

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Aimee Weis :
 :
 v. : C-20043429
 :
 The Peoples Natural Gas Company d/b/a :
 Dominion Peoples :

PREHEARING ORDER

An initial telephonic hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Accordingly, the parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. If you intend to present any documents or exhibits for my consideration, you must send one copy to the other party and three copies to me one week before the hearing.

2. If you or any proposed witness will be at a telephone number that is different than the number on the hearing notice, you must notify me of that telephone number at least one week before the hearing.

3. If the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) has directed the customer to make payments and those payments have not been made, the customer must be prepared to explain at the hearing why those payments have not been made. **FAILURE TO MAKE REGULAR PAYMENTS FOR CURRENT CONSUMPTION (SERVICE) BY THE DUE DATE EACH MONTH MAY RESULT IN THE TERMINATION OF THE CUSTOMER'S SERVICE BEFORE THE TIME SET FOR THE HEARING. FAILURE TO MAKE THESE PAYMENTS MAY SUBJECT THE CUSTOMER TO THE PAYMENT OF A LUMP SUM OF MONEY EQUAL TO ALL MISSED PAYMENTS**

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FOR SERVICE FROM THE DATE OF THE BCS DECISION UNTIL THE DATE ON WHICH THE COMMISSION ENTERS ITS ORDER.

4. At the hearing, the customer must be prepared to testify about, or otherwise document, the total net monthly income of the household. A household includes all individuals regularly residing there and receiving the benefit of the utility service. The "total net monthly income of the household" includes, but is not limited to, the following payments received by every person residing in the customer's home: (a) the "after taxes take-home-pay" from salaries, wages, tips or other compensation; (b) pension, retirement or social security benefits; (c) Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"); (d) unemployment compensation benefits; (e) workers' compensation benefits; (f) alimony; (g) support; (h) public assistance; and (i) any other source(s) of income.

5. If the customer or any member of the customer's household is receiving food stamps and/or medical assistance, the customer must be prepared to testify or document the amount of food stamps or the nature of the medical assistance received.

6. At the hearing, the customer must be prepared to testify about or document the total monthly expenses of the household, which shall include, but are not limited to, the following items: (a) rent or mortgage payments; (b) utility bills (including electric, gas, telephone, water, sewer, cable television, etc.); (c) food, in addition to any food stamp benefits; (d) clothing; (e) automobile (loan payments, gasoline, maintenance, etc.); (f) transportation (bus, taxicabs, jitneys, etc.); (g) insurance premiums (homeowners' or renters' insurance, automobile insurance, life insurance, medical insurance, etc.); (h) medical bills, (doctors, dentists, hospitals, prescriptions, etc.); (i) credit card and charge account payments; (j) loan payments; and (k) miscellaneous expenses. When testifying to these expenses, the customer should be prepared to give balances due or missed payments for each item.

7. TO ASSIST THE CUSTOMER PROVIDE THE INCOME AND EXPENSE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THIS ORDER, THREE COPIES OF A BUDGET INFORMATION SHEET ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS ORDER. THE CUSTOMER MUST FILL OUT THIS BUDGET SHEET, RETURN ONE COPY TO ME AND SEND ONE COPY TO COUNSEL FOR THE UTILITY AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE HEARING. YOU MAY KEEP ONE COPY OF THE BUDGET SHEET AND THE ORDER FOR YOUR USE.

8. The utility must prepare and submit the following documents at least one week before the hearing: (a) an account statement, showing the history of the account for a minimum of 24 months or the entire history of the account, whichever is less; (b) a service usage comparison report for the same period as the account statement; (c) a copy of the most recent BCS decision, if any; and (d) a brief summary of any payment arrangement(s) made between the utility and the customer other than determinations of the BCS or the Commission.

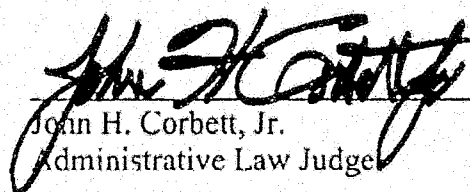
9. A request for a change of the scheduled hearing date must be submitted in writing no later than five days before the hearing. 52 Pa. Code §1.15(b). Requests for changes of initial hearings must be sent to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge, with copies to all parties of record. The correct address is: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Office of Administrative Law Judge, 1103 Pittsburgh State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1210. Only the undersigned Administrative Law Judge or Office of Administrative Law Judge Scheduling Unit may grant a request for a change of an initial hearing. Such changes are granted only in rare situations where sufficient cause exists. Should any party have any questions regarding this procedure, you may contact me at 412-565-3550.

10. **YOU MAY LOSE THIS CASE, IF YOU DO NOT TAKE PART IN THIS HEARING AND PRESENT EVIDENCE ON THE ISSUES RAISED.**

11. ALTHOUGH THIS HEARING IS BEING CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PARTIES, IT IS STILL A FORMAL HEARING AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE.

12. It is the Commission's policy to encourage settlements. 52 Pa. Code §5.231(a). Therefore, you are urged to discuss informally between yourselves the possible settlement of this case at least one week before the hearing. If you are unable to settle this case, you may still resolve as many questions or issues as possible during your informal discussion.

Dated: October 7, 2004



John H. Corbett, Jr.
Administrative Law Judge