



## PA PUC PUBLIC INPUT HEARING TIPS

### WHAT IS A PUBLIC INPUT HEARING ALL ABOUT?

Public Input Hearings are held as part of the public inquiry process. The public hearing process offers the opportunity for consumers, local government officials, industry representatives and others to bring their thoughts and concerns regarding utility rate cases, infrastructure construction and more to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC).

Public hearing proceedings provide interested parties with the opportunity to discuss and share concerns and expand on issues with the Commission in a public forum. Any person or organization can attend a Public Input Hearing, either to speak to a written testimony submission or simply to observe or listen to the proceedings. An Administrative Law Judge presides over the hearing, and a court reporter transcribes what people who testify state. Public Input Hearings are fundamental proceedings for Commissioners to reach the soundest judgement and decision as possible.

PUC Public Input Hearings are held telephonically, virtually or in person.



*If you have an opinion about a matter for consideration before the Commission, we would like to hear from you!*

### HELPFUL TIPS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC INPUT HEARING:

#### **Come early.**

Try to arrive, call or connect 15 minutes ahead of the hearing time. Arriving, calling or connecting early allows you to hear introductions and get instructions for the hearing proceedings.

#### **Sign in to testify when you arrive - In-Person Hearing**

The judge will call witnesses to speak from the order they have signed in. An additional sign-up list will be available throughout the hearing.”





**Special Note:** We request that participants be mindful and respect the opinions of others.

**Pre-register to testify or listen.** Follow the instructions in the hearing notice and PUC press release announcing the Public Input Hearings. Call from a phone and location that have a strong and clear connection so you can hear and be understood.

**Prepare what you are going to say beforehand.**

Even though it's not required, you may want to prepare a written statement. There is nothing wrong with reading your statement.

**Make your presentation as specific as you can.**

Don't let the listeners guess your position. Emphasize your most important points. If you have read a written statement or have other papers you want to give to the judge as evidence, please bring copies with you.

**Stay to the point.**

If several individuals have made the same point, you may repeat it, but don't dwell on it. You could represent a different service area or show how the issue isn't an isolated issue. If there are many speakers, you may be asked to limit the time you speak.

**Add your own perspective.**

Each person comes to a hearing with unique information or background. Give specific examples that support issues important to you.

**Speak slowly and calmly.**

Note: Sometimes one of the parties in the case may want to ask you a question about something you said. This is called "cross-examination." Listen to the whole question. It is usually friendly. They may just want to make sure they understand your point.

**Be sworn in.**

Your testimony will not become part of the record in the case unless you are sworn in as a witness. Any formal testimony that is offered during the hearing will become part of the record on which the PUC will issue its final decision.

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For people with speech or hearing loss, dial 7-1-1 (Telecommunications Relay Service)

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