copy of a notice in the above matter published in said publication in the regular issues of The Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA, on December 29, 2023; and that the Affiant is not interested in the subject matter of said notice or advertising and that all of the allegations as to time, place and character of said publication are true.

Christine Marhefka

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISING COSTS

Signed and sworn to before me on
 2nd day of January, 2024

by Christine Marhefka making the statement.

Vivian Ohs

0.00 Lines @ \$2.70 per line	0.00
30 Inches @ \$27.00 per inch	930.00
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Clerical Fee	2.50
Total Cost	937.50

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 Vivian Ohs, Notary Public
 Cambria County
 My commission expires December 6, 2024
 Commission number 1123017
 Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

To The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA
 For publishing the notice or publication
 attached hereto on the above stated dates.

PUBLISHER'S RECEIPT FOR ADVERTISING COSTS

_____ for publisher of _____
 a newspaper of general circulation, hereby acknowledges receipt of the aforesaid
 and publication costs and certifies that the same has been duly paid.

 (Name of Newspaper)

By _____

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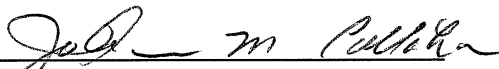
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 - Kittanning Leader Times

The ROP for Peoples Gas – ran in the Kittanning Leader Times Publication on 29th, December, 2023

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My commission expires July 1, 2024
Commission number 1243230
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

Stock market today: Stocks waver in muted holiday trading on Wall Street

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
Associated Press

Stocks drifted to a mixed finish in muted trading on Wall Street Thursday as markets approach the end of 2023.

The broader market remained mostly quiet ahead of the final trading day of the year, though every major index is on track for weekly gains.

The S&P 500 rose 1.77 points, or less than 0.1% to 4,783.35. It is on track for its ninth straight week of gains and is up more than 24% for the year. The two-month rally has also pushed the benchmark index closer to breaking its all-time high set in January of 2022.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 53.58 points, or 0.1%, to 37,710.10.

The Nasdaq composite fell 4.04 points, or less than 0.1%, to 15,095.14. It has far outpaced the broader market this year and is on track to close 2023 with a gain of more than 44%.

Markets in Asia gained ground. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index was an outlier in Asia, shedding 0.4%. Speculation over whether and when the Bank of Japan might ease its longstanding lax monetary policy and raise its key interest rate from minus 0.1% has kept stocks wobbling in the world's third-largest economy.

Markets in Europe fell.

There are few economic indicators out of Washington this week. The latest weekly report on unemployment benefits showed that applications rose last week, but not enough to raise concerns about the labor market or broader economy. The overall jobs market has been strong throughout 2023 and has been a driving force for the economy.

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate retreated for the ninth straight week to its lowest level since May, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. Mortgage rates have been easing since late October, along with long-term Treasury yields.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury surpassed 5.00% in October, but has also been generally falling since then. It rose to 3.84% on Thursday from 3.79% late Wednesday.

There was also a lack of big corporate news for investors.

Two higher-end models of the Apple Watch can go on sale again after a federal court temporarily lifted a sales halt ordered by the International Trade Commission due to a patent dispute. Apple rose 0.2%.

Technology and communication company stocks had some of the biggest gains. Chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices rose 1.8%.

U.S. crude oil prices fell

3.2% and weighed down energy stocks. Hess fell 2.6%.

Companies are close to wrapping up their latest financial quarter and the next big batch of news will come when they start releasing those results later in January. Overall, companies in the S&P 500 have notched relatively strong profit gains after stumbling during the first half of 2023. That has given Wall Street more hope the economy will remain strong in 2024.

Analysts polled by FactSet expect companies in the S&P 500 to report earnings growth of 1.4% in the fourth quarter and say profit growth should accelerate next year.

Inflation has steadily eased since 2022 and should continue cooling into next year. The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation fell to 2.6% in November from a peak of 7.1% in 2022. That has helped improve forecasts for companies worried about inflation squeezing consumers and raising costs.

Economic data over the last few months have raised hopes that the economy can dodge a recession. Wall Street is betting that the Fed is done raising interest rates and will likely shift to rate cuts in the new year. The central bank has held rates steady since its meeting in July, and Wall Street expects it to start cutting rates as early as March.

US applications for jobless benefits rise but labor market remains solid

By **MATT OTT**
Associated Press

More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but not enough to raise concern about the labor market or broader economy.

Jobless claims rose to 218,000 for the week ending Dec. 23, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell by 250 to 212,000.

Overall, 1.88 million Americans were collecting jobless benefits during the week that ended Dec. 16, an increase of 14,000 from the previous week.

Weekly unemployment claims are a proxy for layoffs. They have remained at extraordinarily low levels in the face of high interest rates.

The Federal Reserve

started raising interest rates early last year to try to beat down the inflation that surged after an unusually strong economic rebound from the COVID-19 recession of 2020. The Fed has raised its benchmark rate 11 times since March of 2022.

Inflation has eased, but remains slightly above the Fed's 2% target. The Fed has left rates alone at its last three meetings and is now signaling that it could cut rates three times next year.

When the Fed started raising rates, many economists predicted that the

U.S. economy would slide into recession. But the economy and the job market have proven surprisingly resilient. The unemployment rate has come in below 4% for 22 straight months, the longest such streak since the 1960s. Hiring has slowed but remains healthy.

The combination of decelerating inflation and low unemployment has raised hopes that the Fed is managing a so-called soft landing: raising rates just enough to bring down prices without causing a recession.



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Election officials see a range of threats in 2024, from hostile countries to conspiracy theorists

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — For election officials preparing for the 2024 presidential election, the list of security challenges just keeps growing.

Many of the concerns from four years ago persist: the potential for cyberattacks targeting voter registration systems or websites that report unofficial results, and equipment problems or human errors being amplified by those seeking to undermine confidence in the outcome.

Add to that the fresh risks that have developed since the 2020 election and the false claims of widespread fraud being spread by former President Donald Trump and his Republican allies. Death threats directed at election workers and breaches of voting equipment inside election offices have raised questions about safety and security. Some states have altered their voting and election laws, expanded legislative control of local elections and added penalties for election workers who violate rules.

The turmoil has contributed to a wave of retirements and resignations among election staff, creating a vacuum of institutional knowledge in some local election offices.

With Trump running again and already warning that the 2024 vote is "on its way to being another rigged election," election workers are bracing for a difficult year that will have no margin for error.

FOREIGN THREATS

National security experts have warned for years that foreign governments — primarily Russia, China and Iran — want to undermine the U.S. and see elections as a pathway to do it.

In 2016, Russia sought to interfere with a multi-pronged effort that included accessing and releasing Democratic emails and scanning state voter registration systems for vulnerabilities. Four years later, Iranian hackers obtained voter data and used it to send misleading emails.

In 2022, there were multi-

ple instances in which hackers linked to Iran, China and Russia connected to election infrastructure, scanned state government websites and copied voter information, according to a recent declassified report.

While there has been no evidence of any compromises affecting the integrity of U.S. elections, experts say those countries are more motivated than ever given tensions across the globe.

"Election 2024 may be the first presidential election during which multiple authoritarian actors simultaneously attempt to interfere with and influence an election outcome," Microsoft warned in a November threat assessment.

The company said it was unlikely that Russia, China and Iran would sit out next year's contest because the "stakes are simply too high." The report said Russia remains "the most committed and capable threat to the 2024 election," with the Kremlin seeing next year's vote as a "must-win political warfare battle" that could determine the outcome of its war against Ukraine.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, said she believes foreign adversaries have a "greater incentive than ever before" to get involved in the upcoming elections.

"We're going to do everything we can to be prepared, but we are facing well-funded, serious adversaries, and that requires all of us to be clear-eyed about those challenges — and for voters to also know that there are foreign actors that want to influence their vote to

further their own goals and not America's," she said.

ELECTION SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

Many of the conspiracy theories that have persisted since Trump lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden relate to voting technology and claims that equipment was manipulated to steal the vote. There is no evidence of manipulation, and the systems have safeguards to detect problems.

An intensive effort has been underway for several years to build defenses around voting machines and tabulators and develop plans to recover if tampering occurs. Experts are particularly concerned about non-voting systems such as voter registration databases, electronic poll books and websites that report results because they rely on internet connections.

Experts have warned that a well-timed attack, perhaps using ransomware that locks up computers until payments are made or systems are restored from backups, could disrupt election operations.

Many local election offices have been moving their systems off countywide networks to protect them, but not all have. In early September, election officials in Hinds County, Mississippi, were preparing for statewide elections when everything came to an abrupt halt.

Workers in the election office were unable to access their computers for about three weeks. The breach of the county's computers caused a slight delay in processing voter registration forms and pushed back training for poll workers.



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AFFP
Rate Changes

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF PA }
COUNTY OF LAWRENCE } SS

Cindy DeProspero, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Cindy DeProspero of the New Castle News, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in New Castle, Lawrence County, PA; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

December 29, 2023

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Cindy DeProspero

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 29th day of December 2023.

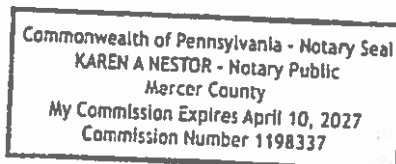


Karen A. Nestor, , Lawrence County, PA

My commission expires: April 10, 2027

00013180 00148618

PIPITONE GROUP
3933 PERRYSVILLE AVENUE
Pittsburgh, PA 15214



Thomas on Thursday night. The Lancers won the game, 62-46.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

To Our Customers:

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF Pennsylvania

COUNTY OF Venango

CITY OF Oil City

I, Melissa Reedy, being duly sworn on oath now and during all times herein stated, have been the publisher or designated agent of the publication known as,

Oil City Derrick/Franklin News-Herald ("Publication ")

and have full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows:

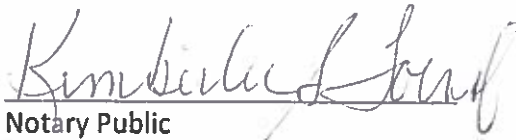
the ad for Peoples Gas ("Advertiser") was printed and published in issue(s) of said newspaper on the following date(s):

12/29/2023

By: 
Signature of affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 16 day of January 2024

Notary Seal:


Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Notary Seal
Kimberlee S. Fort Public
Venango County
My commission expires October 16, 2027
Commission # 150
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

2201 Sweeney Drive
Clinton, Pennsylvania, 15026

AFFIDAVIT OF DISTRIBUTION

STATE OF: PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF: ALLEGHENY

CITY OF: PITTSBURGH

I, Craig Funyak, being duly sworn on oath says he is and during all times herein stated has been the publisher of the publisher's designated agent in charge of the publication known as

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE ("Publisher")

and has full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows: Print Advertising was distributed December 2023, in accordance with the campaign dates indicated below:

Advertiser: Peoples Natural Gas

Order #: 165012

Date(s) of Insertion: 12/31/2023

Ad Size: Custom Size (3 x 9.79")

Ad Cost: \$3,712.50 each

Order Total: \$3,712.50

By:



State of: Pennsylvania
County of: Allegheny

Craig Funyak

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This 2nd day of January, 2024

Notary Seal:



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Kelly M. Maseth, Notary Public
Allegheny County
My commission expires March 15, 2025
Commission number 1275373
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Pennsylvania, }
County of Jefferson, } SS.

The Punxsutawney Spirit

January 2 2024

Personally appeared before the undersigned NOTARY PUBLIC

Etc., within and for said County and State, Deanna Mack
a representative of The Spirit, a daily newspaper published at
Punxsutawney, County of Jefferson, State of Pennsylvania, who being
duly sworn, states on oath that the notice of which the annexed is a copy
was

published in said newspaper for 1

times, in the issues bearing dates of December 29, 2023

Affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or
Advertisements, and all allegations in the foregoing statement as to
time,

Place and character of publication are true.

Deanna Mack

Sworn to and subscribed before me this January 2, 2024

Day of 2nd of January 20 24

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Julea C. McLaughlin, Notary Public
Jefferson County
My commission expires September 2, 2026
Commission number 1257655
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

[Signature]

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PROOF OF PUBLICATION NOTICE IN THE HERALD

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

County of Mercer

Vanessa Koper, of The Herald, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says The Herald is a newspaper of general circulation published at 52 South Dock Street, Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. The Herald was established May 13, 1935 and has been regularly published and issued in Mercer County since that time. The printed notice attached to affidavit is exactly the same as was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of The Herald on the dates listed below. I certify that I am duly authorized to verify this statement under oath and am not interested in the subject matter of the attached notice or advertisement. All allegations in this affidavit as to time, place and character of publication are true.



Vanessa Koper

Advertising Director

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this

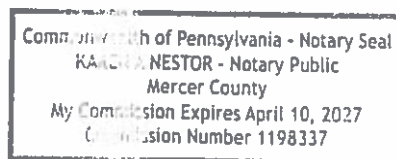
5th day of January, 2024



Karen A. Nestor

My commission expires April 10, 2027

Date	Ad Caption	Size
12/29/2023	Notice of Proposed Rate Changes People's Gas	3 col. x 10"



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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF SOMERSET

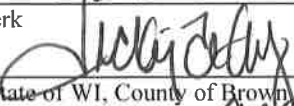
The Somerset Daily American is a newspaper of general circulation, published at 334 West Main Street, in the borough of Somerset, County of Somerset and State of Pennsylvania. That said newspaper was established as a daily newspaper of general circulation on the First day of July, 1929, since which date said newspaper has been published daily in the Borough of Somerset; that a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular edition of the Daily American, published in the issue dated:

12/29/2023

Sworn to and subscribed before on 12/29/2023



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Israel apologizes for harming civilians

Says 'extensive collateral damage' from airstrike could have been avoided

John Bacon
USA TODAY

The Israeli military apologized Thursday for a strike that killed dozens of people in the Maghazi refugee camp in the center of Gaza this week, admitting the assault likely caused "unintended harm" to civilians.

The military issued a statement to USA TODAY saying Israeli fighter jets struck two targets near where Hamas militants were found. Steps had been taken to "mitigate harm to uninvolved civilians" in the area, the military said. A preliminary investigation revealed that additional buildings near the target were hit and "likely caused unintended harm to additional uninvolved civilians."

The military said the General Staff's Fact Finding and Assessment Mechanism, responsible for investigating exceptional events that occur during combat, was reviewing the attack.

"The IDF regrets the harm caused to uninvolved civilians and is acting to draw conclusions and learn lessons from this event," the statement said.

A military statement obtained by Israel's KAN II TV said "the type of weaponry did not match the nature of the attack, so that extensive collateral damage was caused - something that could have been avoided."

The strike late Sunday destroyed several houses in the camp that were packed with refugees who had fled northern Gaza under Israeli evacuation orders. At least 70 people were killed, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Israel says it orders evacuations ahead of such strikes, but local residents told Al Jazeera there was no warning before the bombs slammed into the camp.

Fleeing Palestinians have packed into areas along Gaza's border with Egypt and the southern Mediterranean coastline, where shelters and tent camps are overflowing, as the Israeli military's air and ground offensive against Hamas has widened to most of



People gather in front of a building hit by an Israeli strike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip. Israeli forces bombarded cities, towns and refugee camps across Gaza overnight and into Thursday, killing dozens of people.

MAHMUD HAMS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

the territory.

Israel says it is striking militant targets, though homes full of people are regularly crushed. More than 20,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed since the start of the war, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants among the dead.

Israeli forces bombarded cities, towns and refugee camps across Gaza overnight and into Thursday, killing dozens of people. Troops operating in the Khan Yunis area of southern Gaza located several tunnel entrances, including one in a mosque, the Israeli military says. The military has repeatedly accused Hamas of using mosques and public buildings as military quarters and hiding places.

The U.N. humanitarian office says the scale and intensity of ground operations and fighting between Israeli forces

and Palestinian armed groups and their devastating impact is impeding aid deliveries.

Israeli singer killed in Gaza

An Israeli military reservist killed in Gaza this week had successfully auditioned for a TV show that picks Israel's submission to the wildly popular Eurovision Song Contest. Shaul Greenglick, 26, performed in Israeli army fatigues on "Israel's Rising Star" on Dec. 3 while on furlough from the war.

He sang a popular ballad and was moved through to the next round in the process, the Jerusalem Post reported.

"It's reassuring that someone like you is in uniform," singer and competition judge Keren Peles told Greenglick. "I would be happy to see you representing Israel at Eurovision."

Peles later said Greenglick had been forced to drop out of the contest because of his military duties.

UN peacekeeper hurt in Lebanon

A United Nations peacekeeper was injured when a group of young men attacked a patrol in south Lebanon, the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL reported Thursday.

A vehicle was also damaged during

the Wednesday night attack in the village of Taybeh, the force said.

Such attacks "are not only condemnable, but they are violations of Resolution 1701 and Lebanese law," UNIFIL said on X, formerly known as Twitter, referring to a U.N. Security Council resolution that ended a monthlong 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

In a separate incident Thursday morning, residents blocked a group of peacekeepers that was traveling through the border village of Kfar Kila, UNIFIL spokeswoman Kandice Ardie said. The peacekeepers were able to move on "after a brief discussion with locals," Ardie said.

Hezbollah supporters in Lebanon frequently accuse the U.N. mission of colluding with Israel, while Israel has accused the peacekeepers of turning a blind eye to Hezbollah's military activities in southern Lebanon.

Since the outbreak of the war on Oct. 7, Hezbollah and allied groups have clashed almost daily with Israeli forces on the Lebanon-Israel border, and shellings has struck UNIFIL facilities.

The peacekeeping force said gunfire from Israeli troops hit one of its patrols last month, causing no injuries but damaging a vehicle.

Contributing: The Associated Press

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Wax museum history project at North Star

The Daily American
USA TODAY NETWORK

BOSWELL — A wax museum in the gym last week featured seventh-grade students at North Star Middle School.

Students chose a historical figure, researched this person, came up with costume ideas and brought in props, created trifolds and wrote speeches acting as the historical figure.

They performed their final projects for visitors in the gym. Dana Blackner, seventh-grade ELA teacher, headed the project.



Some of the North Star Middle School Wax Museum exhibitors include from left: Aubree Kostyk (Walt Disney), Maddyn Mauer (Anne Frank), Aibreann McAuliffe (Rosa Parks), Edward Bubner (Martin Luther King Jr), Sidney Yoder (Sacajawea). PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAKE KLUKASZEWSKI



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- 1. Trib Total Media, Inc. is the publisher of the following publications (the "Publications"):
Tribune-Review (full run Westmoreland and Valley News Dispatch)
and
Tribune-Review Westmoreland Edition

The ROP for Peoples Gas in the full run edition of Tribune-Review was placed in the Publication on 29th, December, 2023

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA, INC.

By: *GM Olvido*

Sworn to before me this *24th* day
of January, 2024

JoAnn M Callahan
Notary Public

[Notary Seal
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
JoAnn M. Callahan, Notary Public
Westmoreland County
My commission expires July 1, 2024
Commission number 1243230
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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Tribune-Review Vol. 135, No. 320 Friday, December 29, 2023

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Westmoreland edition

"When you take stuff to people and you see their faces, that just brings joy to your heart — that you're doing something good,"

groups and churches is a great way to join forces to serve others.

Giving to others was the most rewarding part of the

Kellen Stepler is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Kellen at 724-681-9894, kstepler@triblive.com or via Twitter @KellenStepler.

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The attached advertisement, which is exactly as printed and published,
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Central Pennsylvania Newspapers, LLC./ Herald-Standard

BY:

Sharon K. Wallach

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
COUNTY OF FAYETTE,

} SS:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for such county and state, personally appeared
SHARON K. WALLACH, who being duly sworn according to law says that she is
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR of Central Pennsylvania Newspapers, LLC./ Herald-
Standard. that neither affiant nor said corporation is interested in the subject matter of the
attached advertisement; and that all of the allegations of the foregoing statement including those
as to the time, place and character of publication are true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 4 day of January 2024

State of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Amanda M. Kisko, Notary Public
Fayette County
My commission expires June 3, 2026
Commission number 1420437
Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

By Amanda M Kisko

Central Pennsylvania Newspapers, LLC.

8 East Church Street

UNIONTOWN, PA. 15401-0848

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

To Our Customers:

Peoples Natural Gas Company ("Peoples" or the "Company") is filing a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") to increase your natural gas distribution rates as of February 27, 2024. This notice describes the Company's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

Peoples, which includes the Peoples Natural Gas Division and the Peoples Gas Division, has collectively requested an overall net distribution rate increase of \$156.0 million per year. In this filing, Peoples is proposing to unify the distribution rates of the two divisions. This filing also includes a request for the approval of a Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) as an alternative rate mechanism in accordance with 66 Pa. C.S. § 1330. The WNA would adjust certain customers' bills to reflect normalized weather conditions. In addition, Peoples is proposing revisions to existing Riders, including the Tax Repairs Surcredit ("TRS"), the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Surcharge ("TCJA") and the Allegheny Valley Capacity Charge ("AVC"). Changes to these existing Riders and application thereof may apply to one or both divisions. Under the Company's proposal, the WNA, AVC and TRS will apply to both divisions. The TCJA will only apply to Peoples Gas Division customers.

If you are a **Peoples Natural Gas Division** customer and if the Company's entire request is approved:

- The total bill for a Peoples Natural Gas Division residential customer using 80 Mcf per year would increase from \$73.16* to \$88.79 per month or by 21.4%.
- The total bill for a Peoples Natural Gas Division commercial customer using 250 Mcf per year would increase from \$174.25* to \$212.76 per month or by 22.1%.
- Rates for a Peoples Natural Gas Division industrial customer using 1,750 Mcf per year would increase from \$1,126.15* to \$1,282.10 per month or by 13.8%.

If you are a **Peoples Gas Division** customer and if the Company's entire request is approved:

- The total bill for a Peoples Gas Division residential customer using 80 Mcf per year would increase from \$84.00* to \$90.35 per month or by 7.6%.
- The total bill for a Peoples Gas Division commercial customer using 250 Mcf per year would increase from \$214.03* to \$214.83 per month or by 0.4%.
- Rates for a Peoples Gas Division industrial customer using 1,750 Mcf per year would decrease from \$1,310.04* to \$1,297.34 per month or by 1.0%.

To find out which division you are in, your customer class or how the requested increase may affect your natural gas bill, contact Peoples at **1-800-764-0111**. The rates requested by the Company may be found in the Company's Proposed Tariff, PA PUC No. 48. You may examine the material filed with the PUC which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at Peoples' office. Upon request, the Company will send you the Statement of Reasons for Tariff No. 48, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

The state agency which approves rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.

The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase or decrease requested by the utility for each division and customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you may be different than the rate requested by the Company and shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a Company's request to change its rates:

1. You can file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before February 27, 2024. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
2. You can send us a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes us aware of problems with the Company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request.

Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

3. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the Commission opens an investigation of the Company's rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and the Company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official rate case record. The hearings are held in the service area of the Company.

For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

* Please note that this amount excludes the one-time GCA Refund Credit in effect from Oct-Dec 2023.



OBSERVER-REPORTER
Washington, Pennsylvania
Proof of Publication

In compliance with the Newspaper Advertising Act of July 9, 1976, P.L. 877, No. 160, as amended COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
SS:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared

Pamala Tuscano who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is Classified Manager of the Observer Reporter, a Pennsylvania corporation, and its agent in this behalf, that the said company is the owner and publisher of the Observer-Reporter, successor to The Washington Observer, established September 18, 1871, and The Washington Reporter, established August 15, 1808, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published and having its place of business at Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania where it or its predecessors have been established and published continuously for more that six months prior to the publication of the notice hereto attached that the printed notice or advertisement hereto attached is a copy of an official advertisement, official notice, legal notice or legal advertisement exactly as printed or published in the Observer-Reporter in its regular editions on the following date or dates:

December 29, 2023- Observer Reporter

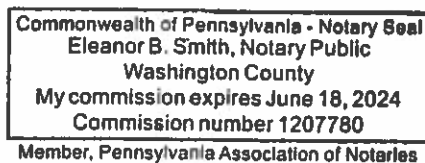
That neither the affiant nor the Observer Reporter is interested in the subject matter of said notice or advertising and that all allegations of this affidavit as to the time, place and character of publication are true.

Pamala Tuscano

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of January, 2024

Eleanor B Smith

Peoples Gas
Pipitone – Kathy Downing
1106 Sitka Drive
Imperial, PA 15126
December 29, 2024
Ad #ORW0060488



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