

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

APPLICATION OF
LEATHERSTOCKING GAS
COMPANY, LLC FOR
APPROVAL TO SUPPLY
NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO
THE PUBLIC IN SUSQUEHANNA
COUNTY, WITHING THE
COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Public Meeting September 27, 2012
2275595-FUS
Docket No. A-2011-2275595

STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON

I am pleased today to vote on the establishment of a brand-new local distribution gas utility in Susquehanna County. Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC (Leatherstocking) is a joint venture between Corning Natural Gas Corporation and Mirabito Holdings Inc., two well-established New York companies. I believe that Leatherstocking is the first new local distribution gas company to begin providing service in Pennsylvania in decades.

Investors seeking to bring a new gas utility to Pennsylvania would have been unimaginable when I first came on the Commission in 2008. However, the responsible mass development of Pennsylvania's shale gas deposits has made what would have been impossible just four years ago a reality.

One hundred percent of the gas sold by Leatherstocking will be locally-produced from the Marcellus Shale, which means that its customers will have some of the lowest, if not *the* lowest, purchased gas cost rates in the Commonwealth. Residents in Susquehanna County will be able to save thousands of dollars a year by switching from high-cost heating sources such as fuel oil and propane to lower-cost natural gas. Further, the areas receiving this service will also have a new economic development tool to keep current, and attract new, businesses.

I applaud Leatherstocking for making this investment in Pennsylvania and I hope it, and our other gas distribution utilities, continue to look for ways to expand their systems to bring natural gas to more of Pennsylvania's consumers.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jim Shurskis, Tony Rametta, Paul Diskin and Bob Young for their work on this Application.

DATE: September 27, 2012



ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN