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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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:

Pa. PUC v. Philadelphia Gas Works : Docket Nos.

Filed Supplement No. 16 to Gas Service :

Tariff PA. PUC No. 2 to become effective : R-00061931,

February 20, 2007, which proposes a : R-00061931C0001-

general rate increase of \$100,000,000. : R-00061931C0067

:

Public Input Hearing :

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Pages 81 through 156

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8501 Provident Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Monday, March 26, 2007

Met, pursuant to notice, at 6:10 p.m.

BEFORE:

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS FORDHAM, Administrative Law Judge
ANGELA T. JONES, Administrative Law Judge

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NUMBER FOR IDENTIFICATION IN EVIDENCE

(None.)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS FORDHAM: Good evening.

I am Administrative Law Judge Cynthia Williams Fordham and beside me is Administrative Law Judge Angela T. Jones. We are the Judges who have been assigned to this case to conduct this public input hearing and to prepare a recommended decision for the Commission's review and approval.

At this time I would like to introduce the attorneys who were also in the front with us.

To my right and to your left is Dan Clearfield, who is the attorney for the company, Philadelphia Gas Works.

To my immediate left and to your right is Phil Bertocci, who is representing Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia and the Tenants Union Representative Network.

Next to him is Lauren M. Lepkoski, Esquire, from Business Advocate.

Next to her is Christy M. Appleby, Esquire, from the Office of Consume Advocate.

And on the end is Richard Kanaskie, Esquire, of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Office of Trial Staff.

1 I would like thank Representative
2 Cherelle Parker for inviting us here and coming to
3 testify. It is very important that we get information
4 from the public and we thank her for arranging this
5 facility for us.

6 We also thank Councilman Rizzo for coming
7 to present testimony.

8 I would like to indicate that there are
9 two types of rate proceedings for gas companies, the base
10 rate proceedings and gas cost rate proceeding. You might
11 have received a blue bill stuffer entitled notice of
12 proposed rate increase regarding this particular
13 proceeding. Base rate proceedings address the amount that
14 you pay for your customer charge and the gas you consume.
15 As you know, this case is about PGW's proposed rate
16 increase which is designed to produce approximately \$107
17 million in additional annual revenue, which is an average
18 increase of approximately 11 percent. PGW is asking the
19 Commission for permission to increase your distribution
20 charge.

21 Recently you received a green bill stuffer
22 entitled notice of proposed gas rate decrease. That
23 relates to the gas cost rate proceeding which is being
24 handled by another Judge. So we are just dealing with the
25 blue insert that you received, not the green one.

1 On December 22nd, 2006, the Philadelphia
2 Gas Works filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility
3 Commission Supplement No. 16 to Tariff Gas Pa. PUC No. 2
4 to become effective February 20, 2007. By order entered
5 February 8, 2007, the Commission started an investigation
6 to determine whether the proposed tariff filing and the
7 supporting data indicating the proposed changes in rates,
8 rules and regulations are unlawful, unjust, unreasonable
9 and contrary to the public interest. In addition, the
10 investigation includes considering whether the company's
11 existing rates, rules and regulations are reasonable.

12 Pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. section 1308(d)
13 the Commission suspended the proposed supplemental tariff
14 filing until September 20, 2007, unless otherwise directed
15 by Commission order. However, on March 5, 2007, PGW
16 supplemented its tariff filing to extend the suspension to
17 September 28, 2007.

18 The case was assigned to the Office of
19 Administrative Law Judge for prompt scheduling of hearings
20 and issuing a recommended decision.

21 To date 67 formal complaints have been
22 filed.

23 On December 28, 2006, Counsel for the
24 Office of Trial Staff entered a notice of an appearance.

25 The Office of Consumer Advocate filed a

1 formal complaint and public statement on January 5, 2007,
2 against the proposed rate increase.

3 On January 18, 2007, the Office of Small
4 Business Advocate filed a formal complaint and public
5 statement opposing the proposed rate increase.

6 Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of
7 Greater Philadelphia and Tenant Union Representative
8 Network filed a formal complaint on January 26, 2007.

9 The Philadelphia Industrial and Commercial
10 Gas Users Group group filed a formal complaint on February
11 5, 2007.

12 The following filed petitions to intervene
13 on the following dates: PECO Energy Company on February 7;
14 Interstate Gas Supply, Incorporated on February 15; the
15 Philadelphia Housing Authority and the School District of
16 Philadelphia on February 16; the Hess Corporation on
17 February 22nd; and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on
18 March 9. No objections were received to any of the
19 petitions to intervene and all of the petitions were
20 granted.

21 All of the parties mentioned above have
22 been affirmed as active parties to the proceeding and are
23 working to develop testimony and exhibits to be presented
24 at the formal evidentiary hearings.

25 There were two prehearing conferences that

1 were held. The public input hearings were discussed at
2 both of those conferences.

3 At the prehearing conference held on March
4 2nd a schedule was set for hearings and formal testimony
5 by the parties. The parties intentionally scheduled the
6 public input hearings before the formal testimony was due
7 so that this testimony could be considered before their
8 testimony was submitted.

9 This public input hearing is the first of
10 four sessions scheduled for this rate case. The other
11 public inputs are to be held on March 28 and April 9, the
12 first at George Washington High School and the last two at
13 Community College of Philadelphia.

14 The hearings to take technical evidence
15 will be held from Monday, May 21, through Thursday, May
16 24, at the Philadelphia State Office Building.

17 Before these hearings the parties will
18 submit their testimony in writing and at the hearings the
19 witnesses who submitted testimony will be cross-examined.

20 The parties will file main briefs on June
21 12 and reply briefs on June 21. Our recommended decision
22 is due by late July. The parties will be able to file
23 written exceptions if they do not agree with our
24 recommended decision.

25 The Commission will review the recommended

1 decision, the evidence in the record and any exceptions
2 that are filed and will enter a final order.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

4 ANGELA T. JONES: Good evening.

5 The purpose of this public hearing is to
6 hear from you, the public, regarding PGW's existing and
7 proposed rates and services. The Commission's policy
8 regarding public input hearings found at 52 Pa. Code
9 section 69.321 gives you, the public, three options.

10 You may testify formally under oath or
11 affirmation and be subject to cross-examination. Swear or
12 affirm that your testimony is the truth. The testimony
13 will be recorded by the court reporter sitting in front of
14 me and will be reviewed by both Presiding Officers as well
15 as all of the active parties.

16 You may make an unsworn or unaffirmed
17 statement. It will be off the record and not subject to
18 cross-examination. The court reporter will not transcribe
19 your statement and we, the Judges, nor the parties will be
20 able to consider your statement as part of the testimony
21 that is recorded.

22 You may provide information to the
23 attorney for the Commission, Mr. Kanaskie, representing
24 the Office of Trial Staff, or to the attorney for the
25 Office of Consumer Advocate, Ms. Appleby, for their

1 possible use in the hearings at their discretion.

2 The media has been alerted that they must
3 request permission to use your comments here today for
4 print, audio, video or any photography. You have the
5 right to refuse to give said permission. Please alert us
6 if you should choose to refuse before you testify.
7 Otherwise your comments may be used by the media.

8 The court reporter that you can see here
9 is going to transcribe everything that is said so please
10 remember that you cannot talk over another person. Two
11 people cannot talk at once.

12 Also, during this hearing please turn off
13 all cell phones or set them on vibrate so as not to
14 interrupt any witness or Counsel who is speaking.

15 To allow as many of you as possible to
16 participate we may have to impose limits on your
17 testimony. Please keep your remarks concise and to the
18 point. If someone before you has said what you were going
19 to say, you can simply agree with what they said.

20 At this time I would like to allow Counsel
21 sitting up here in front of me to make brief remarks. We
22 will start to my right with Counsel for the company, PGW.

23 MR. CLEARFIELD: Good evening. Thank you
24 for coming.

25 My name is Dan Clearfield. I am Counsel

1 for PGW with respect to this rate case.

2 There are several employees and
3 representatives of PGW here tonight, one of whom is
4 Doug Oliver, who is the director of communications. I am
5 going to ask Doug to make a few brief remarks on behalf of
6 the company.

7 Doug.

8 MR. OLIVER: Thank you, Judges.

9 Good evening, everybody. My name is
10 Doug Oliver. I am the director of corporate
11 communications at PGW. It is my pleasure to be here this
12 evening.

13 As you guys were coming in I had the
14 opportunity to speak with several of you and it goes
15 without being said that everybody in this room is being
16 affected by ever-increasing expenses. It doesn't matter
17 whether it is child care or transportation, gas bills,
18 electric bills, but definitely that gas bill is something
19 that everybody is feeling right now. The bottom line is
20 that these increases are painful so I am not here tonight
21 to say anything other than the fact that PGW did not enter
22 into this base rate case lightly. We entered into it very
23 reluctantly looking for any other viable alternatives.
24 But unfortunately we didn't see one that presented itself
25 and reluctantly we went forward.

1 I am here to say that even though your gas
2 prices have gone through the roof a lot of that has been
3 the cost of gas and PGW has not raised its base rates
4 since 2002, and I think that should be noted.

5 But tonight we are here to listen to you.
6 We are here to listen to the input that you have. It is
7 not lip service. This is not just a formality. This is a
8 very critical part of the process of deliberating over our
9 base rate request and we appreciate that you are here.

10 Let me add in closing that if you have
11 individual concerns about your bill we have
12 representatives who are just across the hall who would be
13 more than happy to sit down and talk about your bills and
14 answer any questions that you have. There are probably
15 five or six over there. Please don't hesitate to take
16 advantage of that.

17 In the meantime, I just wanted to identify
18 myself. I am here. I will be here until the end of the
19 evening and will be more than happy to speak with any of
20 you about our policies, about your bills, about anything
21 that you want to talk about so you know where I am.

22 That said, thank you again for taking the
23 time this evening. We appreciate it.

24 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much.

25 Next we will start with Mr. Kanaskie, who

1 is on the end, from OTS.

2 MR. KANASKIE: I am going to try to do
3 this without a microphone. Please, if you can't hear me
4 or it is not clear enough just raise your hand.

5 As the Judge has indicated, my name is
6 Rick Kanaskie and I am from the Commission's Office of
7 Trial Staff. The best way to describe the Office of Trial
8 Staff is as an independent arm or independent bureau
9 within the Commission. I am not here this evening
10 representing the Commission. I am not here to give you
11 the Commission's view on this proceeding. I am here as a
12 public advocate intervening in this case much as the other
13 advocates have done. Our connection with the Public
14 Utility Commission is for administrative purposes only.

15 The Office of Trial Staff was created by
16 the Legislature and charged with the protecting the public
17 interest. That is my role in this proceeding, or our
18 office's role in this proceeding. We are here to ensure
19 that your rates remain just and reasonable. It is a key
20 phrase that you will hear from many of the advocates and
21 that you will hear from the company. It's the law. Your
22 rates cannot be unjust and cannot be unreasonable.

23 We have a team of experts. We have
24 in-house experts including financial analysts and
25 engineers. We are evaluating the company's filing. It

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1 literally comes in boxes. They have given us boxes of
2 data. We have asked for more. But in a base rate case
3 such as the one before us, data is only part of the
4 picture. The input of the consumers or the ratepayers is
5 equally if not more important. You are affected by the
6 company's actions every day. You live it and you breathe
7 it. We are very, very interested in hearing what you have
8 to say.

9 As the Judges have indicated, there are a
10 couple of different ways to do that. If you would like to
11 talk to us off the record after the proceeding, great. I
12 will be here. If you want to make a statement without
13 being sworn in, that's good. The best, obviously, is to
14 be sworn in and have your comments become part of the
15 record. We can refer to it, we can use it in our
16 proceeding and in our briefs, we can use it in our
17 testimony.

18 Again, thank you for coming out tonight.
19 We look forward to hearing your comments and please put
20 your comments on the record.

21 Thank you.

22 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

23 Next we will have Ms. Appleby from OCA.

24 MS. APPLEBY: Good evening.

25 My name is Christy Appleby and I am an

1 attorney with the Office of Consumer Advocate. Also with
2 me tonight from our office is Attorney Darryl Lawrence.

3 The Office of Consumer Advocate is a state
4 office. Our job is to represent the interests of the
5 utility consumers, residential consumers in particular, in
6 matters involving Pennsylvania public utilities.

7 I have brochures with me that further
8 describe our office, its mission and functions, and those
9 are outside. There is also a form you can fill out if you
10 would like to be on our mailing list in order to receive
11 information about developments regarding your local
12 utilities. Please feel free to take a brochure or talk to
13 Darryl or myself if you have any questions at all after
14 the hearing.

15 Since this case was filed our office has
16 been working along with a team of utility experts to
17 thoroughly examine the increased rates that PGW has
18 requested to determine whether or not any of its claim can
19 be overstated. We will be an active participant in the
20 technical evidentiary hearings which will be held and we
21 will then present our recommendations to the Public
22 Utility Commission. It is our goal to recommend to the
23 Administrative Law Judges and to the Commission that the
24 company's rates be set as low as reasonably possible.

25 The purpose of this evenings hearing is to

1 hear from you, the members of the public. We want to hear
2 your opinions and your concerns. I do encourage anyone
3 here to testify under oath. I would also encourage this
4 because of the fact that we can use your testimony in the
5 briefs that we will be filing with the Commission later in
6 this case.

7 We will be happy to remain after the
8 hearing tonight and answer any questions that you might
9 have. Or any information you can provide to us will be
10 welcome.

11 Thank you for coming out this evening and
12 I look forward to hearing your comments tonight.

13 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

14 Next we will have Ms. Lepkoski from Office
15 of Small Business Advocate.

16 MS. LEPKOSKI: Good evening.

17 My name is Lauren Lepkoski. I represent
18 the Office of Small Business Advocate.

19 Our office was created by the Legislature
20 in 1985 to represent the interests of small business
21 owners. If you are a small business owner we encourage
22 you to testify tonight. And I will be here afterwards if
23 you have any questions.

24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

1 And last but not least we have
2 Phil Bertocci, who is representing Action Alliance and
3 TURN.

4 MR. BERTOCCI: Hello everyone.

5 I represent Action Alliance of Senior
6 Citizens, which is a group of senior citizens who advocate
7 particularly around issues concerning consumers,
8 especially utility rates. The Tenants Union
9 Representative Network also may be known to some of you as
10 TAG, Tenant Action Group, which is also a group that
11 advocates on behalf of low income tenants.

12 I am here today and TAG and TURN and
13 Action Alliance are involved in this case because we
14 recognize the huge impact that this rate increase would
15 have upon the budgets of low income people, people with
16 fixed incomes. People talk in terms of a ten percent or a
17 nine percent or an 11 percent increase, but you have to
18 understand that this increase is really only an increase
19 connected with the delivery charge, which makes up only 25
20 percent of the total bill. So if you add a \$2 increase in
21 your gas cost also later down the line that is going to be
22 on top of the 40 percent increases that you have in your
23 delivery charge.

24 I am here today to hear and to encourage
25 you to explain to everyone here what you think this kind

1 of rate increase would mean to you and your household
2 budget. I urge you, just as everyone else has, to make
3 your comments on the record so that they can be used as a
4 basis for the briefs that we will write opposing this
5 increase.

6 Thank you very much for taking your time
7 and coming out here to participate in something which is
8 really critical for the community of Philadelphia.
9 Utility rates are really one of the core expenses that we
10 have and, you know, we just can't stay in our houses, we
11 can't maintain any kind of family life unless we have that
12 basic affordability for our utility rates.

13 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

14 Ms. Appleby indicated that there was some
15 literature that her office provided. The Commission has
16 also some literature out front. And in addition to the
17 Commission staff that is here our Chairman is here and we
18 would like to acknowledge him at this time.

19 CHAIRMAN HOLLAND: Thank you,
20 Judge Fordham.

21 I would like to thank you the public
22 advocates who came out. I would like to thank you each
23 and every one of you who came out.

24 It's good to see Councilman Rizzo. It's
25 good to see Representative Parker.

1 My name is Wendell Holland and I am the
2 Chairman of the Public Utility Commission.

3 I am from the southeastern part of the
4 state and while I travel around the state I think that PGW
5 presents the number one energy issue to Philadelphians.
6 Let me say that again. PGW presents the number one energy
7 issue for Philadelphians because it is a cost that we
8 incur virtually everywhere. And while it may not be
9 particularly cold out today let's just harken back a
10 couple weeks ago when temperatures were in the 20s with
11 windchill factors perhaps into the single digits. And
12 that is when we all know what PGW is about.

13 We have been asked to determine whether
14 the increase PGW has requested is proper and we are going
15 to do that. Come September and October you will hear a
16 final decision from the PUC that says this increase is
17 appropriate or inappropriate. But what is important for
18 us is that we need your input. It is very, very important
19 to hear how people feel about their utility bills, about
20 their ability to pay and about what they are doing -- and
21 about what they are doing -- to meet those energy needs.
22 That is absolutely important. We will take your sworn
23 testimony very seriously.

24 And let me invite you again to call the
25 PUC whenever you have a problem with any of your

1 utilities, be it PECO, be it PGW or any other utility.

2 Thank you so much. It is my pleasure to
3 be here.

4 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 At this time we will start with the
6 testimony. And we will start with our host for this
7 evening, Representative Cherelle Parker.

8 Representative Parker, would you like to
9 be sworn in?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 JUDGE FORDHAM: Please raise your right
12 hand.

13 Whereupon,

14 CHERELLE L. PARKER
15 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 DIRECT TESTIMONY

17 THE WITNESS: Good evening to Chairman
18 Holland, Judge Cynthia Fordham and Judge Angela Jones.

19 My name is Cherelle Parker and I am State
20 Representative for the 200th Legislative District.

21 I would first like to thank both
22 Administrative Law Judges Fordham and Jones for conducting
23 this hearing. I also would like to thank you Pennsylvania
24 Public Utility Commission Chairman Mr. Wendell Holland for
25 his presence here this evening and for the outstanding job

1 that he and his staff is doing in operating the PUC.

2 I am also pleased to note that tonight's
3 hearing is being hosted in the heart of the 200th
4 Legislative District and gives northwest Philadelphia
5 residents and the community at large an opportunity to
6 voice their concerns regarding the Philadelphia Gas Works,
7 PGW, rate increase request.

8 In 2006 PGW reported that it shut off
9 service to almost 37,000 customers who could not or did
10 not pay their bills. Like the winter before we entered
11 this past winter with more than 9,000 PGW customers whose
12 gas was still shut off and about one-third of these
13 individuals are known to be low income customers living
14 below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. To me this
15 is an outrage.

16 At the end of February, 2007, PGW gave the
17 PUC an update on these statistics. Thankfully, 2000
18 additional properties had gotten their service
19 reconnected. Another 6,000 properties appeared to be
20 occupied but PGW has been unable to make contact with
21 anyone living inside the property. Of those that are
22 definitely occupied many report using potentially
23 dangerous space heaters to try to keep their family
24 members warm.

25 The entire state is suffering from the

1 recent large increases in the price of natural gas.
2 However, Philadelphia has the dubious distinction of
3 having the gas utility with the highest rates in the
4 Commonwealth.

5 In 2004 PGW urged the State Legislature
6 and the PUC to help them improve their financial condition
7 by tightening up customer service and collection rules
8 which they felt were too lenient on consumers. PGW told
9 the House Consumer Affairs Committee that they would
10 become financially self-sufficient in four years time
11 using these stricter rules in combination with
12 supplemental state funding for LIHEAP, additional
13 costcutting at PGW and enrolling more low income customers
14 on PGW's customer assistance program, CRP.

15 Well, I have news for you. Act 201 of
16 2004 provided PGW with the additional collection tools
17 they wanted. PGW is now collecting 96 cents of every
18 dollar billed, which is better than their historic rate of
19 92 cents on the dollar. Also there are more customers on
20 CRP now than ever before, almost 76,000. And the state
21 did finally appropriate about \$20 million in funds to
22 supplement LIHEAP last year. Unfortunately so far this
23 has been an one shot deal.

24 But here we are three years later in 2007
25 facing a \$100 million rate increase request from PGW even

1 though thousands of poor Philadelphia residents are
2 without gas service.

3 PGW customers cannot afford this type of
4 increase. Many of Philadelphia's seniors and families are
5 on fixed incomes or in low wage jobs that will force them
6 to make catastrophic decisions if this rate like is
7 approved. Those whose incomes are not low enough to
8 qualify for CRP are especially struggling because they
9 must pay the increased cost of natural gas not only for
10 themselves but also for the customers on CRP whose growing
11 rate discounts are in part driving up PGW's rates. We
12 have to find a way to make the cost of natural gas for
13 heat, hot water and cooking more affordable to them too.

14 Gas prices are up. Food prices are up.
15 Clothing and other essentials are costing more and more.
16 And in income hasn't necessarily kept up with inflation.
17 How can we expect our most vulnerable citizens to choose
18 between heat and food or heat and medicine or heat and
19 getting to school or work? As it is, many parents living
20 in the city have to pay bus fare for their kids to go to
21 school. Did you know that the \$13 a month more that PGW
22 wants in rate hikes could very well mean that children
23 will miss school more often, have to walk or be put at
24 additional risk? But the most troubling outcome that
25 could come from this increase will be that many more

1 Philadelphians could be shut off from one of their most
2 basic needs.

3 What I find most ironic is that PGW itself
4 is feeling the effects of the increases in prices because
5 the reasons they claim they need this rate increase
6 include the following:

7 One, they are paying higher health
8 insurance and pension costs for their employees and, two,
9 they need to make up for sales they are losing because
10 customers are cutting back on their gas usage in an effort
11 to save money.

12 However, increasing the rates makes it
13 inevitable that more customers will be unable to pay their
14 bills, potentially leaving PGW with less revenue than
15 before the increase in its rates.

16 We in the General Assembly just fought
17 long and hard to bring meaningful property tax relief to
18 our senior citizens and to do something that should have
19 been done many years ago, and that is to raise minimum
20 wage. And now PGW is proposing to eat up what extra
21 income this vulnerable constituency may be earning.

22 And this is a key point. Low income and
23 working families are struggling as it is to provide
24 essentials for their families. How can we expect to pay
25 more?

1 In closing, I am encouraging the PUC to
2 reject this increase and to reject PGW's proposal to place
3 an even greater burden on many of Philadelphia's most
4 vulnerable citizens. I also urge the PUC to take
5 leadership in finding a way to relieve PGW's customers of
6 carrying such a disproportionately large part of the cost
7 of ensuring access to the basic necessities of life for
8 the most needy citizens among us.

9 Thank you very much.

10 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you,
11 Representative Parker.

12 Does anyone of the attorneys have any
13 questions for Representative Parker?

14 (No audible response.)

15 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much.

16 THE WITNESS: Judge, we thank you so much
17 for conducting the hearing here today.

18 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 JUDGE FORDHAM: Councilman Rizzo.

21 Whereupon,

22 FRANK RIZZO

23 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 DIRECT TESTIMONY

25 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Judge Fordham,

1 Judge Jones, Chairman Holland. It is a pleasure to be
2 here tonight with all of you involved in this public
3 process and all of you that have come out tonight to
4 participate in this hearing.

5 Good evening. I am Philadelphia City
6 Councilman-at-Large Frank Rizzo. Thank you for this
7 opportunity to testify on this very important issue, the
8 proposed rate increase of \$100 million.

9 I recognize the valiant efforts by the
10 current PGW management in dealing with PGW's financial
11 crisis, the most critical of which is their \$1 billion
12 debt. However, the dilemma is that PGW is a
13 municipally-owned company in our city where 25 percent
14 live in poverty. It's simply not fair to place the burden
15 of customers who do not pay their bills on those who do.

16 In fact, just last week I voted for a
17 resolution to put the issue on a ballot as a referendum to
18 urge the PUC not to increase rates. I propose two
19 alternative plans. First, spread the burden throughout
20 the rest of the Commonwealth and, second, increase state
21 funding of LIHEAP.

22 Since I am a Councilman-at-Large that
23 means I represent the entire city and I plan to be at all
24 of the PUC hearings thought this process.

25 Thank you very much.

1 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

2 Does anyone have any questions for
3 Councilman Rizzo?

4 (No audible response.)

5 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much,
6 Councilman.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 JUDGE JONES: At this time we do have
9 three -- I'm sorry, four -- people that have signed up
10 wishing to testify. If you would like to testify may I
11 ask you to go out to the hallway. There is a sign-up
12 sheet at the desk. You may sign up there and then we will
13 be ready to hear your testimony when called.

14 Our first witness is Mr. Peter Lewis.
15 Good evening. Do you wish to testify
16 under oath?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 JUDGE JONES: Please raise your right
19 hand.

20 Whereupon,

21 PETER LEWIS
22 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 DIRECT TESTIMONY

24 JUDGE JONES: You may proceed, Mr. Lewis.

25 THE WITNESS: I want to thank you for this

1 opportunity.

2 I am a PGW customer and I have been paying
3 my bills always on time every month that I got my bills.
4 But when I got this last bill I almost hit the roof. The
5 bill came in about \$470 for one month and I was like, wow,
6 I have been living in my home for 36 years and never had a
7 gas bill that high. And like I said, I always paid my
8 bill on time. For the last two years I have been on the
9 budget because the bills were getting to be so high. I
10 always paid my budget on time.

11 But this last one I said why are we
12 paying, the ones who always pay their bills, why are we
13 paying for everybody else who don't pay? Like the young
14 lady that gave the testimony, we are paying for people who
15 don't pay and what is going to happen is the ones who are
16 paying is going to wind up we won't be able to pay our
17 bills.

18 I am going to be retired at the end of
19 this year. I am going to retire and I am going to be on a
20 budget. With these bills coming in now how can I keep up
21 with my gas bill?

22 That is all I have to say. Thank you.

23 JUDGE JONES: Mr. Lewis, I'm sorry.

24 Please state your address for the record.

25 THE WITNESS: 6949 Cedar Park Avenue.

1 JUDGE JONES: And what is your occupation?

2 THE WITNESS: Right now I'm a ticket
3 agent. I was 37 years at the Philadelphia Inquirer in
4 management. I retired in '04 and went back to work just
5 for part-time.

6 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir.

7 Do any of the Counsel have questions for
8 Mr. Lewis?

9 MR. CLEARFIELD: Actually, I just wanted
10 to make a suggestion, Mr. Lewis. If you want to walk over
11 in the hallway to talk to the PGW customer service reps
12 that are there, you may want to show them your bill to
13 make sure -- they can check to make sure that the
14 calculation is correct and that in fact that bill is the
15 amount that you are supposed to be billed.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I called them when I
17 got the bill and I went over each and every item and it
18 was explained to me -- you can explain it to me too. I am
19 definitely here.

20 MR. CLEARFIELD: They also may have some
21 other options that you may want to consider like going
22 back on a budget bill that would spread that \$470 out.
23 But it's up to you. Or we can chat about it after the
24 hearing if you like.

25 Thank you.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 JUDGE JONES: Anything else for Mr. Lewis?

3 (No audible response.)

4 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, sir.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 JUDGE JONES: Ms. Ethelyn Braithwaite.

8 Good evening.

9 THE WITNESS: I really only had a
10 question.

11 JUDGE JONES: Wait a minute. Do you want
12 your question on the record, Ma'am?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 JUDGE JONES: I need to swear you in,
15 then.

16 Whereupon,

17 ETHELYN BRAITHWAITE
18 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 JUDGE JONES: Please state your full name,
21 spelling it your last name for the record.

22 THE WITNESS: Ethelyn Braithwaite,
23 B-r-a-i-t-h-w-a-i-t-e.

24 JUDGE JONES: And state your address,
25 Ma'am.

1 THE WITNESS: 1609 Woodbrook Lane.

2 JUDGE JONES: And your occupation?

3 THE WITNESS: I am a retired city
4 supervisor for mental retardation.

5 JUDGE JONES: You may proceed with your
6 question, Ma'am.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 For the people behind me, please excuse my
9 back. And for the people in front of me, thank you for
10 all being here and allowing the time to ask the question.

11 When I heard tonight that some people's
12 gas got turned off I felt kind of bad about what I had to
13 say because I had no idea that people were living in homes
14 with no heat. But anyway, my question is this: I am not
15 on a budget and I do not qualify for any supplements of
16 any kind. However, I don't have a gas stove. It is just
17 me in the house. I am not at home during the day because
18 I do a lot of volunteer work and I am very busy. It
19 baffles me that my gas bills runs \$300 or so a month.

20 I cannot believe it. I keep my heat on
21 60. I turn it on in the evening. From seven until eight
22 I turn it up to 72 or 73 and then it is back down to 60
23 degrees. How my gas bill can be over \$300 a month, I
24 don't understand it.

25 Each time that I call the gas company I am

1 told, you know, whatever. But the one thing that baffles
2 me is this: Can the gas company explain if anybody ever
3 came to my home they will see that my heat is on 60
4 degrees. However, I was told that the reason why my gas
5 bills is what it is is because even though I have it
6 turned down when it is a certain degree outside that it
7 automatically goes up. I don't understand that. If I
8 wanted it on 70 degrees or 80 degrees, I would turn it
9 that way. But how is it that the gas company has it fixed
10 so that no matter what you have it on it is going to be a
11 certain temperature anyway? Because if that is the case
12 then it doesn't make sense to keep it down low.

13 All your phone calls are documented. If
14 you don't believe what I'm saying go back to the phone. I
15 document everything that I do. I talk to the people.
16 They have always been very polite to me but every one of
17 them has given me the same story, and that is that even
18 though I have it turned down there is a certain
19 temperature if it is outside it is going to cause your gas
20 to be a certain price.

21 That is all I have to say.

22 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Ma'am.

23 Does any attorney have a question?

24 (No audible response.)

25 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may be

1 excused.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 JUDGE JONES: Next, Mr. Brian Rudnick.

5 Good evening, Mr. Rudnick. Do you wish to
6 testify under oath?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I would like to.

8 JUDGE JONES: Please raise your right
9 hand, sir.

10 Whereupon,

11 BRIAN RUDNICK

12 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

13 DIRECT TESTIMONY

14 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. Please state
15 your full name, spelling your last name for the record.

16 THE WITNESS: Brian Rudnick,
17 R-u-d-n-i-c-k.

18 JUDGE JONES: Please state your address,
19 sir.

20 THE WITNESS: 230 East Highland Avenue,
21 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

22 JUDGE JONES: And your occupation?

23 THE WITNESS: I am an administrator. I do
24 consulting work, educational work, and I am an adjunct
25 instructor at Philadelphia University and I am freelance

1 photojournalist. I am one of those who patch together a
2 few part-time jobs without benefits.

3 JUDGE JONES: And you are a PGW customer,
4 is that correct?

5 THE WITNESS: I sure am.

6 JUDGE JONES: You may proceed with your
7 testimony, sir.

8 THE WITNESS: I think that is actually a
9 good place for me to begin, as a PGW customer. But before
10 I do, I would like to thank you, Your Honors Jones and
11 Fordham, for holding these hearings and representatives of
12 PGW, Action Alliance, the Office of Small Business
13 Administration and the Office of Consumer Affairs and the
14 Office of Trial Staff, the videographer and the court
15 reporter, Councilman Rizzo and Representative Parker and
16 all the people that came out today.

17 I do have to confess that I am a candidate
18 for City Council on the Green Party ticket for the Eighth
19 District, which includes Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy,
20 Germantown and parts of North Philadelphia. But as to the
21 weight you should add to that fact, that I am a candidate,
22 I would suggest that you add no weight to that because
23 fundamentally I am a customer who received close to a \$400
24 bill this past month.

25 My house is not that big. Two of those

1 rooms we keep closed in the wintertime without heat. A
2 few years ago we put in insulation throughout the whole
3 roof costing us several hundred dollars. This sweater I
4 am wearing, I can wear this sweater into April or May
5 because it can be cold downstairs. Our thermostat, just
6 as you heard the testimony from other people, is kept low.
7 So when someone like -- when some family like our family
8 gets a \$400 bill when we have done things like that and
9 even replaced windows and have done weatherstripping, I
10 can't imagine how other families are doing who have not
11 done all that they can do or who have not had the capacity
12 to do all they can do to keep their bills down.

13 And although we as a family say ouch
14 because I am employed and my wife is employed, what
15 happens to those other families, the 25 percent that are
16 living below the poverty level, the 30 percent that are
17 living just above the poverty level? Added together you
18 have almost 50 percent of the population of this city that
19 cannot afford to pay their gas bill. And as
20 Representative Parker said, they have to chose between
21 food and heat.

22 And fundamentally I don't think anyone
23 here is to blame. We are part of a global situation, a
24 national situation, and the victims of a failed federal
25 policy that has raised our commodity charges so much that

1 it is hurting everyone -- everyone in this room and beyond
2 the room.

3 What I would like to see is, one, better
4 publication of these hearings. It is wonderful that we
5 are here. I was lucky enough to hear about this on NPR
6 this morning. But I would like to see this room filled
7 because there are people here whose fate will be decided
8 on these hearings.

9 Two, what I would like to see is
10 clarification because what I got in the mail just the
11 other day was a notice of rate decrease and I was about to
12 think was I reading something wrong and this morning I
13 hear rate increase. So if I as an educated person, if I
14 cannot figure out what is going on how is the average
15 person going to know whether it is going up or down or
16 sideways or left or right or all about? So I would like
17 to see clarification happening.

18 And I think as a couple of last remarks I
19 would like to thank PGW because our family is warm in the
20 winter and the food we cook on our stove, the baked
21 potatoes in the oven, are very welcome to us. And that is
22 the result of a lot of hard work by PGW workers who make
23 sure that we have continuous service. I saw some workers
24 out on Germantown Avenue in the coldest days of winter
25 digging in the trenches with layers of clothing on,

1 gloves, everything, putting in new service. And I am
2 thankful and I am grateful for that, for that luxury I
3 have. And at the same time I am outraged that it is not a
4 guarantee to every member of our society. So as a last
5 thing I would like to say as a society we are not judged
6 by how well we care for the middle class or how well we
7 care for the upper class, we are judged by how well we
8 care for the most vulnerable people in our society. And
9 that is 25 percent of the people in Philadelphia at least,
10 maybe 50 percent of the people. And I think our state
11 needs to share the burden. I think other people in this
12 state -- this is a state regulated issue -- need to share
13 that burden that is now being disproportionately borne by
14 the economically disadvantaged people in Philadelphia.

15 And I thank you for this opportunity to
16 testify before you today.

17 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Rudnick.

18 Are there any questions from Counsel for
19 Mr. Rudnick at this time?

20 (No audible response.)

21 JUDGE JONES: Hearing none, Mr. Rudnick,
22 thank you for your participation. You are excused, sir.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 JUDGE JONES: Ms. Mary Carroll.

1 Good evening, Ma'am. Do you wish to
2 testify under oath?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

4 Whereupon,

5 MARY CARROLL

6 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 JUDGE JONES: Please state your full name,
9 spelling your last name for the record.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Mary Carroll,
11 C-a-r-r-o-l-l.

12 JUDGE JONES: And please state your
13 address.

14 THE WITNESS: 1218 East Cliveden Street.

15 JUDGE JONES: Are you employed?

16 THE WITNESS: I am retired. I retired
17 from the school board six years ago.

18 JUDGE JONES: Are you a PGW customer?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

20 JUDGE JONES: Very well. You may proceed
21 with your testimony, Ma'am.

22 THE WITNESS: First of all, I want PGW to
23 understand that we know that PGW is not giving LEAP no
24 money. The middle class people is the ones who is paying
25 for LEAP. They used to fool us but they can't anymore.

1 We are the ones paying LEAP.

2 I cannot afford LEAP because my income is
3 too high. I am in my house and for the last two years I
4 have been cold in my house because I only turn my heat up
5 to 69 degrees. And I have an electric heater. My bathroom
6 is off my bedroom and I have to wear a sweatsuit and my
7 heat stays at one temperature all the time. Nobody is
8 coming in and out or whatever.

9 They are trying to squeeze the middle man
10 out altogether. They want this country to be rich or
11 poor. And it's not fair. Something should be done about
12 it. Lay off some or downsize some of the office workers
13 that they have. They downsize everyplace else. Downsize
14 some of them. Because my gas bill is about \$500 and I am
15 not warming my house anymore. I have a cold house. I'm
16 not warming my house anymore.

17 It's not fair to the middle class. They
18 are squeezing us out altogether and someone should do
19 something about it. Because the gas company is not giving
20 LEAP. We are the ones paying for LEAP.

21 Because there is no way in the world for
22 me to spend \$500 worth of gas in my house. I have had my
23 house insulated and everything but it hasn't did any good.
24 So something really should be done.

25 PGW does not need another dime. They told

1 us all 25 years ago that gas was going to be cheaper,
2 natural gas. Everybody changed from oil to gas. If we
3 knew that then we would have never changed. I got a
4 girlfriend who didn't change. Now she's happy because she
5 knows what they put in her tank. Here, we don't know what
6 they give us. We have to take their word for it.

7 And they are unfair to the middle class.
8 They are trying to make us a third world. You are either
9 rich or you are poor and I don't like it because I worked
10 hard all my life. And I think somebody should do
11 something about it.

12 Philadelphia is in lot of trouble. They
13 done stole part of the gas money four or five years ago.
14 And they got to downsize. Lay some of them big people off
15 who making all the money. That's what they should do.
16 Because they don't seem to know what to do. They got the
17 middle class paying all the bills.

18 That is all I have to say.

19 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Ms. Carroll.

20 I do have a clarifying question for you.
21 When you are saying LEAP are you referring to the acronym
22 L-I-H-E-A-P?

23 THE WITNESS: The people who cannot afford
24 to pay the regular amount, we are the ones paying their
25 bills.

1 JUDGE JONES: Okay. But you said LEAP. I
2 need to clarify for the record.

3 THE WITNESS: I will change that. The
4 ones that cannot afford to pay their bills. Like I got a
5 girlfriend that pays \$60. We are the ones paying her
6 bills.

7 JUDGE JONES: Okay. So you are talking
8 about the customer relief program?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. The gas company is not
10 giving them any money. We are the ones paying their
11 bills.

12 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Thank you.
13 Do any of the Counsel have questions for
14 Ms. Carroll?

15 (No audible response.)

16 JUDGE JONES: Hearing none, now you are
17 excused Ms. Carroll. Thank you.

18 (Witness excused.)

19 JUDGE FORDHAM: The next witness will be
20 Mamie Gillette.

21 Ms. Gillette, would you like to give sworn
22 testimony?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 JUDGE FORDHAM: Please raise your right
25 hand.

1 Whereupon,

2 MAMIE GILLETTE

3 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 JUDGE FORDHAM: Would you state your name
6 and address for the record, please? And please spell your
7 last name.

8 THE WITNESS: Mamie Gillette,
9 G-i-l-l-e-t-t-e.

10 JUDGE FORDHAM: And state your address for
11 the record.

12 THE WITNESS: 8319 Lynwood,
13 L-y-n-n-e-w-o-o-d, Road.

14 JUDGE FORDHAM: And what is your
15 occupation?

16 THE WITNESS: Retired. Customer of PGW 45
17 years. Committee person, 50th Ward, Ninth Division.

18 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you. You may
19 proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: First of all, I would like
21 to thank PGW for 45 years of good service. But also I am
22 here to also ask you for senior citizens to go back to the
23 year 2003. Senior citizen discount. And I would like to
24 be able to -- as far as discounts, I can take a cruise for
25 discount. I can rent a car for discount. Travel all over

1 the United States for discount. But in order for me to do
2 that -- and being that I am a senior citizen, in the
3 winter I must stay warm. And I wish that PGW would take
4 into consideration when we retire we add more medical
5 problems as we get older. And I would just like PGW to
6 consider senior citizens, you know, to just think about it
7 in the year 2003, would that they into consideration and
8 give senior citizens a discount with the gas.

9 Medically we need it. There is a lot of
10 medical problems as we age. That can be arthritis,
11 arthrosis, so many medical problems. When you become a
12 senior citizen, a lot of senior citizens have been paying
13 PGW bills, rates, longer than some probably of your top
14 administration, the officers of PGW. And that is why I
15 think when you become a senior citizen and after 45 years
16 I would think that you would take those into consideration
17 medically. We need consideration.

18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

20 Does Counsel have any questions or
21 comments for this witness?

22 MR. CLEARFIELD: Ma'am, I am Dan
23 Clearfield with PGW.

24 PGW does have a senior citizen discount
25 but it is only available right now for customers that were

1 65 or older on September 1st, 2003. It was closed -- we
2 tried to expand it but we were not successful in getting
3 the PUC to authorize a broader discount at that point.

4 And if you are paying your gas bill for 45
5 year you must have started paying when you were about two,
6 is that right?

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Sincerely, I
8 mean that. Thank you. That is a compliment.

9 JUDGE FORDHAM: Anything else?
10 (No audible response.)

11 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much.
12 (Witness excused.)

13 JUDGE FORDHAM: The next witness will be
14 Glenn R. Allen, Senior.

15 Mr. Allen, would you like to give sworn
16 testimony?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 JUDGE FORDHAM: And do you have copies?

19 THE WITNESS: No.

20 JUDGE FORDHAM: Okay. I thought I saw
21 some papers in your hand.

22 THE WITNESS: These are just notes.

23 JUDGE FORDHAM: Okay. Would you please
24 raise your right hand?

25

1 Whereupon,

2 GLENN R. ALLEN, SR.

3 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 JUDGE FORDHAM: Would you state your name
6 and address for the record, please?

7 THE WITNESS: Glenn Richard Allen,
8 Senior, 8226 Fayette Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

9 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you. What is your
10 occupation?

11 THE WITNESS: My occupation is that I am
12 fortunately a retired teacher from the School District of
13 Philadelphia, 35 years. I am one of the new recipients of
14 living on a fixed income so when I see something that says
15 a 25 percent increase then I need to do something about
16 it. And this is my first time being at a Public Utility
17 Commission hearing, and greetings to all of you.

18 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

19 You may proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: First I would like to say
21 that how can the gas company request a 25 percent rate
22 increase, overall rate increase, when you are supposed to
23 have prognosticators who can estimate how much consumption
24 is supposed to take place in accordance to the climate in
25 which we are in. They are supposed to be in conjunction

1 with the weather bureau and what have you so that they can
2 gauge how much gas we are going to need for a specified
3 period of time. It seems as though someone has really
4 missed the ball on completing that assignment.

5 Secondly, as I said, I was an educator
6 with the School District of Philadelphia. Never during my
7 35 years did we ever receive a 25 percent wage increase.
8 So if our wages don't go up by these substantial numbers
9 how can you expect people on fixed incomes to afford an
10 increase of this magnitude?

11 As has been previously stated, the
12 Philadelphians who are paying their bills are also
13 subsidizing the bills of those who are not paying or who
14 are only paying partial. Being fixed income, I need
15 subsidy. I can't afford to pay for the person down the
16 street who does not have the money because it's going to
17 put me in a position where I won't have the money. But I
18 won't get any help because I am on retirement and
19 unfortunately my retirement benefits exceed the maximum
20 allowable for subsidies. Something is wrong with that
21 puzzle.

22 As you know, America is graying. So I am
23 joining that group that says with the graying of America
24 we want our just due.

25 Also, in closing, we have had an

1 outstanding number of household fire fatalities in the
2 City of Philadelphia during this winter season. It is at
3 an all-time high. And whenever you listen to the news or
4 you read the newspaper, 90 percent of the time the fire
5 occurred as a result of someone attempting to use an
6 alternative source to heat their house such as an illegal
7 electrical connection, an illegal gas connection, which
8 results in an explosion and fire. And we had undue
9 fatalities as a result of this process.

10 People in Philadelphia cannot and should
11 not pay a 25 percent overall increase in the rate for the
12 gas. And now they are going to tell you about your gas
13 bills when the grass is turning green and it is about to
14 be 90 degrees in a couple of months so folks are going to
15 forget about it. Then when the fall comes again and it
16 gets cold and you go to hit that thermostat all you are
17 going to get is the thermostat and no heat.

18 I thank you for your participation.

19 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you.

20 Does any Counsel have any questions or
21 comments for this witness?

22 (No audible response.)

23 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 JUDGE FORDHAM: The next witness will be

1 Lola Blount.

2 Would you like to give sworn testimony?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 JUDGE FORDHAM: Please raise your right
5 hand.

6 Whereupon,

7 LOLA BLOUNT

8 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

9 DIRECT TESTIMONY

10 JUDGE FORDHAM: Would you state your name
11 and address for the record, please? And please spell your
12 last name.

13 THE WITNESS: Lola Blount, B-l-o-u-n-t.
14 My occupation, I am an entrepreneur. I am also a pastor
15 and I am also the after school recreation specialist here
16 for the after school program.

17 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you. And would you
18 give us your address?

19 THE WITNESS: 1612 Roumfort Road.

20 JUDGE FORDHAM: Would you spell Roumfort?

21 THE WITNESS: R-o-u-m-f-o-r-t.

22 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you. You may
23 proceed.

24 THE WITNESS: First of all, I would like
25 to say thank you for coming and ask -- and to the Judges

1 thank you for making it bearable to stand here today
2 because it is a very nervewracking experience.

3 However, I have nothing pre-prepared
4 because I recently found out about this meeting about an
5 hour or two ago, which is very saddening to me being that
6 I work in this facility every day Monday through Thursday
7 from three to six. And also being that I live in the
8 neighborhood about two blocks from here. And I am very
9 aware of many of my neighbors, many of the residents, that
10 are in the surrounding area as a pastor that are suffering
11 with the cost of the heating bill. I'm not sure how the
12 major media passed us in terms of me not knowing about it.
13 And just looking at the turnout here tonight I know very
14 responsible people that I could vouch for that would have
15 been delighted to come to share their experience in terms
16 of the rate increase and their fears with PGW. So
17 whatever you need to do in terms of making sure that the
18 public gets more notice, if there is some other way to do
19 that, we really need to take a look at that. Because what
20 good is it to have you all come to hear the concerns of
21 the community if the community don't even know you are
22 here? And I just wanted to put that on the record.

23 In terms of testimony, I stand here not
24 only on behalf of myself but also on behalf of my husband
25 who is recently retired within the last two years. He is

1 on disability. Our income has been affected traumatically
2 in terms of him retiring. Two years ago or maybe a year
3 ago I would have been standing here as a middle class
4 income person.

5 I take great pride in providing for my
6 family, to be able to pay monthly bills. As the gentleman
7 before me had stated, I may not have paid them every month
8 on time; however, not far beyond that.

9 I have watched my husband for 15 years.
10 He has been employed -- he was employed with the United
11 Parcel Service for 38 years and I watched him faithfully
12 go to work, provide, bring home his whole paycheck, put it
13 in my hand and I have paid bills. He is also a pastor.

14 Within the last six months we have
15 experienced great struggle, and one major thing being the
16 gas. My gas bill this month was close to \$500. When I
17 saw that gas bill I was gasping for breath. I could not
18 believe it. I could not believe it. And as I began to
19 try to even fathom how I am going to pay \$500 for one bill
20 -- I have three children ages 17, 15 and 10. As someone
21 that spoke before me, they talked about tokens, you know,
22 you have to get the tokens to send your children to
23 school. Other people talked about choosing between the
24 food budget and whether you are going to stay warm.
25 Others talked about utilizing an electric heater and other

1 means to stay warm. Others talked about their house being
2 cold. We are experiencing all of that and some.

3 And I took a good look at my life within
4 the last two weeks and I came to a conclusion. And I am
5 going to share with you what helped me come to this
6 conclusion. I said, you know what, I literally pooled
7 three jobs. Three. My husband worked almost 40 years for
8 us to be at a certain level, a certain standard of living.
9 There were times my children said to me, mom, why don't
10 you just go apply for this and go apply for that and apply
11 for this. And I looked them in their eyes and I said
12 because I am responsible for you. Your father is
13 responsible for you. We feed you. We keep clothes on
14 your back. We keep food in your stomach. This is
15 something that we were made -- this is a decision that we
16 made as responsible parents and I have tried to instill in
17 my children if you bring a human being in this world then
18 you are responsible for it. Not the government. Not the
19 state. Not the city. Not the church per se. But the
20 person who is responsible for giving birth is responsible
21 for making sure that they put food, clothes and shelter
22 and that shelter should include heat.

23 But you know what? I made a decision two
24 weeks ago. As a part of one of my jobs as an entrepreneur
25 I am a vendor for charter schools, I am a vendor for

1 Sunoco stations and my business in terms of pay was very
2 prosperous. However, no matter how hard I was working it
3 wasn't enough to pay the bills. I gave two week notice to
4 my two charter schools and to the Sunoco station because
5 when I got to the part where I needed to go to apply for
6 help to have people say, well, Ms. Blount, you make too
7 much money, Ms. Blount, your husband's income or your
8 husband's pension pushes you a little bit beyond this, you
9 know what, I said I'm going to help that problem. I am
10 going to fix that the problem. How much do I need to come
11 down? Okay. I let that job go. No problem. And when I
12 go to apply for something else and they say, well,
13 Ms. Blount, your income is too high for this, but yet the
14 bills get higher and higher and higher -- and I know I'm
15 over my time and there are other people, and I will stay
16 only one more minute, I promise.

17 At this point I called the children's
18 school. I asked for free and subsidized tokens. Just the
19 fact that I am standing here tonight in front of my
20 neighbors discussing my struggle at home is a bit much in
21 terms of my pride. And there is a saying that pride goes
22 before destruction. I am feeling as if we are about on
23 the edge of destruction and I am seeing the people that
24 don't work at all. I am hearing what I need to do to
25 qualify for subsidy and I am feeling the stress and the

1 strain of trying to pay other bills of other people and
2 trying to keep my bills paid. I am taking a subsidized
3 lower my income break. And I hope that you know what that
4 means. And if you don't I would be happy to answer
5 questions.

6 JUDGE FORDHAM: Does anyone have any
7 comments? Ms. Appleby?

8 MS. APPLEBY: I just wanted to thank you
9 for coming out and telling your story to us. We really
10 appreciate the information.

11 I just also wanted to let you know that
12 our office does do a mailing list for public input
13 hearings like this and if you want to see our attorney
14 Darryl Lawrence, or anyone in the audience, you can sign
15 up and we will send out a consumer bulletin that informs
16 you about public utility hearings for PGW and other
17 utilities. So I just wanted to let you know about that.

18 And thank you again.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 JUDGE FORDHAM: In addition, we are having
21 three more public input hearings so if people could not
22 come tonight they can come -- it won't be in this part of
23 the city but it still will be in Philadelphia. We will be
24 in the northeast at the George Washington High School on
25 Wednesday at seven o'clock p.m. and on April 9 we will be

1 at Community College at 18th and Callowhill at one o'clock
2 p.m. and seven o'clock p.m.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 JUDGE FORDHAM: Anyone else?

5 (No audible response.)

6 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much for
7 sharing your comments.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 JUDGE FORDHAM: The next witness will be
10 Colie Chappelle.

11 Would you like to give sworn testimony?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 JUDGE FORDHAM: Please raise your right
14 hand.

15 Whereupon,

16 COLIE B. CHAPPELLE, JR.

17 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT TESTIMONY

19 JUDGE FORDHAM: Would you state your
20 address and your occupation for the record?

21 THE WITNESS: 8509 Mansfield Avenue. I am
22 a school teacher.

23 JUDGE FORDHAM: And I'm sorry. Would you
24 state your name and spell your last name?

25 THE WITNESS: Colie B. Chappelle,

1 Chappelle. And that would be Junior.

2 JUDGE FORDHAM: You may proceed, Mr.
3 Chappelle.

4 THE WITNESS: I learned of this meeting
5 about an hour ago, something like that. I had been over a
6 neighbor's house to tell him about an experience I had
7 recently and also to return a book. And I was surprised
8 when he told me about this proceeding and I said I will
9 try to make it.

10 And my wife called. She didn't know about
11 it. She didn't know about it at all.

12 I just thought listening to some of the
13 other residents that one of the easiest ways to give
14 notice to the customers is to send a notice along with the
15 bill. I would think that is not asking too much.

16 Secondly, I don't get caught up in this
17 middle class mirage or facade. I read a book a long time
18 ago and there the guy talked about how the middle class is
19 like a part of a sales job to placate the folks who really
20 don't have the money. The only way you are really secure
21 is if you have certain types of income, most of which we
22 don't have. So, you know, it is always clear that when
23 times are kind of tough people who think the middle class
24 is secure realize they are not. When you look at the way
25 you go to the gas station and that pump just clicks off

1 the dollars and dollars and dollars and dollars. And now
2 our homes and the heating gas, you know.

3 And what really bothers me so very much,
4 recently my students and I have talked about public health
5 issues. And we talk about teen violence. We also talk
6 about the poverty that forces many people to employ
7 dangerous heating alternatives. It has been referred to
8 earlier. What is really very disturbing about that is a
9 lot of little children have died.

10 I saw in the newspaper, the February 18th
11 edition of the Inquirer, that a gas company representative
12 said, you know, we got to turn off the gas for people who
13 don't pay. They're probably trying to clean their hands a
14 little bit, the fact that really I think they are part and
15 parcel to a lot of these little kids losing their lives.

16 I don't know if you are familiar with that
17 article. I think it was on the front page of the
18 Inquirer. The lady was standing there at a kitchen stove.
19 And the article goes on to describe some of the different
20 techniques employed by the people in the state of poverty
21 that are very dangerous.

22 My wife takes care of our bills so I don't
23 know what our last statement is. I really don't have much
24 hope or confidence. I look at Iran, the bit about
25 Haliburton, right, the oil companies. You look at the man

1 out in the Midwest. He turned his dollar bills into dimes
2 and paid his bill and it cost him 50-some bucks.

3 There is a rage going on and it probably
4 will grow larger and larger in our city and in our
5 country. And I am just wondering if there had been
6 adequate notice given for this hearing how many people
7 would have been here tonight. But then again this
8 gentleman might have been right. If you do it at the
9 right time, as the climate is getting warmer, the people
10 will not be as angry.

11 Thank you.

12 JUDGE FORDHAM: Mr. Chappelle, hold on.

13 Does anyone have any questions?

14 (No audible response.)

15 JUDGE FORDHAM: Thank you very much.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 JUDGE JONES: Our next witness is
18 Mr. Thomas Carter, I believe.

19 Good evening. Do you wish to give sworn
20 testimony?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 Whereupon,

23 THOMAS CARTER

24 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

1 JUDGE JONES: Please state your full name,
2 spelling your last name for the record.

3 THE WITNESS: My first name is Thomas. My
4 last name is Carter. And I live at 8414 Provident Road.

5 JUDGE JONES: Are you employed, sir?

6 THE WITNESS: No, I am not. I am retired.

7 JUDGE JONES: And you are a PGW customer?

8 THE WITNESS: For 37 years.

9 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed
10 with your testimony.

11 THE WITNESS: I really am not prepared to
12 really do a basic testimony. I asked outside if I could
13 speak, if everybody had already signed the list to speak.

14 But I am concerned about the 25 percent
15 increase. I am retired. I don't get a cost of living. I
16 am not 65 but I am retired. I worked for SEPTA for 30
17 years. I am retired from there.

18 But I am concerned about a 25 percent
19 increase. And I don't get a cost of living. How am I
20 supposed to pay my bills? I wanted to ask you this
21 question, you know.

22 And then also one more thing. This room
23 should be packed. You should have standing room only in
24 here for a 25 percent increase from the gas company. I
25 just heard about it two days ago and I was riding my bike

1 and stopped by to ask could I come in and she said you
2 have to sign the register to speak.

3 But I am definitely concerned about a 25
4 percent increase. That is a lot of money and I am not
5 getting a 25 percent increase in the cost of living or
6 pension or anything else.

7 And I pay my bills. If you check 8414
8 Provident for 37 years I paid my bill on time.

9 And that's all I have to say.

10 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

11 Are there any questions from the attorneys
12 for Mr. Carter?

13 MR. CLEARFIELD: I have a comment.

14 Mr. Carter, I just wanted to clarify. The
15 increase that PGW is asking for -- I know it's not going
16 to make it much easier to deal with -- it is 9.3 percent
17 for residential heating customers, not 25 percent.

18 THE WITNESS: And what do that -- didn't
19 you just have an increase you said in '03? Didn't I hear
20 that?

21 MR. CLEARFIELD: In 2002 you received an
22 increase.

23 THE WITNESS: What was that percentage?

24 MR. CLEARFIELD: That was about 12 in
25 2002. That was a long time ago. The percentage? It was

1 \$36 million in overall increase. I don't remember the
2 percentage.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 MR. CLEARFIELD: We can get that for you.

5 THE WITNESS: No. I was just concerned.
6 I was wondering why you just had an increase and now you
7 are coming back again.

8 MR. CLEARFIELD: I understand. It might
9 be that we are also changing our gas costs and we filed a
10 notice for the change in the gas costs. Actually we are
11 projecting a decrease in the gas cost starting in
12 September. So that might be part of the confusion. We
13 apologize for that. It is notices that we are required to
14 send out.

15 THE WITNESS: Okay. I don't have any
16 other questions.

17 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Carter. You
18 are excused, sir.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 JUDGE JONES: Ms. Lora Neal.

22 Good evening. Would you like to give a
23 sworn statement?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 JUDGE JONES: Would you raise your right

1 hand so that I can swear you in?

2 Whereupon,

3 LORA NEAL

4 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 DIRECT TESTIMONY

6 JUDGE JONES: Please state your full name,
7 spelling your last name for the record.

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Lora Jacqueline
9 Neal, N-e-a-l.

10 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. And where do you
11 reside?

12 THE WITNESS: I reside at 7524 Fayette
13 Street.

14 JUDGE JONES: Are you employed?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

16 JUDGE JONES: Where?

17 THE WITNESS: I am employed with the Board
18 of Education.

19 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. And you are a
20 PGW customer, is that correct?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed
23 with your testimony.

24 THE WITNESS: My problem with the gas
25 company is, you know, every time we turn around they are

1 increasing our bill. I keep my heat on 68 during the
2 winter. My bills are five or six hundred dollars a month.
3 That is ridiculous. Why are we paying these high gas
4 bills? Are we paying for people that don't pay their
5 bills?

6 You know what, I would like to see some of
7 your bills. I really would. These people that are
8 charging us these astronomical bills, you know, it is
9 ridiculous.

10 Last year I was paying my bill every
11 month. I was paying over what I was supposed to pay. I
12 called up and I said in the summertime I am going to pay
13 my gas bill. They told me I had an \$800 gas bill. I said
14 you have to be kidding. So I went there. I had a \$300
15 credit.

16 But what I am saying is why are we paying
17 these high bills? This is ridiculous. We are not rich
18 people. We are middle income. We cannot afford to pay
19 these high gas bills.

20 Every time you turn around people are --
21 they are turning off people's gas. People are dying in
22 fires because they don't have, you know, heating in their
23 homes. They are using candles. They are using space
24 heaters. And people are dying.

25 And this doesn't make any sense. I don't

1 think the gas company should be allowed to raise our bills
2 any more. It doesn't make any sense. Why do we have to
3 keep paying these high gas bills? Can somebody answer
4 that question?

5 When people keep their heat on 68, you
6 have the house insulated, you have thermal windows,
7 thermal doors and you are still getting four and five
8 hundred dollar gas bills a month. I don't think so.
9 There is something wrong. There is really something wrong
10 and they should not be allowed, the Public Utility
11 Commission, they should not be allowed to raise our bills
12 any more. We are paying enough as it is.

13 I mean, that is all I have to say because
14 I am fed up with it. I mean, I'm not rich. I have a son
15 in college. And I am paying these high bills. I am
16 paying three or four hundred dollars a month right now to
17 heat my home. And my house is insulated.

18 And I don't think it is fair to us, to the
19 working class people. We should not have to pay these
20 bills.

21 I mean, that is all I have to say.

22 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Ms. Neal.

23 Are there any questions for Ms. Neal at
24 this time?

25 (No audible response.)

1 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may be
2 seated, Ma'am.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 JUDGE JONES: Sandra Pugh.

5 Would you like to provide sworn testimony?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, I would.

7 JUDGE FORDHAM: Please raise your right
8 hand.

9 Whereupon,

10 SANDRA PUGH

11 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 DIRECT TESTIMONY

13 JUDGE JONES: Please state your full name,
14 spelling your last name for the record.

15 THE WITNESS: My name is Sandra Mae Pugh,
16 P-u-g-h.

17 JUDGE JONES: And your address?

18 THE WITNESS: 8401 Temple Road,
19 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

20 JUDGE JONES: And are you employed?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

22 JUDGE JONES: Would that be?

23 THE WITNESS: I am employed by the City of
24 Philadelphia.

25 JUDGE JONES: And are you a PGW customer?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

2 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You may proceed
3 with your testimony.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, although I am
5 concerned about myself as far as my bill is concerned, I
6 have been able to make arrangements with PGW to pay my gas
7 bill. However, my main purpose for speaking here today is
8 not so much for myself, it is for a friend of mine. Her
9 name is Emma Lewis and she happens to be 84 years old.

10 Now, I have a bleeding heart for our
11 seniors because our seniors are having a hard time. They
12 are on fixed incomes and a lot of times they are finding
13 it very, very difficult to pay the gas bill.

14 Now, my concern is for Ms. Emma because
15 she told me twice this year she has had her gas cut off.
16 Now, she has a grandson that lives with her. He is a
17 diabetic. He has had his foot cut off this year and he
18 doesn't work, nor does she. I am really concerned because
19 her gas -- she came home from church twice this year and
20 her gas was cut off.

21 Now, I can't tell you the complete story
22 because I don't live with her so I don't know everything
23 that is going on. But I do know that she has been having
24 a hard time and to have her gas cut off, a 84 year old
25 lady that is on a fixed income, I am concerned about this.

1 Now, my concern is whether or not there is
2 some type of procedures that the Philadelphia Gas Company
3 has before they cut off this customer. Not that I am not
4 concerned about everybody, but really the seniors, I have
5 concerns about that. Is there a step that they ask for to
6 cut the gas off?

7 MR. CLEARFIELD: Ma'am, there are
8 elaborate notice procedures that are provided to customers
9 before the gas is shut off.

10 But if you would, perhaps you could help
11 her make contact with PGW to determine whether she is
12 eligible for our customer responsibility program, which is
13 designed to provide an affordable gas bills for customers
14 who are on fixed incomes or low incomes. If she is not on
15 that program that may be a program that will help her be
16 able to afford her gas service and avoid future problems.

17 There are people out there who can give
18 you a pamphlet, PGW customer service representatives. But
19 she will have to, maybe with your help, call the company
20 and then I am sure the customer service representatives
21 will do everything they can to try to determine if there
22 is a better plan for her.

23 THE WITNESS: It actually might be hard
24 for her actually to get to the Philadelphia Gas Company.

25 MR. CLEARFIELD: She won't have to do that

1 necessarily. If she can't get there they will make
2 arrangements to help her.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. You are excused.
5 (Witness excused.)

6 JUDGE JONES: I apologize for
7 mispronouncing this name but I cannot read this writing.
8 It is either Ben or Bev Ram -- something like that. 2145
9 North Howard.

10 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: That is my name. I
11 am not here to make a statement.

12 JUDGE JONES: I see. Thank you.

13 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: It is actually Ben
14 Ramos.

15 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

16 Mr. Steven Jackson.

17 Good evening, Mr. Jackson. Do you wish to
18 provide sworn testimony?

19 THE WITNESS: Sworn testimony?

20 JUDGE JONES: Yes.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, I guess I can do that.

22 JUDGE JONES: Please raise your right
23 hand, sir.

24

25

1 Whereupon,

2 STEVEN M. JACKSON

3 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 JUDGE JONES: Thank you.

6 Please state your full name, spelling your
7 last name for the record.

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Steven M.
9 Jackson, J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

10 JUDGE JONES: Please state your address,
11 sir.

12 THE WITNESS: My address is 8548 Michener
13 Avenue.

14 JUDGE JONES: Are you employed, sir?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. I work for the
16 Philadelphia Fire Department. I have a little cold.

17 JUDGE JONES: No problem, sir.

18 And you are a PGW customer?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am. I reside right
20 around the corner on Michener Avenue.

21 Basically I would just like to know how
22 they do this, you know, that the bills just go up and up.
23 It just takes me far, you know, the way the bills just go
24 up the way they do. I know we have problems with people
25 that don't pay the bill and all, but as long as I have

1 been in my residence I have never really been late with a
2 bill unless I misplaced it or something like that. The
3 first time that happened, you know, I was threatened with,
4 you know, my service was going to be disconnected if I
5 don't pay, you know what I mean. But then I looked at how
6 the bills, the rates just go up and go up, you know, 30
7 percent, 40 percent.

8 I mean, when they give us rate increases
9 working for city they give us two percent, a
10 percent-and-a-half, five percent over time. Even with the
11 Philadelphia Fire Department, you know, our bills -- I
12 mean our rate increase, you know, was promised to us and
13 then they took a year-and-a-half to even do anything about
14 getting it to us, you know. We worked without a contract
15 for that long. And still we worked.

16 I just wonder how it is that, you know,
17 that the rates just go up and up like this. Can somebody
18 answer that? I mean to the degree that they do. I mean,
19 you could see the rate going up, you know, two percent,
20 three percent, something like that. Ten percent, 15
21 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent all at one time, it just
22 seems kind of ridiculous.

23 JUDGE JONES: Would Mr. Clearfield or
24 Ms. Appleby care to direct Mr. Jackson to someplace where
25 he can get an education on his concerns?

1 MR. CLEARFIELD: Actually I was going to
2 suggest that Mr. Oliver from PGW is here, right here,
3 right behind you. He can discuss it with you off-line if
4 you would like to try to give you an understanding how the
5 process works and how the rate increases are -- how we
6 figure them out and how we ask for them and how the
7 process works, if you would like, off-line.

8 MS. APPLEBY: And Mr. Lawrence and I would
9 be happy to talk with you further about this if you have
10 any other questions after the hearing, or right now if you
11 have any questions.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. You are going to take
13 me aside and talk to me about the answer?

14 MS. APPLEBY: If you have questions we
15 would be happy to talk about those as well.

16 I work for the Office of Consumer
17 Advocate. I am happy to try to help you.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. I am trying to
19 understand what is the amount of this increase and why it
20 is.

21 MS. APPLEBY: I will let the company
22 answer that question.

23 MR. CLEARFIELD: It is a 9.6 percent
24 increase, Mr. Jackson. We have not had an increase in the
25 base rate, the part of the rate that covers all the costs

1 other than gas costs essentially, since 2002. Just like
2 your expenses have gone up, PGW's expenses have gone up
3 for things like healthcare, labor costs, the cost of
4 maintaining their low income energy assistance program and
5 all those other things.

6 And the most important part is that the
7 company needs to be able to be in a firm financial footing
8 so that it can keep gas service safe and effective and
9 reliable. It costs a lot of money to replace pipe and
10 make sure the system is safe and the meters, et cetera.
11 And that is essentially what the rate increase is for.

12 We don't ask for it lightly but when we
13 get to the point where we feel that if we don't get
14 additional dollars we have to start cutting back on things
15 that we don't want to cut back that is when we have to ask
16 for the rate increase and that is what we have done.

17 THE WITNESS: And I noticed that most of
18 the time my bill when I get it is estimated. You know
19 what I mean? It's not like the person comes and reads the
20 gas meter. A lot of times they don't come in, you know.
21 They more or less estimate what it is, you know.
22 Actually, it could be more or less than what it is
23 supposed to be.

24 MR. CLEARFIELD: Well, that is something
25 you can check in on. The company has a system of remote

1 meter reading, a remote meter reading system, that allows
2 them to read the meter through radio controlled trucks
3 that go down the street. Those meters are in place. I
4 think the number is in like 98 or 99 percent of the
5 residential homes now. So it used to be that there were
6 more estimated reads than we liked. But now we spent a
7 lot of time and effort to try to get those meters in place
8 and the number of non-remote meter reading devices is very
9 small.

10 So if you are still getting an estimate it
11 might be because your meter for some reason is not
12 transmitting the signal correctly. You may want to check
13 with PGW. Call them up and ask them to come out and check
14 your meter. As I said, that is a problem that we worked
15 on and we tried to correct for most customers and I think
16 we did.

17 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. APPLEBY: I did want to also say to
19 you that our office, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and
20 the Office of Trial Staff and the Office of Small Business
21 Advocate, we are all parties to this case and none of us
22 have specifically said that the company should be
23 permitted to receive a 9.8 percent increase in rates. So
24 we all will have experts that will review the filing that
25 the company has made and the request that the company has

1 made and we have accountants and will be calling witnesses
2 to testify about what they believe that the rates should
3 be. The requirement under the law is just and reasonable
4 rates and what that rate increase should be. So that is
5 what we look at. Our office looks at -- we have a witness
6 who looks at strictly the accounting of the company and
7 examines the files and asks questions of the company about
8 that. So that is one of the things that our office looks
9 at. And we will file testimony on April 6 and have
10 technical evidentiary hearings in May in order to look at
11 the specifics of the financials of the company and what
12 rate increase should be granted under the law and make
13 recommendations about that.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay.

15 MS. APPLEBY: So I did want to clarify. I
16 wasn't sure if you heard about our office or any of our
17 offices in the beginning. We all make different
18 recommendations -- not to speak for the other offices --
19 about what we think the adjusted reasonable rate increase
20 or not increase would be.

21 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you very
22 much.

23 JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. You
24 are excused.

25 (Witness excused.)

1 JUDGE JONES: We have come to the time
2 where we have exhausted all the names that were signed up
3 on our list. If there is anyone who wishes to testify at
4 this time we will not have you exit the room to sign up
5 but we would now call you up in front to testify.

6 (No audible response.)

7 JUDGE JONES: Let the record reflect that
8 no one has taken my invitation.

9 We thank you for your time of coming out.
10 We thank you for responding to the notice that you did
11 receive. We think that we have a wealth of information
12 from your testimony that we have on the record. Please
13 travel safely home.

14 Thank you. We are adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, at 7:45 p.m., the public input
16 hearing was concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me and were thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

COMMONWEALTH REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

By: Robert J. Stonaker

Robert J. Stonaker

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