

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1923
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800-684-6560 (in PA only)

IRWIN A. POPOWSKY
Consumer Advocate

FAX (717) 783-7152
consumer@paoca.org

October 26, 2012

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Alyson Scott
v.
Philadelphia Gas Works
Docket No. F-2012-2330753

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached please find the Notice of Intervention and Public Statement of the Office of Consumer Advocate in the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies have been served upon all parties of record as shown on the Certificate of Service.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne E. Dusman".

Dianne E. Dusman
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. #38308

Attachment

cc: Certificate of Service
Office of Administrative Law Judge
Office of Special Assistants
Bureau of Technical Utility Services

162209.doc

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

ALYSON SCOTT, :
Complainant :
 :
v. : Docket No. F-2012-2330753
 :
PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS, :
Respondent :

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.71(a) and 71 P.S. § 309-4, the Office of Consumer Advocate hereby gives Notice of Intervention in the above-captioned proceeding. A copy of all correspondence and notices, documents, orders, or other communications with respect to the above-captioned proceeding should be addressed to the following:

Dianne E. Dusman, Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate
Amy Hirkis, Assistant Consumer Advocate
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
(717) 783-5048

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Hirkis
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 310094
E-Mail: AHirkis@paoca.org
Counsel for:
Irwin A. Popowsky
Consumer Advocate

Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
Phone: (717) 783-5048
Fax: (717) 783-7152

October 25, 2012

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
PURSUANT TO 71 P.S. SECTION 309-4(e)

Act 161 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, 71 P.S. § 309-2, as enacted July 19, 1976, authorizes the Consumer Advocate to represent the interests of Pennsylvania consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”). In accordance with Act 161, and for the following reasons, the Consumer Advocate determined to intervene in this matter.

The Complainant alleges in her Formal Complaint that she has been charged approximately \$10,500.00 for unauthorized gas usage and reconnection fees. PGW applied these charges to Complainant’s account after an internal determination that the meter had been tampered with resulting in a theft of gas service. The Complainant denies any wrongdoing. The Formal Complaint further alleges that PGW withdrew \$9,778.29 from her bank account without notice, did not notify Complainant or her tenants that the gas service was terminated, refused to reconnect service to the home even after receiving a “Medical Emergency Certification Form” from a tenant in the building, and required Complainant to pay \$752.00 as a reconnection fee before restoring service. This Formal Complaint raises important legal questions regarding how PGW investigates, and subsequently handles, cases of alleged theft of services in a landlord-tenant situation.

The Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) is intervening in this Formal Complaint to seek to ensure that the charges imposed by PGW are only those which are lawful, just and reasonable. The OCA also seeks to ensure that PGW’s practices relating to cases of alleged theft of services are lawful and unreasonable under the Public Utility Code.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Alyson Scott
v.
Philadelphia Gas Works
Docket No. F-2012-2330753

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, Notice of Intervention and Public Statement of the Office of Consumer Advocate, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code §1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 26th day of October 2012.

SERVICE IN PERSON

Johnnie E. Simms
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Pa. Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

SERVICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID

Laureto Farinas, Esquire
Philadelphia Gas Works
800 W Montgomery Avenue, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Alyson Scott
39 East Logan Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144



Dianne E. Dusman
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate

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